

Monthly GK Digest

May 2020



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Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of **May 2020**. This file is important for, **CLAT 2020 & other Law Entrances Exams like – AILET, SLAT & MAH CET (5 Yrs LL.B)**.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. 'Vikas Abhaya' a loan scheme has been launched by **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)**.
Note: The Regional Rural Bank has launched the scheme to provide some relief to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers whose business activities are disrupted on account of the COVID-19 pandemic in Dharwad. The loan will be for the existing MSME customers who have been regular as on February 29, a maximum loan of up to Rs 1 lakh will be provided and no collateral security is emphasized & is repayable within 36 months. It is an additional credit facility to the eligible existing MSME borrowers & helps them to assist over the current crisis and ensures the continuation of viable business activity.
2. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** extended the regulatory benefits under the special liquidity facility for mutual funds (SLF-MF) to **All banks**.
Note: This decision has been taken on the lines of request made by banks to RBI. As we have notified earlier, on April 27, 2020, RBI has initiated a special liquidity facility of Rs 50,000 crore for MFs under which RBI will conduct repo operations of 90 days tenor at the fixed repo rate
3. **World Bank** has approved a USD 400 million multi-year financial support to help India enhance its coastal & marine resources.
Note: It will help protect coastal resources by focusing on the rehabilitation of coastal beaches and mangroves. The 1st phase **covers 8 coastal States** and 3 coastal Union Territories, with USD 180 million in funding, for Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency (ENCORE). The loan from the international bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 14.5 years including a grace period of 5 years.
4. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the license of **CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd.**
Note: The order has come into effect after the working hours of 30 April, 2020 in order to save investors' decision. The reason behind this is the financial position of the bank is highly unfavorable & there is no concrete revival plan or any proposal for merger with any other bank. In the sequence of cancellation of license and commencement of liquidation work, the process of payment of amount will be initiated to depositors of CKP bank Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) Act, 1961.
5. **SIDBI** decided to launch '**India SME Services Platform**', a digital platform to educate stakeholders in the small and medium enterprises (SME) ecosystem.
Note: The platform will provide Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) information about starting operations, getting finance, credit enhancement and other support services. Bring together all MSMEs, MSME ecosystem stakeholders, financiers, corporates, government, regulators, employees and associations in an interactive platform, where all will be at one place & one place for all kinds of initiatives.
6. The Singapore based DBS bank has trimmed the India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast for FY 2020-2021 to **1%**.
Note: The general government (the Centre and States) deficit is likely to rise to 10-10.5% of GDP in FY21 vs around 6% of GDP earlier. Public debt level to rise from 70% of GDP to 75-80%.
7. **Ameyo** entity has launched video KYC engagement platform for the banking and finance sector.
Note: A customer engagement technology provider, Ameyo has launched video **KYC engagement platform** for the banking and finance sector. The newly launched platform will eliminate the businesses' requirement of physical KYC in accordance with latest RBI guidelines issued in January 2020. It is expected to decrease the customer onboarding process from the present 5-7 days to less than 3 minutes.

8. **HDFC Bank** has released a song titled #HumHaarNahiMaanenge to keep hopes up amidst the ongoing national lockdown and Covid-19 pandemic.
Note: The lyrics of the song has been penned by Prasoon Joshi and music has been composed by AR Rahman. HDFC Bank has announced that it will contribute Rs 500 each time the song is shared via social media towards the PM-CARES Fund.
9. **PNB Housing Finance company** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Delhi to develop washable and reusable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits.
Note: By this MoU, the PNBHFL will support the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering, IIT Delhi in fast-tracked R&D of high-quality PPE material. It is to contribute to the well-being of healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
10. For India's '**COVID-19 Emergency Response** and Health Systems Preparedness Project' the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved a loan worth of **\$500 million**.
Note: This is the first-ever health sector support from AIIB to India. Co-financed by the World Bank (WB), the undertaking is part of a \$10 billion AIIB's Covid-19 Crisis Recovery Facility to help public and private sector entities deal with the pandemic.
11. Amount **Rs 12,767 crore** has been disbursed by NABARD to State Co-operative Banks and Regional Rural Banks across the country for extending credit to farmers during the lockdown due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: The loans are being offered for one year at an interest rate of 4.8 per cent. NABARD so far has extended the refinance to the rural banks in 15 states which includes- Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. NABARD received Rs 25,000 crore for refinancing RRBs, co-operative banks and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as refinance facility.
12. For current fiscal year 2020-21 Moody's slashed down India's Gross Domestic Product growth to **zero percent**.
Note: Moody earlier forecasted it at 2.6%. In 2021-22 India's GDP growth rate will bounce back to 6.6%. Fitch's forecast of 0.8%, International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 1.9%, World Bank's 1.5-2.8% and Asian Development Bank's (ADB) estimate of 4%. Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency(ICRA) estimated a contraction of up to 2% and 0.4% by Nomura
13. The Government of India has hiked its estimated gross market borrowing to **Rs 12 lakh crore**.
Note: As per the Budget Estimates it was Rs 7.80 lakh crore for Financial Year (FY) 2020-21. So far, from the start of this fiscal, the government has borrowed Rs 98,000 crore through Government Securities (GSecs). In the 1st half of the FY2021, the government will increase its borrowing to Rs 6.98 lakh crores (58% of the total borrowing target) against the original Rs 4.88 lakh crore. In the 2nd half up to Rs 5 lakh crore is likely to be borrowed against Rs 2.92 lakh crore estimated in the budget
14. **Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.** has predicted India's GDP growth for 2020-21 at **-0.4%**.
Note: In April 2020, it had expected GDP growth to slip to 1.6 % in FY21. However, it was earlier 2.7 % in the general opinion. In order to deal with the situation, It expects the RBI to cut rates by 100 basis points (bps) between now and the third quarter of calendar year 2020 (Q3-2020).
15. **SBI General Insurance** has launched the standard health insurance policy named "Aarogya Sanjeevani Health Insurance Policy".
Note: This policy provides hospitalization cover anywhere in India with sums insured ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs. Arogya Sanjeevani Policy will cover the hospitalization treatment cost of COVID-19 and will help in making affordable health care more accessible in times like these.
16. For India Emergency Assistance Program Loan of USD 1 billion has been approved by the **New Development Bank (NDB)**.
Note: The Emergency Assistance Program Loan aims to support the Government of India in its attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19 as well as to minimize the human, social and economic losses caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. This is NDB's second emergency assistance program in order to help its member countries to fight COVID-19.
17. Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitaraman launched the INR-USD Futures and Options contracts in the **BSE and NSE platforms**.
Note: They were launched at the GIFT International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat through video conference. The contracts have been launched to increase economic activity and employment in the country. A significant market share of India has moved to other International financial Centres in the last decade. The move will help to bring back those businesses back to India.
18. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the interest subsidy period for exporters till **31 March 2021**.
Note: Exporters get the subsidy under the 'Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre and post shipment Rupee Export Credit', which was ended on March 31, 2020. The extension shall take effect from April 01, 2020 and will

- remain in force for a year with the same size and coverage. The move comes after the exporters, who are facing huge problems due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, had been demanding extension of the scheme.
19. MoneyGram Payment Systems has partnered with **Federal Bank** to offer a cost-effective direct to bank account credit option for customers in India.
Note: Through this partnership, millions will be able to receive deposits directly in their bank accounts without leaving the confines of their homes which is imperative in the current situation. This tie-up will help the non-resident Indians with access to modern, low cost, fast, easy and reliable ways for transferring money to India. Federal Bank has a 15% share of the country's remittance market and expects that the tie-up with MoneyGram will give the business a further boost.
 20. The United Nations (UN) World Economic Situation and Prospects(WESP) mid-year report forecast that the COVID-19 pandemic situation will shrink the world economy by **3.2%**.
Note: The mid 2020 report of WESP states that the COVID-19 pandemic situation is expected to cut off the global economic output by around 8.5 trillion USD in the next two years which will nearly wipe out all the gains of the past four years. The UN forecast in January before the COVID-19 pandemic expected a modest acceleration of growth by 2.5% in 2020. Around 90% of the world economy is under the form of lockdown, disrupting supply chain, depressing consumer demand and unemployment.
 21. The United Nations (UN) World Economic Situation and Prospects(WESP) mid year report forecast that in 2020 India's economy to grow at **1.2%**.
Note: The report forecast that India's economy to grow at 1.2% in 2020 which is deterioration from the growth of 4.1% in 2019. In 2018 the economy of India grew at 6.8% and expected to recover slightly and make 5.5% growth in 2021. The lockdown in India is expected to result in an economic depression at 1.2% lower than the growth in 2019.
 22. **World Bank** has approved 1 billion USD to increase India's COVID-19 Social Protection response Program.
Note: Rs. 4100 crore (USD 550) of the approved Rs.7500 crore will be credited from the International Development Association(IDA), the World Bank's concessionary lending arm. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development(IBRD) will loan 1500 crore (USD 200) with maturity of 18.5 years including a grace period of five years. The balance Rs.1900 crore (USD 250) will be available after the 30th June, 2020. This makes the total commitment from the World Bank to India for the COVID-19 response to Rs.15000 crore(USD 2 billion).
 23. As per the report published by the Asian Development Bank global economy is expected to lose between **\$ 5.8 trillion to \$ 8.8 trillion**.
Note: As per ADB, the GDP in South Asia is expected to decrease from \$ 142 billion (3.9%) - \$ 218 billion (6 %) due to stringent lockdown restrictions imposed by nations like Bangladesh, India and Pakistan to prevent the coronavirus infection. If the Asia-Pacific region faces a brief 3-month containment ban, the GDP loss could be as high as \$ 1.7 trillion. But if the restrictions are stretched for six months to prevent infection, the loss could be up to \$ 2.5 trillion. The sector will account for about 30 % of the total loss in GDP around the world.
 24. At the centers request the Reserve Bank of India has increased the Ways Means Advance limits of States by **60 Per cent**
Note: At Centre's request to the Reserve Bank of India, the RBI has increased Ways Means Advance limits of States by 60%. Number of days state can be in continuous overdraft from 14 days to 21 days. Number of days state can be in overdraft in a quarter from 32 to 50 days.
 25. The Government of India and West Bengal Government have inked agreements with **AIIB** organization to improve irrigation services and flood management in the Damodar Valley Command Area (DVCA) of West Bengal.
Note: The agreement was inked with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for \$145million. The agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Rajat Misra, Director General on behalf of the AIIB. The loan has a 6-year grace period, and a maturity of 24 years.
 26. **Canara Bank** has launched a special business vertical dedicated for gold loans to meet the financial needs of its customers.
Note: The bank has launched a gold loan campaign till 30th June 2020 with an interest rate as low as 7.85% per annum. The credit can be utilised for different purposes, such as expenses for agriculture and allied activities, business needs, health emergencies and personal needs
 27. Amount **Rs 20,500 crores** has been extended by NABARD to co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks(RRB's) in various States.
Note: This amount is part of the Rs 25,000 crores of special refinance facility provided by the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) to NABARD for refinancing RRBs, cooperative banks and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs). It aims to increase the resources of the Cooperative banks and RRBs to enable them to extend credit to farmers for taking up pre-monsoon and kharif(summer sown crops) 2020 operations.
 28. American brokerage Goldman Sachs expects in FY 21 the Indian economy to contract by **5%**.

- Note:** It will be the deepest compared to all recessions India has ever experienced since 1979. It is against its earlier forecast of 0.4% contraction before revising it down to a level it shares with Japanese brokerage Nomura.
29. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** becomes first bank in India to introduce video-KYC facility for saving account customers.
Note: Under the video conferencing KYC system, customers have to provide Aadhaar and PAN (Permanent Account Number) to open 'Kotak 811 savings account' in the Bank. After this, a bank official will complete the KYC process by verifying of documents, signature on a video call with the customer & this entire video will be saved.
30. Private sector bank **ICICI Bank** has launched special fixed deposit (FD) scheme for senior citizens to help them get higher interest rate.
Note: 'ICICI Bank Golden Years FD' scheme offers senior citizens an interest rate of 6.55% per annum for deposits up to ₹2 crore with a tenure of more than five years to 10 years. The scheme is available from May 20 to September 30, 2020. It offers 80 basis points (bps) more than what is applicable to general public for the same deposit amount and tenor. Resident senior citizens can avail the benefit of this scheme for new FDs as well as renewal of old FDs.
31. eCommerce major Flipkart has partnered with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company** to offer a digital motor insurance policy to Flipkart's customers.
Note: This partnership between the insurance company and an e-commerce major, will provide seamless, accessible as well as flexible insurance solution to the customers of Flipkart in order to safeguard their vehicles. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance also offers mobile insurance on Flipkart. Flipkart Consumers can subscribe to this motor-insurance policy using their Flipkart app.
32. Franklin Templeton Trustee Services Pvt. Ltd. has appointed **Kotak Mahindra Bank** as an advisor to work together to assist the Trustees in monetizing portfolios of the 6 schemes that are being wind up.
Note: Kotak Mahindra Bank has been appointed to assist the Trustees in monetizing portfolios of the 6 schemes that are being wound up & make payouts to the affected investors. The 6 schemes are- Franklin India Low Duration Fund, Franklin India Dynamic Accrual Fund, Franklin India Credit Risk Fund, Franklin India Short Term Income Plan, Franklin India Ultra Short Bond Fund and Franklin India Income Opportunities Fund of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund.
33. Intellect Design Arena Limited has ties up with tech giant **IBM** to launch 'iTurmeric FinCloud' platform to switch to the latest tools and technologies.
Note: This platform will enable the new digital banks' systems to be tested and run in isolation or in parallel with core legacy systems. The platform comprises of various facilities such as retail banking, lending, origination, and corporate banking API.
34. ICRA Limited has sharply reduced India's FY21 growth forecast to **-5%**.
Note: The growth forecast has been reduced from 1% to -5%. It has also reduced the growth forecast in first quarter (Q1) of FY2021 to 25% as compared to the previous forecast of 16-20% and to minus 2.1% in Q2 as against the 2.1% growth predicted earlier.
35. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has exempted firms engaged in business-to-business (B2B) transactions from using only BHIM, RuPay for accepting payments with a turnover of **₹50 crore**.
Note: As per the CBDT, the relaxation has been notified for B2B companies only if at least 95% of aggregate of all amounts received during 2019. The move comes after the representations stating that requirement of mandatory digital payment facilities for payments through the prescribed electronic modes should be applicable in B2C businesses that directly deal with consumers.
36. The Reserve Bank of India has reduced the Repo Rate to **4 per cent**.
Note: This is expected to bring down lending rates and deposit rates as well. RBI's monetary policy committee in an off-cycle meeting voted 5-1 for a 40 bps repo rate cut, while maintaining an accommodative stance.
37. After reducing the Repo rate by RBI in an scheduled meeting Reverse repo gets automatically adjusted to **3.35 per cent**.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India has cut key repo lending rate by 40 basis points to 4%. RBI's monetary policy committee in an off-cycle meeting voted 5-1 for a 40 bps repo rate cut, while maintaining an accommodative stance. Reverse repo gets automatically gets adjusted to 3.35% from 3.75%.
38. The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) informed that in the current fiscal the Indian exports are expected to fall by **20 per cent**.
Note: The reduction in export in value term will be around USD 50 to 60 billion. FIEO has requested the government to provide 2% additional Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) support to all exports & 4% to labour-intensive sectors like apparel, leather, handicraft, carpets, marine, tea and processed food. Merchandise exports constitute around 12% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and foreign exchange earnings are around USD 320 billion.
39. Amount **\$160 billion** has been announced by the World Bank as assistance to 100 developing countries.
Note: The coronavirus pandemic and shutdown is expected to put over 60 million into extreme poverty globally. Of the 100 developing countries, nearly 70% are

home to the world's population, 39 are in Sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly one-third of the total projects are in fragile and conflict-affected situations, such as Afghanistan, Chad, Haiti and Niger.

- 40.** Maruti Suzuki India Limited has joined hands with financial company **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited (CIFCL)** to launch 'Buy Now Pay Later' financing scheme to make the purchase of its cars.

Note: Under the scheme, customers have the option to avail a 60-day surcharge on their EMI (equated monthly instalments). However, this offer is available on select Maruti Suzuki models and is applicable on loan payments due on or before 30 June 2020. The partnership will enhance both the companies' convenience by offering customized retail financing to customers.

- 41. Edelweiss General Insurance** has launched an app-based motor insurance own damage (OD) floater policy under IRDAI's sandbox regulations.

Note: The company has launched 'Edelweiss SWITCH' which is a driver-based motor insurance allows the owners of the vehicles to cover multiple vehicles under a single policy. Edelweiss SWITCH is approved under the 'Pay as you use' model, expected to change the standard of determining the premium of Motor OD based on the age, make and model of vehicle to usage of vehicle and experience of driver. The policy holder can cover three vehicles in a single policy for one year. The policy holders can use the app to SWITCH their policy cover ON and OFF based on their usage of vehicle.

- 42.** Interest rate the special fixed deposit (FD) scheme launched by ICICI Bank for senior citizens called 'ICICI Bank Golden Years FD' -- **6.55% per annum.**

Note: It is applicable for resident Indians & is available from May 20 to September 30, 2020. The scheme offers 80 basis points (bps) more than what is applicable to the general public (non-senior citizens) for the same deposit amount and tenor. It is 30 bps more than the previous rates offered by the Bank.

- 43. HDFC Bank** has launched 'Senior Citizen Care FD' for deposits with more than 5-year tenors with investments up to Rs 5 crore.

Note: Private sector lender HDFC Bank has launched special fixed deposit (FD) scheme for senior citizens called Senior Citizen Care FD scheme. The special FD offer for senior citizens has been made available for investment from 18 May 2020

- 44.** IRDAI's working committee recommended enhancing trade credit policy (TCI) cover from 85% to **90 per cent.**

Note: Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) formulated nine-member expert panel headed by New India Assurance (NIA) Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) Atul Sahai. The committee has recommended an increase in indemnity (protection

against finances) being provided to the policyholders under Trade Credit Insurance (TCI) from existing 85% of the trade receivables from each buyer to 90%.

- 45.** The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana-PMVVY Scheme launched by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for those over and above **60 years.**

Note: The sale will be available from May 26 for 3 financial years (up to March 31, 2023). This scheme can be purchased offline as well as online from LIC website. The Union Cabinet has recently extended the pension plan till 31 March 2023 which is a social security scheme for senior citizens. LIC is solely authorised to operate this scheme that offers a total payout not exceeding Rs 15 lakhs. The scheme is a Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Pension Scheme subsidised by the Centre.

- 46.** Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has joined hands with **ICICI Bank** to offer retail financing schemes to its customers.

Note: As part of the tie up, ICICI Bank is offering flexi EMI scheme which enables customers to pay low EMI initially, in order to help them overcome the liquidity stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The EMI amount starts from ₹899 on a loan of ₹1 lakh for first three months. The bank is also offering similar other EMI plans for MSI customers.

- 47.** According to the State Bank of India's Ecowrap report India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to grow at **1.2 per cent.**

Note: The GDP is likely to be 4.2% for FY20 as compared to the 5% projected earlier and (-)6.8% for FY21. The GDP growth of 3rd quarter of FY20 slipped to a nearly seven-year low of 4.7%, in Q1 it was 5.1% & in Q2 was 5.6%. The report forecast a loss of at least Rs 1.4 lakh crore during the last week of March.

- 48. Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** has entered into an agreement with Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd. (NBPCL) to fund projects worth ₹22,000 crore in Madhya Pradesh.

Note: The funds will be deployed by NBPCL for setting up hydroelectric projects of 225 MW and power components of 12 major multipurpose projects in state. PFC is a central PSU under Ministry of Power and one of India's leading NBFCs. Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd. (NBPCL) is a wholly-owned company of Madhya Pradesh government.

- 49.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will raise Rs80,000 crore by selling cash management bills (CMB), CMBs in India are non-standard, discounted instruments issued for maturities less than **91 days.**

Note: The cash management bill (CMB) is the most flexible instrument for a Central Bank because it can be issued when needed, allowing the Central Bank to have lower cash balances and issue fewer long-term notes. CMBs tend to pay higher yields than bills with fixed maturities, but their shorter maturities lead to lower

overall interest expense. The Government of India, in consultation with the RBI, had decided to issue a new short-term instrument, known as Cash Management Bills, to meet the temporary cash flow mismatches of the Government.

50. National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched an artificial intelligence (AI) based chatbot, PAi, to create awareness around its products like FASTag, RuPay, UPI, AePS on a real time basis.

Note: This is yet another NPCI's initiative to improve digital financial inclusion in India. The AI virtual assistant, PAi is available round the clock helping users with access to accurate information on NPCI products. Customers can ask their queries in English and Hindi, via text or voice on the websites of NPCI, RuPay, and UPI Chalega. Through PAi, users get verified automated responses to their queries on all NPCI's products. PAi would also be accessible to global RuPay Cardholders as well.

51. Airtel Payments Bank has collaborated with Mastercard to create customised financial products for Indian farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Note: These financial products particularly for those territories where there is less access to bank administrations. The coordinated effort will unite Mastercard's worldwide and nearby involvement with developing advanced financial solutions and Airtel Payments Bank's circulation system to arrive at the last mile and its large customer base.

52. Deutsche Bank has received approval from SEBI to offer custodial services for silver bullion contracts.

Note: The bank had received licence for custodial services in gold, oil and natural gas and index futures in October. For institutional participation in commodity derivatives, appointment of a custodian is mandatory for these asset managers for safekeeping of any physical assets. Even as Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had permitted institutional investors to trade in commodity derivatives segment for the first time in September 2018, the participation could not take off immediately as there were no licensed custodians for commodities.

53. The Indian government has decided to withdraw **Savings Bonds Scheme**.

Note: The scheme, commonly known as RBI Bonds or GOI bonds, is popular among retail investors who looking for safety of principal and a regular income. The Reserve Bank of India too has notified the Cessation of 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018. Interest on the Bonds is taxable. The Bonds are issued at par at ₹100. The minimum subscription was fixed at ₹1,000. As per the scheme, the Bonds are be repayable on the expiration of seven years from the date of issue

54. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed ₹5 crore fine on **Bank of India** for violating certain provisions on asset classification, divergence, opening of current accounts, and classification and reporting of frauds.

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of Rs 6.50 crore on Karnataka Bank, Bank of India and Saraswat Co-operative Bank for non-compliance with central bank's Income Recognition and Asset Classification norms. It fined Rs 5 crore on Bank of India, while it charged Rs 1.20 crore and Rs 30 lakh from Karnataka Bank and Saraswat Cooperative Bank, respectively. For Bank of India, the fine was imposed because it violated certain provisions on asset classification, divergence, opening of current accounts, and classification and reporting of frauds.

55. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has granted a loan of US \$ 177 loan to India to upgrade 450 kms of state highways and major district roads in **Maharashtra**.

Note: As part of the project, 2 major district roads and 11 state highways, with a combined length of 450 km, to 2-lane standard across seven districts of Maharashtra will be upgraded, with improved connectivity to national highways, interstate roads, seaports, airports, rail hubs, district headquarters, industrial areas, enterprise clusters and agricultural areas. The project will also focus on training the Maharashtra Public Works Department (PWD) project staff to build their capacity in climate change adaptation and disaster-resilient features in road design, road maintenance planning and road safety.

56. Vakrangee Limited has join hand with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to distribute micro insurance products of LIC.

Note: Vakrangee kendras will also act as a renewal premium collection point for all micro insurance policies of LIC irrespective of whether these policies have been procured at the kendra or not. In addition, Follow up for Collection and remittance of renewal premium of LIC's micro insurance policies will be enabled at the kendras. Vakrangee Limited is a technology company based in Mumbai (Maharashtra).

57. The Foreign Direct Investment has increased by what percent in the FY 2020 -- **13%**.

Note: Sectors which attracted maximum foreign inflows during 2019-20 include services (\$7.85 billion), computer software and hardware (\$7.67 billion), telecommunications (\$4.44 billion), trading (\$4.57 billion), automobile (\$2.82 billion), construction (\$2 billion), and chemicals (\$1 billion), the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data showed. Singapore emerged as the largest source of FDI in India during the last fiscal, with \$ 14.67 billion investments.

- 58.** For Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) companies BSE and National Stock Exchange(NSE) announced to reduce the annual listing fee by **25%**.
Note: It is as a part of their attempts to lower the compliance costs for companies during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. These steps will help to revive the SMEs & encourage thousands of SMEs to go for listing. NSE will provide the rebate to all its existing listed companies currently listed on its EMERGE platform. BSE will provide the rebate to its currently-listed companies & for all the firms waiting to be listed on the exchange.
- 59.** Indian IT company **Infosys Limited** has entered into the partnership with Avaloq to offer end-to-end (e2e) products and services as Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) across the world to its clients.
Note: This tie-up will not only help Infosys to leverage its Global Delivery Model and a standardized perspective to implement Avaloq's solutions but also help latter's unique knowledge and experience in providing e2e wealth management solutions combined with Infosys' global presence and digital transformation capabilities will help create a one-stop-shop for wealth management clients. Infosys will also get the benefit to expand its market beyond Switzerland with an initial focus on EMEA (Europe, the Middle East and Africa) and APAC (Asia-Pacific) regions.
- 60.** According to the Provisional Estimates of National Income for the financial year 2019-20 by National Statistical Office(NSO) India's Gross Domestic Product(GDP) growth has slowed to an 11-year low of **4.2 per cent**.
Note: Estimation- GDP at Constant (2011-12) prices in Q4 of 2019-20 is estimated at Rs. 38.04 lakh crore, as against Rs 36.90 lakh crore in Q4 of 2018-19, which shows a growth of 3.1%, the slowest since a 0.2% rise in the fourth quarter of FY09. Revision of the quarterly GDP for earlier quarters: October- December period – to 4.1% from 4.7%; July-September period- to 4.4% from 5.1%; April – June period – to 5.2% from 5.6%
- 61.** In accordance with the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the total foreign direct investment (FDI) increased by **18%**.
Note: This hike was the highest in the four years. Out of the total FDI, equity inflows through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) automatic route of acquisition rose 13% to around \$49.98 billion. Total FDI has doubled from FY13-14 when it was only \$36 billion.

Obituaries

- Renowned personality Rishi Raj Kapoor passed away.
Note: Rishi Kapoor was the third generation actor, the second son of actor Raj Kapoor and a grandson of Prithviraj Kapoor. He recently announced his next project, a remake of Hollywood film The Intern, also featuring Deepika Padukone. Rishi had starred in more than 100 films. His autobiography Khullam Khulla: Rishi Kapoor Uncensored... was published by HarperCollins and launched at "The Hindu Lit for Life 2017".
- Renowned personality Chuni Goswami, passed away, he was a famous **Sportsperson**.
Note: Former India football captain Subimal Goswami, commonly known by his nickname Chuni Goswami, passed away at the age of 82 in Kolkata. He was the captain of the 1962 Asian Games gold-medal winning team. Goswami played 50 matches for India as a footballer from 1956 to 1964. However, he quit international football in 1964, at the age of 27. Goswami was part of the Bengal's triumphant Santosh Trophy squad thrice in 1955, 1958, and 1959. Goswami was successful in cricket as well, he represented Bengal in 46 first-class games between 1962 and 1973.
- Renowned personality Bijay Mishra passed away, he was a famous **Playwriter**.
Note: Noted playwright, dramatist, scriptwriter and film director Bijay Mishra of Odisha passed away at the age of 83 due to age-related ailments in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Mishra began playwright from 1960 and his first play 'Janani' was staged in Annapurna Theatre, Cuttack, Odisha. He was also a mainstream script writer in Odia Cinema & TV Industry.
- Renowned personality Nissar Ahmed popularly known as K S Nissar Ahmed passed away, he was a popular **Poet and Kannada writer**.
Note: He was the 73rd president of Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in the year 2007 held at Shivamogga. He received Rajyotsava in 1981, Padma Shri in 2008 and Pampa Award in 2017.
- Famous personality Dalit Ezhilmalai passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: He participated in the Indo-Pak War of 1971 as an army officer and received Sainik Sewa Medal for his meritorious service. He served in the Former Post & Telegraph Department of the Government of India Between 1963 and 1987 and deputed to the Army for

- five years. In 1989 The Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) was established and he joined the party and became the general secretary.
6. Renowned personality Hari Shankar Vasudevan passed away recently, he was a famous **Historian**.
Note: He served as the Director of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. From 2005 to 2015, he was the Chairman of Syllabus Committees and Textbook Development Committees for Social Science, NCERT and from 2006 to 2007 he acted as a consultant on Indo-Russian Trade for the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.
 7. Famous sportsperson Manmeet Singh Walia, passed away, he was associated with which sports **Table Tennis**.
Note: He became the national champion in 1989 when he beat S Sriram in the men's singles final in Hyderabad. He was also one of the finest and consistent performers in the 1980's.
 8. Renowned personality Betty Wright passed away recently, she was a famous **Singer**.
Note: The Grammy-winning soul singer, Betty Wright passed away. Her real name is Bessie Regina Norris. She is an R&B (Rhythm & blues) singer, songwriter and background vocalist. She received her first Grammy Award for the Best Song, "Where is the Love?", at the age of 23.
 9. Renowned personality Jerry Stiller passed away recently, he was associated with which field **Acting**.
Note: He was renowned for his recurring role as George Costanza's father on TV's Seinfeld for which he was also nominated for Emmy Awards in 1997. His other popular roles includes that of Arthur Spooner in TV sitcom "The King of Queens". He received joint star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame along with his wife Meara in year 2007.
 10. Renowned personality Shafique Ansari passed away recently, he was associated with which field **Acting**.
Note: TV actor Shafique Ansari passed away. He was best-known for his appearance in TV series 'Crime Patrol'. He was a member of the Cine & TV Artistes' Association (CINTAA) since 2008. Apart from being an actor, he was a screenwriter and an assistant director too. He is one of the screenwriters of Amitabh Bachchan and Hema Malini's 2003 film 'Baghban'.
 11. Renowned **Actor** Sai Gundewar passed away recently.
Note: Film actor, model, voiceover artist and an entrepreneur, Sai Gundewar passed away. His popularity rose in 2010 after his participation in the hit Reality TV show MTV Splitsvilla, Season 4. He has also acted alongside Aamir Khan in PK, and Rock on.
 12. Renowned **Writer** Ratnakar Matkari passed away.
 - Note:** Last week he was tested positive to coronavirus. He was born on 17th November 1938 in Mumbai, India. He was the director and producer of numerous Marathi films and he was a self-taught artist and writer. In the 1970's he wrote many columns for multiple newspapers and magazines. He was known for his acting skills who made his mark in plays like Prem Kahani, Vinashakadun Vinashakade, Lokakatha 78 and State Lote.
 13. Former JDS MP **Raja Rangappa Nayak** passed away recently.
Note: He had represented the Raichur constituency, Karnataka and was elected in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1996. He entered into politics as Mandal Pradhan of Rukmapur of Shorapur taluk. He had served as chairman of the health standing committee of Kalaburagi Zilla Panchayat in 1993.
 14. Veteran Bengali author **Debesh Roy** passed away recently.
Note: Debesh Roy was known as a writer who broke the set patterns in the fictional world of Bengali literature. He was a regular contributor to many Bengali dailies and a critic of the attacks on liberals in recent times and participated in protest meetings. His famous works includes Tista Parer Brittanto, Borisaler Jogen Mondal, Manush Khun Kore Keno and Samay Asamayer Brittanto. He won the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel 'Tista Parer Brittanto' in 1990.
 15. Padma Bhushan recipient Bangladeshi professor **Anisuzzaman** passed away recently.
Note: He was born on February 18, 1937, in Calcutta, Bengal Presidency, British India and shifted to Bangladesh soon after the partition in 1947. He made an immense contribution to Bangla language & literature through his research and writings. Anisuzzaman played a significant role in all democratic movements. Anisuzzaman was a member of the Planning Commission to the Government of Bangladesh during the Bangladesh liberation war and a member of the National Education Commission set up by the government after liberation.
 16. Famous sportsperson of **Tennis** Ashley John Cooper passed away at the age of 83 in Sydney
Note: Cooper, the former Ranked No.1 player, led Australia's Davis Cup team to victory over the United States to retain the title in 1957. A right-handed serve-and-volley player, Cooper won 8 Grand Slam titles- 4 Grand Slam singles and 4 Grand Slam doubles titles in the amateur era.
 17. Famous **Hockey** sportsperson Balbir Singh Dosanjh, passed away recently.
Note: Balbir Singh Sr. made his International debut in May 1947 tour of Sri Lanka. He was appointed as the Captain of Indian hockey team for the Melbourne

Olympics in 1956. Retiring from his active hockey career, he served as the Manager of India's World Cup winning team led by Ajitpal Singh in 1975. He wrote his biography "The Golden Hat Trick: My Hockey Days" in 1977.

- 18. Renowned Football Coach** Gigi Simoni passed away recently.
Note: He was an Italian football official, player & manager. Simoni played as an attacking midfielder for Mantova, Napoli, Torino, Juventus, Brescia and Genoa. He won the Coppa Italia in 1961–62 with Napoli. He had a well-travelled coaching career and guided 7 teams to promotions from Serie B to the Italian top flight, a record. Gigi Simon was awarded the Panchina d'Oro as the best Italian coach.
- 19. Noted Classical Singer** Shyamala G. Bhave passed away.
Note: Her father, late Govind Vitthal Bhave, trained her in Hindustani music, while she was tutored in the Carnatic stream by noted vocalists A Subbaraya and B Doreswamy. Her mother Lakshmi Bhave was also a classical vocalist. She was bestowed with the title of 'Ubhaya Gaana Vidushi (expert in both styles)' by Sir M Visvesvaraya, the 19th Diwan of Mysore.
- 20. Renowned Author** Mujtaba Hussain passed away recently.
Note: Hussain was described as the Mark Twain of Urdu. He began his literary career from "Siasat", a leading Urdu daily published from Hyderabad. Hussain was awarded the Padma Shri, the country's fourth-highest civilian award, in 2007. He published a book titled "Mujtaba Hussain Jaisa Dekha Jaisa Paya" and "Mujtaba Hussain Aayeinon ke Beech."
- 21. Famous Football** R. Shanmugam passed away.
Note: Shanmugam played for Mohun Bagan in 1968, Indian Railways in the 1969 Nowgong senior Nationals,

Tamil Nadu in the 1970 Jalandhar & '71 Chennai senior Nationals. He played for the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) from 1969-77 in the top-tier of the Chennai Football Association (CFA) league. He attended the FIFA Coca Cola coaching course in 1978 & '91, and the Olympic solidarity course in 1996.

- 22. Famous personality** Stanley Ho passed away.
Note: Stanley Ho is one of the richest men in Asia and the head of Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) holdings and famously known as the Casino kingpin of Gambling. He won the government monopoly license in 1961 and dominated the casino business in the former Portugal colony of Macau. He operated casinos across the globe including Portugal and North Korea and built residential and office buildings in Hong Kong.
- 23. First chief minister of Chhattisgarh** Ajit Pramod Kumar Jogi passed away.
Note: Jogi studied Mechanical Engineering at the Maulana Azad College of Technology & also won the University Gold Medal. He served as a lecturer at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Raipur and was also a successful IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer. In 1998, Jogi was elected as a Lok Sabha member from Raigarh, Chhattisgarh and became a spokesperson of the Indian National Congress (INC) party.
- 24. Famous personality associated with Indian cinema** passed away recently, he was a veteran **lyricist**.
Note: Famous Indian Lyricist and writer Yogesh Gaur, commonly known as Yogesh in the film industry passed away at the age of 77 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was a prominent lyricist in 1970s Hindi cinema and also worked with the prominent film directors such as Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Basu Chatterjee. He wrote the lyrics of hit songs "Kahin duur jab din dhal jaye" and "Zindagi kaisi hai paheli" that defined the superhit film Anand (1971).

Important Days

- International Labour's day or May Day is celebrated every year on **1st May**.
Note: It is also known as Workers day or May day. This day is observed to pay tribute to the contribution of workers across the world. It was only in the year 1891 when 1st May was announced formally to be observed as International Labour Day each year.
- World Tuna Day is observed globally every year on **2nd May**.
Note: This day is established by the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish. It is observed for the first time in 2017. According to the UN, an outsized number of nations worldwide depend upon tuna for both food security and nutrition. At the same time, more than 96 countries have tuna fisheries, and their capacity is constantly growing. The World Tuna Day was officially proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting resolution 71/124 in December 2016.
- World Press Freedom Day is observed globally every year on **3rd May**.
Note: It is also known as World Press Day. The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives. They risk their lives at times or may even have to face tough situations in order to bring the news from different corners of the world in front of the public. The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2020 is "Journalism without Fear or Favour".
- International Firefighters' Day is observed globally every year on **4th May**.

- Note:** This day is celebrated since 1999, to recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible. The day was instituted, after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on 2 December 1998.
5. International Day of the Midwife is observed globally every year on **5th May**.
Note: This day is celebrated to recognise the work of midwives and raise awareness about the status of midwives for the essential care they provide to mothers and their newborns. The theme for 2020 International Day of the Midwife is Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise, unite – our time is NOW!. The World Health Organization (WHO) has designed the year 2020 as ‘Year of Nurse and Midwife’ to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale.
 6. World Hand Hygiene Day observed globally on **5th May**.
Note: The World Health Organization (WHO) has marked 5 May as World Hand Hygiene Day. This day is recognising the role clean and safe hands play in warding off many serious infections. It is also known as Hand Hygiene Day. The theme of the campaign is “SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands”.
 7. World Asthma Day is observed every year on **1st Tuesday of May**.
Note: This year, World Asthma Day is observed on May 5, 2020. The day spread awareness about asthma disease and care around the world. Whilst the primary focus is supporting the person with asthma, support may also extend to family, friends and caregivers. The theme for 2020 is ‘Enough Asthma Deaths’. World Asthma Day is annually organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).
 8. The World Athletics Day is observed every year on **7th May**.
Note: The date is subject to adjustment, the date of World Athletics Day is decided by the IAAF, however, the month stays the same as May. The first World Athletics Day was observed in 1996. The basic objective of World Athletics Day is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.
 9. To increase awareness about athletics and to encourage youth to take up sports World Athletics Day is observed every year on **7th May**.
 10. World Red Cross Day is observed globally every year on **8th May**.
Note: This day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) founder, Henry Dunant. This day is dedicated to the people who suffer from shortage of food, several natural calamities, war as well as from an epidemic disease.
 11. World Thalassaemia Day is observed globally every year on **8th May**.
Note: This day is observed to raise awareness about thalassaemia disease, its preventive measures and to avoid transmission and the importance of vaccination for children’s health, society and among the people throughout the world. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, World Thalassaemia Day 2020 will be celebrated through different online activities.
 12. World Migratory Bird Day is observed globally every year on **9th May**.
Note: The aim of the day is to raise awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them. This time the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is “Birds Connect Our World”. The theme highlights the importance of conserving and restoring the ecological connectivity and integrity of ecosystems that support the natural cycles that are essential for the survival and well-being of migratory birds.
 13. Mother’s day is celebrated every year on **Second Sunday of May (9th May 2020)**
Note: Mother’s Day is widely known to salute the motherhood, to extend the influence of mothers within the society, to extend the maternal bonds to children, etc. Mother, being a protector throughout her life loves her children unconditionally. She plays a special role sort of a teacher, best friend and one’s who besides us under all circumstances.
 14. National Technology Day is celebrated every year on **11th May**.
Note: This day marks the successfully tested Shakti-I nuclear missile at the Indian Army’s Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan. This day will be focusing on rebooting the economy through Science and Technology. Every year, National Technology Day is celebrated across India on 11 May to memorize the anniversary of Shakti, the Pokhran nuclear test held on 11 May 1998.
 15. International Nurse Day is observed globally on every year **12th May**.
Note: This day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. She was also known as Lady with the Lamp. She was the founder of modern nursing and was a British social reformer and statistician.
 16. Armed Forces Day is observed every year on **third Saturday in May (16th May 2020)**.
Note:
 - In 2020, it falls on the 16th of May.
 - This day is celebrated to pay tribute to the men and women who served the United States Armed Forces.

- Armed Forces Day is a joint celebration of all six branches of the U.S. military: Army, Air Force, United States Marine Corps (United States Marines), Coast Guard, US Navy, and therefore the newly created Space Force.
- 17. The International Day of Light is celebrated every year on 16th May.**
Note: The Day is celebrated to celebrate the role that light plays in science, culture and art, education, and sustainable development, and also in the fields as diverse as medicine, communications, and energy. The day also marks the anniversary of first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.
- 18. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed globally every year on 17th May.**
Note: The main aim to celebrates the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies. The theme of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day of 2020: "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"
- 19. World Hypertension Day is observed globally every year on 17th May.**
Note: The main aim to celebrates the day is to promote public awareness of increasing high blood pressure (BP) and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer. The day was celebrated for the 1st time in May 2005. World Hypertension Day (WHD) is an initiative of the World Hypertension League (WHL), an affiliated section of the International Society of Hypertension.
- 20. International Museum Day is celebrated every year on 18th May.**
Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the fact that, "Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples." The International Museum Day 2020 was celebrated with the theme "Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion".
- 21. World Bee Day is observed globally every year on 20th May.**
Note: On this date, 20 May, the pioneer of beekeeping Anton Janša was born in 1734 in Slovenia. The purpose of the bee day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. About 33% of the world's food production depends on bees thus they are vital for the preservation of biodiversity, ecological balance in nature and helpful in reducing pollution.
- 22. International Tea Day is observed globally every year on 21st May.**
Note: The purpose of International Tea Day is to try to improve the condition of tea producers and tea workers. Tea producing countries make a lot of profit but the condition of the labourers working in the tea plantations is very bad. Therefore, the purpose of International Tea Day is to encourage the status of tea workers, workers' rights, daily wages, social security, employment security, and health.
- 23. World Metrology Day is observed globally every year on 20th May.**
Note: Many nations on this day, internationally collaborate to create awareness about metrology and its advancement in the respective field. World Metrology Day is an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 in Paris, France by representatives of seventeen nations. The World Metrology Day project is realized jointly by the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) and Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM).
- 24. Anti Terrorism Day 2020 is observed every year in India on 21st May.**
Note: The day marks the death anniversary of India's seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 21 May 1991. He was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by the Tamil Tigers Eelam (LTTE) a terrorist group. After this assassination, V.P. Singh government has decided to observe 21st May as Anti Terrorism Day.
- 25. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is celebrated every year on May 21.**
Note: The purpose of the day is to deepen the understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to advance the four goals of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. In the year 2001, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted 'Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity' as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.
- 26. Anti Terrorism Day is observed every year in India on 21st May.**
Note: The day marks the death anniversary of India's seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 21 May 1991. He was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by the Tamil Tigers Eelam (LTTE) a terrorist group. After this assassination, V.P. Singh government has decided to observe 21st May as Anti Terrorism Day.
- 27. The United Nations celebrates International Day for Biological Diversity every year on 22nd May.**
Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the issue of significant reduction in biological diversity due to certain human activities. Biological Diversity comprises of wide variety of plants, animals and

microorganisms including genetic differences within each species, for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock. Theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2020 is "Our solutions are in nature".

28. The United Nations observes International Day to End Obstetric Fistula every year on **23 May**.

Note: The day is being observed to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula, as well as urging post-surgery follow-up and tracking of fistula patients. Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during childbirth. The theme for International Day to End Obstetric Fistula 2020 is "End gender inequality! End health inequities! End Fistula now!".

29. World Turtle Day is being celebrated every year on **23rd May**.

Note: The day was created as an annual observance to help people celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises as well as their disappearing habitats around the world. The day was celebrated for the first time in year 2000.

30. International Missing Children's Day is observed globally every year on **25th May**.

Note: This day is observed for missing children who have found their way home, remember those that are victims of crime, and continue efforts to seek out those that are still missing. 25 May is now widely referred to as Missing Children's Day, with the forget-me-not flower as its emblem.

31. World Thyroid Day is observed globally every year on **25th May**.

Note: The main purpose of the WTD is to aware of the importance of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases. This day is established in 2008 as a part of the campaign led by European Thyroid Association (ETA) and the American Thyroid Association (ATA) followed by Latin American Thyroid Society (LATS) and Asia Oceania Thyroid Association (AOTA) to commemorate the patients with Thyroid diseases and doctors and physicians who treat them.

32. International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed globally every year on **29th May**.

Note: The United Nations commemorates the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. This day is dedicated to all the women and men who have served as military, police or civilians in UN Peacekeeping operations. The Theme of day for 2020 is "Women in Peacekeeping: A Key to Peace".

33. International Day of Action for Women's Health is observed globally every year on **28th May**.

Note: The main purpose of this day is to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of all women all over the world. May 28th, International Day of Action for Women's Health is being coordinated by the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR). Every woman has a right to sexual and reproductive health and rights, no matter which part of the world she hails from, what age she is, or what her ethnicity or religion is.

34. World Hunger Day is observed globally every year on **28th May**.

Note: The objective of this day is to raise awareness about more than 820 million people living in chronic hunger worldwide. It is observed since 2011 to not only spread awareness about the malaise of chronic hunger but also to solve hunger and poverty through sustainable undertakings.

35. International Everest Day is being observed every year on **29th May**.

Note: Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary had climbed the Mt. Everest on this day (29th May) in 1953, as the first humans to achieve the feat.

36. World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates World No Tobacco Day every year on **31st May**.

Note: The day is being celebrated to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic including the preventable death and disease it causes. The World No Tobacco Day 2020 provides a counter-marketing campaign and also empower young people to engage in the fight against Big Tobacco by dismissing its lies and rejecting the use of tobacco products.

New Appointments

1. **Shikha Sharma** has been named advisor to Google Pay India.

Note: Google Pay is one of the leading apps on Unified Payments Payments Interface (UPI), battling with the likes of Amazon Pay, Paytm, etc. Sharma's appointment could be a way forward for Google Pay India's attempt at a card-based offering, which could be launched soon. Sharma quit ICICI Bank in 2008 to join Axis Bank. She

steered Axis Bank till 2018 and transformed it into a major banking entity of the country. Sharma also serves in the board of IT major Tech Mahindra as an independent director.

2. **Giridhar Aramane** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

- Note:** His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has replaced Sanjeev Ranjan who has been appointed as secretary in the Ministry of Shipping. Giridhar Aramane is a 1988 batch IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre. Before assuming charge as Secretary to MoRTH, he was serving as Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat.
3. **Arvind Kumar Sharma** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
Note: His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Before assuming charge as Secretary to MSME Ministry, he was serving as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Arvind Kumar Sharma is a 1988 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre and has worked in the Government of Gujarat at various positions.
4. **Krishnan Ramachandran** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Max Bupa Health Insurance.
Note: He will replace Ashish Mehrotra. Prior to this, he served as the CEO of Apollo Munich Health Insurance. He has over 23 years of experience in health insurance, healthcare and life sciences segments.
5. **Ashok Michael Pinto** has been appointed as the US representative to World Bank's lending arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
Note: He was nominated as US Alternate Executive Director of IBRD for a period of 2 years. He currently serves as Counsellor to the Under Secretary for International Affairs at the United States (US) Department of the Treasury. He has been nominated by the United States President, Donald Trump
6. **Tarun Bajaj** has been appointed as the new director on Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
Note: His appointment is confirmed by the Government of India. He is a 1988 batch Indian Administration Service(IAS) officer. He will replace Atanu Chakraborty, who retired on April 30. Prior to taking over as Economic Affairs Secretary, Bajaj was the Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office.
7. **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** has been appointed as the chairperson of the Parliament's public accounts committee (PAC).
Note: He was appointed the chairman of the committee by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The PAC examines accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by Parliament for the expenditure of the Government of India, the annual financial accounts of the Government and others. The PAC is the oldest Parliamentary Committee in which 15 members are elected from the Lok Sabha and 7 members from the Rajya Sabha are elected every year for the 22 member panel of PAC.
8. **Dia Mirza** has been appointed as the as the Goodwill Ambassador of India by UNEP.
Note: The actress is also the United Nations Sustainability Development Goal Advocate. As a Goodwill Ambassador, Mirza will continue work with the UN to further spread the message on key areas including clean air, clean seas, wildlife protection and climate change.
9. **Manisha Singh** has been nominated as an envoy to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with an Ambassador rank by US President Donald Trump.
Note: US President Donald Trump announces his intent to nominate Manisha Singh, who is in her late 40's, as the US envoy to OECD on 27th April 2020. Manisha Singh served as the acting secretary of Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment and the deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs of the State Department. She served as the Deputy Chief Counsel to the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
10. **Mustafa al-Kadhimi** sworn in as the Iraq's 6th Prime Minister.
Note: This has ended the leadership crisis that had been going on in the country for 6 months. Mustafa has become Iraq's 1st proper PM after Adel Abdul Mahdi resigned in November 2019 due to massive anti-governmental protests.
11. **Neeraj Dhawan** has been appointed as the Chief Risk Officer of Yes Bank for a period of three years.
Note: He replaced Ashish Agarwal, the current Chief Risk Officer. He assumed charge on 2nd May 2020 in place of Ashish Agarwal who will be assigned to a different role in the bank. Neeraj Dhawan was the Chief risk officer for retail and business banking at Yes Bank with 29 years of experience in the banking industry and financial services.

- 12. Ajinkya Madhukar Rahane** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Edu-tech firm ELSA Corp for India, Middle East, Australia, New Zealand and SAARC.
Note: Now Rahane will work with company's mobile app 'ELSA Speak' to popularize it among Indian people who want to better their English pronunciation. English Language Speech Assistant Corporation (ELSA Cor) India is a education technology company based out of the US.
- 13. Narinder Batra's** term has been extended as President of FIH until May 2021 by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
Note: International Hockey Federation (FIH) has extended the term of Narinder Batra as President of FIH until May 2021. Batra and therefore the Executive Board members which were due to end in October 2020 have now been extended. The Executive Board (EB) of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has also decided to postpone the 47th FIH Congress, initially planned on 28 October-1 November 2020 in New Delhi, to May 2021.
- 14. Kumar Sangakkara** has been appointed as the president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) for a second term.
Note: He is the first non-British President of the Club, he assumed office on 1st October 2019 and entered the list of people who served multiple terms. Sangakkara participated in the club tour of Pakistan his first return to the country after the terrorist attack in March 2009 on the Team Bus of Sri Lanka.
- 15. Indian sportsperson Akhil Kumar** has been re-inducted into the Disciplinary Panel of National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA).
Note: Akhil, who is also serving in Haryana Police as ACP Gurugram, was formerly in the panel from 2017 to 2019. The Arjuna award-winning Olympian is among the most accomplished names in Indian boxing and has also been the government observer for the sport between 2017 and 2019. The NADA ADDP also features track-and-field Arjuna awardee Ashwini Nachappa among others.
- 16. V. Vidyavathi** has been appointed as the Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
Note: Vidyavathi will be serving in the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India. Her appointment is confirmed by the order of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- 17. Manoj Ahuja** has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
Note: Odisha cadre IAS, Manoj Ahuja has been appointed the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). He is currently served as Special Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Department of Personnel and Training. He will replace Anita Karwal as the chairman of the CBSE.
- 18. Roberto Azevedo** decides to resign a year before his term expires as head of international organization **WTO**.
Note: Mr Azevedo, a former diplomat from Brazil, will step down on August 31st, cutting short a seven-year tenure marked in recent years by intense pressure from US President Donald Trump. In a special meeting of WTO delegations, Mr Azevedo said, it is a personal decision - a family decision.
- 19. Zubair Iqbal** has been appointed as new Managing Director (MD) of Jammu and Kashmir Bank.
Note: Iqbal will have a three-year tenure. The appointments are based upon the continuous directions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to separate the positions of Chairman and Managing Director for better governance.
- 20. Benjamin Netanyahu** has sworn in as the prime minister of **Israel** for the 5th time.
Note: He will now chair the post until 13 November 2021. With this, the longest political deadlock in the Isreal's history came to an end. During the standoff, the caretaker government held the reins for more than 500 days and no one got a clear majority in three successive elections.
- 21. Rajesh Goel** has been appointed as the director-general (DG) of the Realtors body National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO).
Note: Prior to this, he was serving as the chairman and managing director, Hindustan Prefab Ltd. He is a professional with over 37 years of experience in leading PSUs under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- 22. Kevin Mayer** has been appointed as the chief executive officer of TikTok, the popular video app owned by China's ByteDance Technology Co .
Note: Kevin Mayer led the successful launch of the Disney streaming service in November but in February was passed over as Disney's new chief executive. Mayer's appointment will be effective June 1, when he will also become chief operating officer of ByteDance.
- 23. Govinda Rajulu Chintala** has been appointed as the chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
Note: The appointments committee of the union cabinet cleared Chintala's appointment for two years till his superannuation in July 2022. He will replace Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.
- 24. Carmen Reinhart** has been appointed as Chief Economist and Vice President of the World Bank.

- Note:** Reinhart's experience and insights would prove invaluable during the current unprecedented crisis triggered by the coronavirus pandemic and the economic havoc it is wreaking around the globe. She will start her new job on June 15.
- 25. Dilip Oommen** has been appointed as the President of Indian Steel Association (ISA).
Note: He is presently the CEO of Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India. He was unanimously appointed as President for the next two years. He will replace Tata Steel CEO TV Narendran, who stepped down as President on May 1.
- 26. Rajesh Bhushan** has been appointed as the chairman of the 11-member committee constituted by the Ministry of Health to simplify and expedite the drug approval process in India.
Note: The Ministry of Health & Joint Drug Controller of India Eswara Reddy will assist the committee to adopt global standards for drug and medical device regulation amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- 27. Carmen Reinhart** has been appointed as the new Vice President (VP) and chief economist of World Bank.
Note: Reinhart's appointment is effective on June 15, 2020. Reinhart has a PhD from Columbia University and currently teaches international economics at the Harvard Kennedy School.
- 28. Jahnabi Phookan** has been appointed as the 37th National President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organization (FLO).
Note: She took over the position from Harjinder Kaur Talwar at the 36th FLO session in the presence of Om Birla, Lok Sabha Speaker. FLO is the oldest women-led and -focused business chamber of Southeast Asia and the Women's wing of the apex chamber FICCI.
- 29. Abhas Jha** has been appointed as World Bank's Practice Manager for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia.
Note: In his capacity, Jha will be responsible to nurture, lead, inspire and position a team of highly qualified professionals to provide the best solutions for South Asian countries.
- 30. Marcos Prado Troyjo** has been appointed as the President of the New Development Bank.
Note: He will succeed eminent Indian banker Kundapur Vaman Kamath who took over as the first president of the bank in 2015. The decision regarding appointment was taken during the special virtual meeting of the Board of Governors.
- 31. Anil Kishora** has been appointed as the vice president of the New Development Bank (NDB).
Note: Before joining the NDB, he worked as the deputy managing director and chief risk officer of the state-run SBI.
- 32. Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra** has been appointed as the member of the Olympic Channel Commission by International Olympic Committee (IOC).
Note: Batra also heads the International Hockey Federation (FIH). Batra also served as the president of Hockey India (2014-2016) and Asian Hockey Federation (2003-2013)
- 33. Leo Puri** has been appointed as the chairman of JP Morgan South and Southeast Asia after Kalpana Morparia retirement in 2021.
Note: Leo Puri is the former Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UTI Mutual Fund. Puri had joined the asset management company (AMC) in 2013 from Warburg Pincus India.
- 34. Thierry Delaporte** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Wipro.
Note: He will take over the position from Adidali Neemuchwala who will be stepping down from his position on June 1. The operation of Wipro until July 5th will be monitored by its chairman Rishad Premji. He will be based in Paris and report to Rishad Premji.
- 35. Sandip Mukund Pradhan** has been given two-year extension as Director General (DG) of **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**.
Note: The proposal was put forward by the Sports Ministry of India to extend the tenure of Pradhan and was then approved by the cabinet. Pradhan was appointed as the Director-General of SAI in August 2017.
- 36. Ravinder Singh Dhillon** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of State-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC).
Note: He will be the successor of Rajeev Sharma as he retires on May 31, 2020. PFC is one of the largest profit-making CPSE (Central public sector enterprises) on a consolidated basis.
- 37. SN Rajeshwari** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Delhi-based Oriental Insurance Company (OIC).
Note: She will be the successor of AV Girija Kumar, 60 years old, who retires on May 2020. Rajeshwari will serve as the CMD of OIC till May 2022.

Important News – India

- 1.** The central government has brought the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) under **Jal Shakti Ministry**.

Note: Earlier it was under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. This decision is a formality of business

- allotment, which means that the authority must report to the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The move will have no impact on the independent nature of the functioning of the authority. Water management authorities of other rivers have also been brought under the ministry, which was earlier under the same ministry as CWMA.
2. **Atanu Chakraborty** chaired the task force on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) which submitted its Final Report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
Note: The task force has submitted its Final Report on NIP for FY 2019-25 projecting total infrastructure investment of Rs 111 lakh crore during a 5-year span of FY 2019-20 to FY 2024-25. The report highlighted policy deficits and challenges in India's infrastructure sector and recommended reforms to scale up investment in the sector. For NIP projects, the Centre would invest 39% of the projected expenditure while states' share would be 40%, followed by private sector with 21%.
 3. According to Mercom India Research's 'India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020' report **7.3 Giga Watt (GW)** solar energy generation capacity India has added during calendar year 2019.
Note: According to Mercom India Research's 'India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020' report, India has installed 7.3 Giga Watt (GW) of solar power in Calendar Year (CY) 2019. India has total solar installations of approximately 35.7 GW by the end of December 2019. Mercom Communications India, a subsidiary of global clean energy communications and consulting firm Mercom Capital Group, has released its report 'India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020'.
 4. India's rank in the 7th edition of 'Open Budget Survey 2019' conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP) -- **53rd**.
Note: In the survey time New Zealand has been topped the list with a score of 87. The global average transparency score on this survey was 45. The survey ranked the countries in 5 different categories based on their scores. [0-20: scant, 21-40: minimal, 41-60: limited, 61-80: substantial, 81-100: extensive]. It evaluates each nation's 8 key budget documents of the Central or Federal Government, and assesses whether these are made public, in a timely manner, and provide comprehensive information.
 5. **National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC)** has initiated a programme on health and risk communication focusing on COVID-19 titled "Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)".
Note: Its aim is to convey authentic best practices to the general public to minimize the risk of transmission of virus at all levels, in the absence of vaccines and cure for COVID-19. This programme will provide scientific awareness and health preparedness to combat the pandemic scenario like COVID-19 outbreak which has posed concerns and challenges around the globe.
 6. **Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) India Private Limited** has started the production of Coal for the first time.
Note: The coal allocated to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) in 2016 with a capacity of 20 million tonne per annum from the Talabira II and III mines of Odisha will suffice the requirements of existing and future coal fired power plants. The NLC will generate competitive power in the future since the coal of grade G 12 and the stripping ratio of this mine is 1.09. NLCIL achieved Renewable Energy Generation capacity of 1404 MW comprising 1353 MW of Solar and 51 MW of Wind Power
 7. National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) has permitted the use of 98.59 hectares of land for opencast coal mining project in **Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve in Assam**.
Note: The coal mining project will be done by North-Easter Coal Field (NECF), a unit of Coal India Limited. While, the rest of the area may be used for underground coal mining. Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve that includes the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary (also known as Jeypore Rainforest) consists of an 111.19 sq km area of rain forests and several reserve forests in Sivasagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.
 8. **Ravi Shankar Prasad** attended the Extraordinary Virtual G20 Digital Economy Ministers meeting was held to discuss the challenges posed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: The meeting was attended by Digital Ministers of G20 Members, invited countries and International Organizations. India was represented by Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT Ravi Shankar Prasad.
 9. Name the webinar organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and National Institute of Urban Affairs on theme "The future of River Management" -- **IDEathon**.
Note: Recently, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) organized an IDEathon on "The Future of River Management". The event aimed to explore how the Covid-19 crisis can shape river management strategies for the future. The IDEathon sought to brainstorm the learnings from Covid-19 pandemic, the following lockdown and its impact on river management.
 10. India's rank in the in scientific publication in 2018 among the countries -- **Third**.
Note: The National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS), Department of

Science and Technology (DST), has conducted a survey on Research and Development (R&D) Statistics and Indicators 2019-20. The survey included more than 6800 S&T Institutions spread across varied sectors like central government, state governments, higher education, public sector industry, and private sector industry in the country.

11. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participated in the virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the first time since 2014, **Azerbaijan** presented the group.

Note: Modi became the first full-time Indian prime minister to skip the NAM summit in 2016 and again in 2019. India was represented by the vice president in the last two summits in 2016 in Venezuela and 2019 in Azerbaijan. Manmohan Singh had participated at the Tehran NAM meet in 2012. Azerbaijan is the president of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) grouping till 2022 and the meet is being organised under the leadership of its president Ilham Aliyev.

12. India's first "COVID-19 test bus" has been launched by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Alumni Council in **Mumbai**.

Note: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Alumni Council launched a "COVID-19 test bus" in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The COVID-19 Testing bus will reduce 80% of the testing cost without compromising on the testing capacity. According to the IIT alumni council, a global alumni body for all the 23 IITs this will increase the testing capacity within 100 days and support the health department in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic

13. **IIT Kanpur** has partnered with Bharat Dynamics Ltd for development of affordable ventilators for Covid-19 treatment.

Note: Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur has joined hands with Bharat Dynamics Limited for the development of affordable ventilators for Covid-19 treatment. An MoU to this effect, has been signed between BDL, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kanpur's incubator Foundation for Innovation and Research in Science and Technology and Nocco Robotics Private Limited (NRPL), an incubated start-up of IIT Kanpur.

14. **NITI Aayog** has launched virtual 'Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan' to ensure well being of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic in association with Piramal Foundation.

Note: The aim of the campaign is to create awareness about various aspects of senior citizens' health and lifestyle including preventive measures and requisite behavioural changes in view of COVID-19 pandemic. It focus on behaviour change, access to services, early detection & tracking of COVID-19 symptoms

15. **Operation Samudra Setu** has been launched by the Indian Navy as a part of a national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.

Note: The operation aims to evacuate personnel who repatriate Indian citizens from overseas. Under the operation, a total of 1000 persons are planned to be evacuated during the first trip, catering for COVID-related social distancing norms vis-a-vis the carrying capacity and medical facilities available onboard. This operation is done by the Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Health, and various other agencies of Central/State governments.

16. **CISF** has launched 'e-karyalay' an electronic office application to enable the movement of files and documents without physical touch.

Note: It is designed by CISF in-house technical team for the usage of the 1.62 lakhs personnel & it resembles each and every function of traditional file movement. It has digital signature features to handle various securities related concerns and keep pace with existing standards. App's 'Dak' or letters management section handles all sorts of communication between various levels of functional hierarchy & it enables to transfer the dak (snail mail) directly to the file noting.

17. Under chairmanship the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a committee to frame standard professional indemnity policy for insurance intermediaries that can be issued by all the insurers-- **Yegnapriya Bharat**.

Note: The panel has been asked to prepare a standard professional indemnity policy "which covers all the contingencies and conditions (retroactive date, indemnity limits, excess, etc) mentioned in the Regulations" that can be issued by all insurers. The development came after the regulator witnessed several instances where policies taken by insurance intermediaries did not comply with the regulatory provisions. It was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act - IRDA Act, 1999 as an autonomous & statutory body to regulate & promote insurance and reinsurance in the country.

18. **Raj Kumar Singh** unveiled e-book titled "A Report on Impact of Energy Efficiency Measures" for the year 2018-19.

Note: India reduced energy intensity in 2018-19 by 20% as compared to the 2005 level. India has set a target to reduce the energy intensity by 33-35% by 2030 compared to 2005 level. The energy efficiency efforts have also contributed in reducing 151.74 Million Tonnes of CO₂ (MTCO₂) emissions (in 2018-19), whereas last year (2017-18) this number was 108 MTCO₂.

19. India will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Coking coal with **Russia**.

Note: Indian Petroleum Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Russian Energy Minister alexander Novak held a meeting through video conference. The ministers reviewed ongoing projects. The ministers emphasized on the cooperation in coking sector. They also held talks about signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Coking coal. The Russian minister briefed about the OPEC+ agreement that was recently signed

- 20. Dr. Harsh Vardhan has** launched the mobile application 'AYUSH Sanjivani' App and two AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19 situation.
Note: The app was developed by the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY). The AYUSH Sanjivani mobile app will help to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact on the prevention of COVID-19. It is expected to reach out to a target of 50 lakh people.
- 21.** According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) the country's unemployment rate rose to **27.11%**.
Note: As per the Mumbai-based think tank, the unemployment rate in the urban areas is high in red zones due to COVID-19 cases at 29.22%, against 26.69% for the rural areas. In the previous week ending April 26, the urban unemployment rate was at 21.45% and the rural unemployment rate at 20.88%. CMIE's weekly series of data indicated a steady rise in unemployment since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in India, showing a sharp spike of 23.81% from the week of March 29.
- 22.** The Defence Ministry has signed a contract with **Tata Power** for Phase-II of Modernisation of Air Field Infrastructure of 37 airfields for Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.
Note: The proposal is approved by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The project will give a boost to over 250 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) which will directly benefit from the execution of various activities of this project.
- 23. National Institute of Virology, Pune** has developed first indigenous antibody-based ELISA test kit - COVID KAVACH for diagnosis of novel Corona Virus.
Note: This test is expected to change the dynamics of COVID-19 testing in the country. The kit has displayed high sensitivity and accuracy in the validation tests at different sites. It can test around 90 samples in approximately two and half hours.
- 24. Mission Sagar** has been started by the Government of India to provide assistance to Eastern Indian Ocean Region Nations amid the coronavirus crisis.

Note: Under the mission, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari has been deployed, carrying on board two medical assistance teams, essential Food Items and COVID related Medicines and Special Ayurvedic Medicines five to Island countries in the Indian Ocean. The five countries are Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros.

- 25.** The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) tie-up with **Bharat Biotech** companies to develop indigenous COVID-19 vaccine.
Note: ICMR has shared one of the 11 virus strains that it managed to culture with Bharat Biotech. The industry partnership is to develop the vaccine candidate and ICMR has transferred the technology to them. One of the strains has now been successfully transferred from NIV to Bharat Biotech International Ltd. (BBIL) in Hyderabad as part of the partnership. ICMR-NIV will provide continuous support to BBIL for vaccine development.
- 26. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras** has designed and developed a personal protective equipment (PPE) doffing unit for Government Chengalpattu Medical College.
Note: Financial support for construction of the doffing unit came from corporates through their CSR arms. Koshiy Varghese and Anil Jayachandran, professors in the civil engineering department, fabricated the unit in collaboration with a team of public works department officials at the hospital, complying with the safety norms required for COVID-19 pandemic.
- 27. Research Centre Imarat (RCI)** of the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) has developed Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitizer (DHRUVS).
Note: The RCI of DRDO based in Hyderabad has developed a Ultra Violet Cabinet to sanitize mobile phones, laptops, iPads, passbooks, challans and paper. It can also be used to sanitize currency notes and papers. It provides 360-degree exposure to UV rays to the objects placed inside the cabinet. DHRUV is a contactless ultraviolet sanitization cabinet that is highly useful to sanitize electronic gadgets.
- 28.** Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh recently approved the abolition of 9,304 posts in the military engineering services on the recommendation of **Shekatkar Committee**.
Note: The Union Ministry of Defence had constituted a Committee of Experts under Chairmanship of Lt Gen (Retd) DB Shekatkar for recommending measures to enhance combat capability & rebalancing defence expenditure of Armed Forces with an aim to increase "teeth to tail ratio". The committee had submitted around 99 recommendations. If all the

- recommendations are implemented according to the committee, India can save Rs 25, 000 crores.
29. As per International Energy Agency (IEA) "Global Energy Review 2020 due to COVID 19 India's energy demand falls by **30%**.
Note: It means that with each additional week of lockdown, India's annual energy demand is reduced by 0.6%. The impact on Q1 2020 energy demand in India was modest, with demand increasing by 0.3 relative to Q1 2019. In India, energy demand would decline for the first time, following on from low demand growth in 2019. The report is based on an analysis of around 100 days of real-data of 2020.
30. Vehicle manufacture **Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.** has announced the launch of 'Own-Online', an end-to-end online vehicle ownership solution.
Note: Mahindra Own-Online will be a one-stop available 24X7 where customers can finance, insure, exchange, accessorise and own a Mahindra vehicle in four steps, without having to visit a dealership. This platform has been launched by (M&M) to offer its customers a transparent, seamless and contactless experience from selection to the delivery of the vehicle. Through this platform, a customer can own a Mahindra vehicle in four simple steps, from their homes, in few clicks.
31. CSIR institute has developed a Non Invasive BiPAP Ventilator "SwasthVayu" to treat COVID-19 patients -- **National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore.**
Note: The unique features of the Non-Invasive BiPAP Ventilator "SwasthVayu" helps to alleviate the fear of the virus spread. The ventilator is very simple to use without any specialized nursing and is cost effective, compact and configured with majority of indigenous components. A BiPAP Non Invasive Ventilator "SwasthVayu" is a microcontroller-based precise closed-loop adaptive control system.
32. **Bengaluru** cities has launched "Pranavayu Programme" to create awareness about the respiratory health of the residents.
Note: The initiative aims to help people in increasing oxygen level of the people by themselves. This will help them to keep track about their health before their ailments become fatal. There are several deaths reported in the country due to Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI). Especially, COVID-19 causes Hypoxia (deficiency of oxygen in tissues). This is like starving the body of oxygen.
33. Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched "Bharosa" helpline for **Central University of Odisha.**
Note: This helpline has been launched with an objective of relieving the student community from the distress caused during the troubled time of the COVID-
- 19 pandemic. All University Students of Odisha will be offered Cognitive Emotional Rehabilitation Services via this helpline. The Helpline "Bharosa" will address the issue of distress faced by any student of any University in Odisha in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic
34. **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated 80km strategically crucial road link connecting Lipulekh pass (China Border) with Dharchula in Uttarakhand through video conferencing.
Note: The Border Roads Organization (BRO) has constructed the road that originates from Ghatiabagarh and it ends at Lipulekh Pass which is a gateway to Kailash-Mansarovar. It will help pilgrims visiting Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet as it is around 90 kms from the Lipulekh pass. This road, which has an altitude ranging from 6000 to 17060 feet, constructed along the banks of river Kali between India and Nepal.
35. (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' announced various modifications in the **Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) Scheme.**
Note: The modification will be done to boost research in the country & to enable more students to avail the benefit under the scheme. The scheme is designed to improve the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in the country & with attractive fellowships it seeks to attract the best talent into research through realizing the vision of development by innovation.
36. To send medical aid to five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amid COVID-19 pandemic India has initiated -- "**Mission Sagar**".
Note: In this regard, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide Food items, COVID related Medicines including Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams. For Maldives, 600 tonnes of food items will also be provided and for Comoros medicines related to dengue would be given. This mission is launched in coordination with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and other agencies of GOI.
37. Two scientific papers on child survival published by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative stated that the under-5 Mortality Rate in India has dropped by what percent since 2000 -- **49 per cent.**
Note: The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative has recently published two scientific papers. The initiative has given its report on district-level trends of child growth and child mortality. The findings show there were 1.04 million under-5 deaths in 2017, down from 2.24 million deaths in 2000. The child mortality rate has dropped by 49% between 2000 and 2017.

38. industry body **ASSOCHAM** has organised the Indo-Bangladesh “Virtual Conference”.
- Note:** Union DoNER Minister of State (I/C) Dr Jitendra Singh addressed the virtual conference. The conference featured the participation of Minister of Commerce Bangladesh Tipu Munshi, Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad Sangma and Riva Ganguli Das High commissioner to Bangladesh.
39. **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has organized the digital conference, RE-START – ‘Reboot the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations is association with Technology Development Board (TDB)
- Note:** The Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, and Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan addressed the digital conference, RE-START – ‘Reboot the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations. The conference was organized by the Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
40. India’s rank in the recently released Global Energy Transition Index (GET Index) 2020 by the World Economic Forum (WEF) -- **74th**.
- Note:** The World Economic Forum released Global Energy Transition Index (GET Index). The World Economic Forum has ranked 115 countries based on GET Index in its report “WEF Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2020 report”. Sweden has topped the ranking for the third consecutive year. It was followed by Switzerland and Finland.
41. As per the new definition of MSMEs what is the maximum investment limit for a micro unit -- **1 crore**.
- Note:** The GoI has changed the definition of MSMEs. The new definition has increased the investment limit upwards. Previously, an enterprise with investment up to Rs 25 lakh was called a micro unit. Under the new definition, a firm upto investment of Rs 1 crore is to be called Micro unit, of Rs 10 crore is to be called as small unit and investment greater than Rs 20 crore will be called as medium unit.
42. TVS group, Sundaram Medical Foundation in collaboration with which IITs has developed an automated respiratory assist device Sundaram Ventago -- **IIT Madras**.
- Note:** This versatile and mobile device will assist the clinicians in constantly monitoring and reporting respiratory parameters. The device has been developed to provide respiratory support to patients through the controlled and automated squeezing of a self-inflating or AMBU bag. To the needy patients, the Sundaram Ventago also provides safety feature such as audible alarms for line disconnection or in case that the PIP exceeds a certain threshold. With the help of this device, the respiratory support will become more affordable and available to all.
43. For the first time the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has included which region of POK in its weather forecast -- **Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad**.
- Note:** The department taken this decision as it says that it is a part of India and the country always maintains its position that PoK belongs to India. The agency has included the regions as part of its meteorological sub-division of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in its daily forecast for ‘north-west India’.
44. Theme of the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting held through Video Conferencing -- **Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response**.
- Note:** Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare participated in the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting through Video Conference on 14 May. The meeting was held with a theme: Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response.
45. Amount **Rs 3100 crores** has been allocated from Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund Trust to fight against COVID-19 pandemic.
- Note:** PM CARES (Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations) Fund Trust has allocated Rs 3100 crores to fight against COVID-19 pandemic. Out of the total amount around Rs 2000 crores will be allocated for the purchase of ventilators, Rs 1000 crores to care migrant labourers and Rs 100 crores to support vaccine development.
46. Central Government has set up a new body Rice Export Promotion Forum to give impetus to rice exports under the aegis of **APEDA**.
- Note:** Centre set up a new body Rice Export Promotion Forum to give impetus to rice exports under the aegis of Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Promotion Development Authority (APEDA). The Constitution of Rice Export Promotion Forum has been done considering the importance of exporting rice and inherent the potentials and multifarious issues faced in the exportation.
47. Prime Minister announced the ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan with an economic stimulus package worth Rs 20 lakh crores which is almost what percent of GDP – **10%**.
- Note:** Recently, the Prime Minister has announced the ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (or Self-reliant India Mission)’ with an economic stimulus package — worth Rs 20 lakh crores aimed towards achieving the

- mission. The package is expected to focus on land, labour, liquidity and laws
- 48. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** has developed a low-cost device to detect the presence of melamine (adulterate) in milk and dairy products.
Note: The techniques currently used to detect the presence of melamine are time-taking and typically require expensive and sophisticated equipment and highly trained personnel. With the help of a newly developed fluorometer device. Researchers were able to detect up to 0.1 parts per million (ppm) of melamine in water and milk, which is much lower than the acceptable limit of 1 ppm.
- 49.** Flagship social security scheme of the Government of India '**Atal Pension Yojna**' has completed five years of its implementation in May 2020.
Note: The scheme is being administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority through National Pension System (NPS). Any citizen of India can join the APY scheme. The age of the subscriber should be between 18-40 years. The contribution levels would vary and would be low if a subscriber joins early and increases if she joins late.
- 50.** Union Defence minister Rajnath Singh has approved Rs 400 crores for **Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme**.
Note: The establishment of defence testing infrastructure will provide easy access and thus meet the testing needs of the domestic defence industry. The scheme will run for a period of 5 years & envisages to set up 6 to 8 new test facilities in partnership with private industry. This will facilitate defence production, therefore reduce imports of military equipment and help make the country self-reliant.
- 51.** National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) has partnered with fintech start-up **DotPe** to build its own tech platform.
Note: This platform enables them with online payments for digital ordering, bill settlements, and contactless dining.
DotPe will provide us with a tech solution. This partnership would directly take on existing food-tech aggregators, Zomato and Swiggy.
- 52.** Additional amount **40,000 crores** has been allocated for the under MGNREGS which will help in generating total work of nearly 300 crore person days.
Note: With this allocation, GoI will ensure to address the need for more work including returning migrant workers in Monsoon season as well. It will also led to the creation of larger number of durable and livelihood assets including water conservation assets. Hence it is expected to boost the rural economy through higher production.
- 53.** For multi-mode access to digital/online education Government of India has decided to launch **PM-eVIDYA programme**.
Note: Under the programme the DIKSHA programme will provide "one nation, one digital platform" for school education in states/UTs. It will also include the launch of Energized Textbooks for all grades. One earmarked TV channel will be launched for per class from 1 to 12 following the concept of "one class, one channel".
- 54. Manodarpan** initiative will be launched to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for their mental health and emotional well being under the PM-eVIDYA Programme.
Note: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched Manodarpan, an initiative to provide psychological support and counselling to students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional well-being
- 55. National Disaster Management Authority** has developed "National Migrant Information System (NMIS)" to secure information regarding the movement of migrants workers.
Note: An online dashboard "National Migrant Information System (NMIS)" has been developed by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The dashboard has been developed by NDMA to secure information regarding the movement of migrants and to facilitate the smooth movement of stranded persons across States. A central repository on migrant workers would be maintained by the dashboard NMIS.
- 56.** Landing Craft Utility Ship 'INLCU L57' commissioned into Indian Navy in **Port Blair**.
Note: The "INLCU L57" is the seventh LCU Mark IV class warship. The primary role of the warship, being transportation and deployment of main battle tanks, armoured vehicles, troops and equipment from ship to shore. The first ship of the Mark IV LCU Vessels INLCU L51 was commissioned into Indian Navy in March 2017.
- 57.** Mobile application **National Test Abhyas** developed by the National Testing Agency will help the candidates to take mock tests for exams such as JEE Mains, NEET, etc.
Note: The mobile application was developed by the National Testing Agency. The application will help the candidates to take mock tests for exams such as JEE Mains, NEET, etc. The application is powered by Artificial Intelligence and therefore the students will get instant results after taking the tests. The application also aims to help the candidates take high quality mock tests from their homes. It is currently available in Android and iOS versions. The main aim of the

- application is to help students during closure of educational institutions.
- 58.** The Indian Railways operationalized the first 12,000 HP electric locomotive built in **Electric Locomotive Factory, Madhepura** locomotive establishmet.
Note: The locomotive was built by the French Alstom Company under the Make in India initiative. It is capable of hauling 6000 tonnes at a top speed of 120 km/hr. The locomotive was manufactured as a joint venture between the Indian and French share holding of 74% and 26%. With this, India has become the sixth country in the world to produce high horse power locomotive.
- 59.** **South Central Railway** zone has developed a robotic device, "RAIL-BOT" (R-BOT).
Note: R-BOT is getting used to supply medicines, medical accessories and to serve food to the patients, with none need for physical contact. Using this device will enable doctors, nurses and other support medical staff to remain faraway from the danger of contracting infections. The R-BOT is operated through a singular mobile application developed as a part of the Innovation, supported by Wi-Fi facility.
- 60.** Six cities rated 5 star in Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities, for the assessment year 2019-2020.
Note: In rating Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysuru, Indore and Navi Mumbai were rated 5 Star (6 cities). 65 other Cities rated 3 Star and 70 Cities rated 1 Star out of 141 cities. He also launched the revised protocol for the Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities.
- 61.** The Union Cabinet has extended Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) till year **2023**.
Note: It is a social security scheme for senior citizens for those who are above 60. The government has fixed its annual rate of return at 7.4% for financial year 2020-21. Now, Senior citizens will have time till March 31, 2023 to invest in Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana which provides higher return than any bank.
- 62.** National Thermal Power corporation (NTPC) has signed an MoU with **ONGC** to set up a joint venture company for renewable energy projects.
Note: The MoU will enable both companies to achieve their respective targets in renewable energy business. As per the MoU, NTPC and ONGC will explore and set up renewable power assets including offshore wind, in India and overseas
- 63.** The National Skills Development Corp. (NSDC), along with an artificial intelligence company will create a **skilled and certified workers** platform to map.
Note: The skill management information system aims to create a local ecosystem in every region to minimise the need to depend on migrants, as well as to provide workers with opportunities closer to their homes. NSDC is the implementing body of the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship. The platform will map details of skilled professionals by region, as well as demand across industries, using artificial intelligence-based solutions.
- 64.** The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched a scheme for 100% solarisation of **Konark** city of India
Note: The scheme has been launched to develop the historic Sun Temple in the town of Konark. Also, the scheme will develop the town into Surya Nagri. The scheme mainly aims at promoting solar energy.
- 65.** CII organization has organized the E-Conclave of Defence MSME which was chaired by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
Note: The E-conclave was organized by CII (Confederation of Indian Industry), SIDM (Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers) and Department of Defence Production. Around 800 Defence MSMEs participated in the conclave that was held through video conferencing.
- 66.** Public sector oil company **Oil India Ltd(OIL)** will get the environmental clearance for extension drilling and testing of hydrocarbons at 7 locations inside the Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (NP).
Note: The clearance was given as part of the Centre's target to reduce 10% imports and the Northeast Vision 2030. And the commercial production from this area shall also enable OIL to meet the same centre's target
- 67.** India's position in manufacturing personal protective equipment (PPE) body coveralls -- **Second**.
Note: PPE body coveralls are crucial to safeguard against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. China is the world's leading producer of PPE body coveralls, crucial to safeguard against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 68.** **National Health Authority** is the nodal agency for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
Note: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare (HFW), Harsh Vardhan to mark 1 crore treatments (milestone) of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). The National Health Authority (NHA) is responsible for implementing the scheme.
- 69.** In the first meeting of the 15th Finance Commission's on Fiscal Consolidation Roadmap it estimated India's GDP growth to **-5% to 1%**.
Note: The first meeting of the 15th Finance Commission's (XVFC) committee on Fiscal Consolidation Roadmap was held through video conferencing (VC). The committee headed by Nand Kishore (NK) Singh has recommended the judgement of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on monetisation of fiscal deficit.

- 70. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm REC Foundation** has partnered with TajSATS to provide specially made nutritious meal packets for medical staff in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.
Note: REC is already providing cooked meals and ration to the needy across the nation in collaboration with various district authorities, NGOs and electricity distribution companies. Every day, 300 food packets are being delivered as a gesture of gratitude to the frontline healthcare warriors of New Delhi. Now with REC- TajSATS initiative, over 18,000 meals will be delivered in New Delhi.
- 71. Indian software company TCS** has launched 'Ignio' an AI Digital Workspace solution.
Note: Tapping into the rising demand for automation amid the covid-19 pandemic, Digitate, a software venture of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has announced the launch of ignio AI. Digital Workspace. It is an end-user experience management software that helps employees and service desk teams boost productivity.
- 72. Indian Navy** has formed PPE kit with innovative breathable fabric material.
Note: This PPE kit provides comfort to healthcare workers working against COVID-19 pandemic wearing multi-layered coverall PPE treating patients within the hot and humid condition for quite 12 hours. The ability of the material to permit water vapour to undergo and stop the water from entering is understood as Breathability.
- 73. Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad** has developed an AI-based Attendance application (AINA) which allows non-contact based personnel verification, using facial features of the person in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic _____
Note: AINA can be deployed with minimal upgradation to the legacy attendance infrastructure with RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) readers. AINA can be installed on a normal desktop computer with a GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) based display adapter.
- 74. Market Regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has imposed a penalty of ₹7 lakh on **NHAI** for delay in disclosing financial results.
Note: The market regulator observed that NHAI had delayed filing half yearly financial results between FY16 and FY19. The delays ranged from 4 days to 78 days. According to Sebi's listing obligation and disclosure norms (LODR), the half yearly results have to be filed within 45 days from the end of the half year.
- 75. The Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering of IIT Delhi** has developed a breathable and light-weighted Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to fight COVID-19.
Note: The Head of the Department Professor Dr SM Ishtiaque along with his PhD student, Biswa Ranjan Das, Scientist 'D' and Assistant Director, DMSRDE (DRDO), Kanpur, developed an advanced version of PPE. Priced at ₹905 (including GST), the PPE overall would cost around ₹300 for one time given the option to reuse.
- 76. The Army Commanders' Conference** was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Army Commanders' Conference is an apex level biannual event that was earlier scheduled to be held in April 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. It was then planned to be conducted in two phases. The second phase of the conference will be held in the last week of June 2020.
- 77. The length of the tunnel** built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Rishikesh-Dharasu Highway (NH 94) in Uttarakhand -- **440 Km**.
Note: Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the 440 metre-long tunnel as part of the Chardham Connectivity Project in Chamba. The tunnel will significantly reduce the time taken by travellers on the Rishikesh-Dharasu and Gangotri stretch of the Chardham Highway (NH 94).
- 78. Electric mobility company Ola Electric Mobility** has acquired Amsterdam-based electric scooter-maker Etergo.
Note: It would leverage Etergo's design and engineering capabilities to build its smart electric two-wheeler for international and Indian markets. Ola Electric aimed to launch its global electric two-wheeler in India in 2021.
- 79. IIT Madras** has developed magnesium alloy to replace steel, aluminium in cars.
Note: There has been an excellent deal of specialising in lowering the carbon footprint of vehicles by using light-weight material in their bodies. Lighter vehicles consume less fuel to run and are therefore play a strategic role in increasing energy-efficiency. Vehicular emissions alone contribute 27 per cent of total CO2 emissions currently.
- 80. Adille Sumariwala** will chair the 11-member committee constituted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to monitor annual grant and affiliation fee of its members for the 2020-2021 cycle.
Note: Besides Mr. Sumariwala, the panel includes D R Saini, Vagish Pathak, S M Hashmi, Sekhar Chandra Biswas, Vithal Shrigaonkar, M P Singh, D V Seetharama Rao, Abu Mehta, Madhukant Pathak and B K Roka. The committee will review and monitor issues concerning the disbursement of IOA's annual grant to its members in coordination with the finance department
- 81. Recently, the Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has started looking into allegations against **Alphabet**.

Note: According to the allegations, Google is abusing its market position to unfairly promote its mobile payments app (Google Pay) in the country. The complaint alleges the USA tech giant more prominently showcases its Google Pay app inside its Android app store in India, giving it an unfair advantage over apps of competitors.

82. Tejas Mk-1 FOC aircraft has been inducted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) into the recently resurrected No 18 Squadron the “Flying Bullets” at Air Force Station **Sulur**.

Note: Tejas Mk-1 FOC is a single engine, light weight, highly agile and all weather multi role fighter aircraft. The aircraft is capable of air-to-air refueling and hence makes the Squadron the first in the IAF to induct this platform.

83. **Swath Sagar** has been given to the plan to modernize the fisheries sector which is part of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

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

84. Missile Park **Agneeprastha** being established in Eastern Naval Command (ENS) at INS Kalinga, Visakhapatnam.

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

Important News – State

1. According to an official statement which state tops among other states in providing employment under MGNREGS -- **Chhattisgarh**.

Note: According to an official statement Chhattisgarh is 1st state to provide employment to over 18(18.51) lakh unskilled labourers, followed by Rajasthan (2nd) to 10.79 lakh workers & Uttar Pradesh (3rd) to around 9.06 lakh workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). As per the data released by the Union Rural Development Ministry around 77.85 lakh people are engaged in different work under the scheme across the country.

2. Chak-Hao, the black rice of which state gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag -- **Manipur**.

Note: Chak-Hao- the Consortium of Producers of Chak-Hao (Black Rice), Manipur and was facilitated by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Manipur and the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC). The black rice is glutinous rice cultivated in Manipur over centuries, is characterised by its special aroma & is consumed mainly after being cooked like rice or kheer. It has a deep black colour and when cooked, it usually turns purple. It's dark purple colour is primarily a product of its anthocyanin content which is considered as boosting up the antioxidants level, apart from this it also has vitamins, minerals, fibre, proteins, among others.

3. Terracotta work of which place has been granted with the Geographical Indication(GI) tag -- **Gorakhpur (UP)**.

Note: It is a centuries-old traditional art form, the work is done with bare hands including the

ornamentation & natural color which stays fast for a long time. There are more than 1,000 varieties of terracotta work designed by the local craftsmen, Some of the major products of craftsmanship include the Hauda elephants, Mahawatdar horse among others.

4. Kovilpatti kadalai mittai of which place has been granted with the Geographical Indication(GI) tag -- **Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu)**.

Note: It is a peanut candy manufactured in Kovilpatti and adjacent towns and villages in Thoothukudi district, the southern part of Tamil Nadu. It is produced by using groundnuts and vellam (jaggery) and water from the river Thamirabarani which enhances the taste naturally. It is sold as single rectangular chunks, or rather cuboids, sealed in packets.

5. Saffron of which state has been granted with the Geographical Indication(GI) tag -- **Kashmir Saffron**.

Note: It is a spice grown in some regions of Kashmir, including Pulwama (saffron bowl of Kashmir), Budgam, Kishtwar and Srinagar. Iran is the largest producer of saffron and India is a close competitor. In India, GI registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force with effect from September 2003. Darjeeling Tea(2004) is the 1st indian product to get a GI tag.

6. **Maharashtra** government has announced a free and cashless health insurance scheme to all its citizens.

Note: Under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana, people in the state can avail of the benefits of free and cashless health insurance. Documents such as ration cards and domicile certificates are essential to apply for the scheme. At present, the scheme covers

85% of the population; but benefits are now extended to the remaining 15%.

7. **Andhra Pradesh** state government has launched a mobile application 'CMAPP (Comprehensive Monitoring of Agriculture, Price, and Procurement)' to monitor the agriculture needs of the farmers in the state.
Note: Andhra Pradesh government has launched the mobile application 'CMAPP to monitor the agriculture needs of the farmers in the state. The mobile app showcases all data relating to the cost, procurement, and marketing facilities of the farmers for their agriculture produce.
8. **Himachal Pradesh** government announced to launch the "Nigah" Scheme to properly sensitize and educate family members of people coming from other states so that social distancing is effectively maintained.
Note: Under the scheme, a team of ASHA workers, health workers, and Anganwadi workers would visit the family members of persons arriving from other states. They will educate them about the importance of social distancing so that they could be saved from any possible infection. The state government also ordered to mark the people who have come from other states.
9. **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched the Ayush Kavach app that will provide health-related tips and information about ayurvedic medicines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: Ayush Kavach mobile app will help people access prescriptions to strengthen their resistance through the ancient mode of Yoga and Ayurveda of India. The mobile app Ayush Kavach was developed by the Ayush Department of Uttar Pradesh in view of the COVID-19 health crisis.
10. **West Bengal** government has launched "Exit App" for stranded people of other states.
Note: "Exit App" will enable these people who are willing to go back to their native states, by applying online on this app. The permission for the exit of these people would be granted in an automatic and extremely easy manner. The "Exit App" can be accessed by the stranded people from the West Bengal government's 'Egiye Bangla' website. Hence, this initiative of the West Bengal government will help large number of people who are stuck, in their return to their native state.
11. **Himachal Pradesh** government has decided to start the "Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna".
Note: In this Yojna, 120 days' assured employment will be provided to people living in urban areas. It is being launched to revive the coronavirus-hit economy of the state. Adequate training will be given to the people for their skill upgrade if required. The cabinet also decided to provide an assistance of Rs 2,000 to each of the 1 lakh workers registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers Board.
12. **Madhya Pradesh** has become the 1st state in the country to provide mid-day meal ration.
Note: Distribution of the mid-day Meal ration with the help of Anganwadi workers, Panchayat representatives and local teachers was taken in sending ration to the students at their home after the school closing in April. To provide mid-day meal to school children in the corona outbreak an amount of Rs 117 crore has been transferred online in the bank account of the parents of 66 lakh 27 thousand students of primary and secondary school by the state government. Under door-to-door mid-day meal scheme, ration has also been provided to 56 lakh 87 thousand children.
13. **Uttar Pradesh** government has passed an ordinance to suspend labour laws to boost industrial investment and employ the large number of migrant workers that have come back to their native villages in the state.
Note: Uttar Pradesh State government passed an ordinance 'Uttar Pradesh Temporary Exemption from Certain Labour Laws Ordinance, 2020' to suspend labour laws for the next three years. The move is aimed to boost industrial investment and employ the large number of migrant workers that have come back to their native villages in the state. The Ordinance has been sent to Governor Anandiben Patel for assent.
14. **Tripura** government has launched 'Mukhyamantri Yuba Yogayog Yojana'.
Note: The scheme was announced by the Education Minister of Tripura Ratan Lal Nath on 4th March 2020 during a meeting of the council of ministers. The Scheme aims to provide grants for the purchase of smartphones to the students of final year to empower them digitally & help them leverage the advantages of an interconnected world. Through the implementation of the scheme, the student will be able to get employment through internet platforms
15. **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana' to lodge FIR.
Note: Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to implement such an innovative scheme under which now people would not be required to visit police station to lodge an FIR. 'FIR Aapke Dwar' Yojana has been started as a pilot project in 23 Police Stations including one urban and one rural Police Station at 11 Divisional Headquarters. For this Yojana "Dial 100" vehicle would have trained Head Constables to lodge FIR.
16. To provide support to the migrant workers which state has launched 'Pravasi Raahat Mitra' -- **Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: The mobile application is developed by the state revenue department in collaboration with United

Nation Development Program (UNDP). The 'Pravasi Raahat Mitra' helps the migrants to monitor their health and provide the requirements like job and livelihood related to their skills. The app will also record the status of distribution of ration kits to migrant citizens.

17. **Tamil Nadu** government has constituted a 24 member high-level committee headed by C Rangarajan to assess the immediate and medium-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on various sectors of the State's economy. **Note:** The committee will examine fiscal challenge & suggest ways to improve its fiscal position including increasing the tax-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio and diversifying revenue sources and re-prioritising expenditure. State Finance Secretary S Krishnan will be the coordinator of the committee. The committee will submit its final reports to the Government within 3 months apart from the interim reports.
18. **Uttarakhand** government has launched "HOPE" (Helping Out People Everywhere) portal to help unemployed youth to get jobs opportunities. **Note:** The portal will be used to collect the data on the youths of the state who are staying in as well as the recently returned migrant youths. This platform will help unemployed youths for job seeking and skill development. The database in the portal will help employers to find suitable candidates for their requirements.
19. **West Bengal** government has launched 'Matir Smristi' scheme to utilise 50,000 acres of barren land in 6 districts. **Note:** This scheme helps to generate income activities in horticulture and pisciculture involving the locals. The 'Matir Smristi' scheme will benefit around 2.5 lakh people in rural Bengal. In West Bengal at least 50,000 acres of barren land in Birbhum, Purulia, Bankura, Jhargram, West Burdwan and West Midnapore districts, which cannot produce anything naturally nor can the farmers cultivate on the strip.
20. **Rajasthan** government has levied 2% Krishak Kalyan fees on agricultural produce brought or bought or sold in mandis. **Note:** Recently, the Rajasthan government has levied 2% Krishak Kalyan fees on agricultural produce brought or bought or sold in mandis. The 2% fees collected will be deposited in the Krishak Kalyan Kosh — dedicated to the welfare of farmers in the state. The Rajasthan government had announced the creation of the Krishak Kalyan Kosh for the purpose of ensuring fair price for farmer's produce and to strive towards "ease of doing farming" in 2019.
21. **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched Charan Paduka campaign, first of its kind initiative for migrant labourers passing through the state. **Note:** Under the campaign the migrant workers were provided with shoes and slippers to reduce their pain. The Charan Paduka campaign is being conducted by the Police of Madhya Pradesh state. Eventually, the initiative received full support of the public. By providing slippers, the pain of the migrant workers is being reduced.
22. **Karnataka** state has launched its first cyber security-specific accelerator programme 'H.A.C.K' for start-ups recently. **Note:** This comes even at a time when there are serious discussions around surveillance and lack of safety through government-run online software for COVID-19. The programme is implemented by CySecK, which is state's CoE (Centre of Excellence) in Cyber Security meant for creating a cyber-safe environment for industry collaboration. It is housed at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
23. **Jammu and Kashmir** UTs has issued new rules to provide domicile certificates to its residents. **Note:** The "J&K Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) rules 2020" has been provided through an amendment of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment) Act, 2010. The rules have included extraordinary penalty of Rs 50,000 to the competitive authority in case the issuing of domicile certificate is delayed.
24. **Jammu & Kashmir (UTs)** Department of Information and Public Relations has started an initiative "SUKOON – COVID-19 Beat the Stress" programme. **Note:** This initiative spread awareness about the psychological impact of lockdown and measures to be adopted to overcome them. The programme will be telecast on Doordarshan Kashmir Channel every Tuesday at 9.00 PM during which psychiatrists, eminent doctors and scientists will share their knowledge on psychological health.
25. "Mee Annapurna" initiative has been launched by an IRDA licensed insurance intermediary Integrated Risk Insurance Brokers Limited (IRIBL) in **Maharashtra**. **Note:** This initiative has been launched by Integrated Risk Insurance as a part of its commitment as a Corporate Social Responsibility towards the welfare of the farmers and agriculture community in Maharashtra. This initiative is based on three commandments namely: Expertise, Engagement and Entitlement.
26. **Chhattisgarh** government has launched "Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana" on the occasion of death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. **Note:** The farmer centered scheme aims to stimulate the rural economy in the state, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The provision of the scheme was made in

- the Budget 2020-21. The scheme is expected to benefit over 1.87 million farmers.
27. **Uttar Pradesh** government has set up a 'Start-up Fund' under the its Information Technology and Start-up Policy 2017.
Note: An MoU has been signed between the Uttar Pradesh government and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the fund will be managed by SIDBI. Initial contribution of Rs 15 crore has been made to the fund. The fund aims to support the registered start-up ventures present across different verticals in Uttar Pradesh.
 28. **Madhya Pradesh** state the women Rural Livelihood Mission started Didi Vehicle Service for rural women for the safe delivery and other emergency services.
Note: The mission has been started in tribal-dominated Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh (MP).the women Rural Livelihood Mission started Didi Vehicle Service for rural women for the safe delivery and other emergency services. This vehicle service is completely free.
 29. **Uttarakhand** become the first state to release report on conservation of endemic, threatened floras.
Note: The project aims at Germplasm conservation so that species remain conserved with the forest department & also to promote conservation of plant species among the general public so as to end plant blindness. The report is one of the largest repositories of conserved plants & is carried out by the research wing of the state forest department.
 30. NBFCs **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** has entered into an agreement with Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd. (NBPCL) to fund projects worth ₹22,000 crore in Madhya Pradesh.
Note: The funds will be deployed by NBPCL for setting up hydroelectric projects of 225 MW and power components of 12 major multipurpose projects in state. Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd. (NBPCL) is a wholly-owned company of Madhya Pradesh government.
 31. The Mango Board and Marketing Corporation of **Karnataka** state has signed a memorandum of understanding with e-commerce firm Flipkart to sell mangoes on its platform.
Note: The latest tie-up is part of Karnataka government's efforts to enable farmers to sell their produce online as the covid-19 induced lockdown has hit sales and their earnings. Farmers produce organisations from Bengaluru Urban, Kolar, Haveri, Hubballi-Dharwad and Belgaum will be onboarded on the Flipkart platform as sellers.
 32. Adani Power has received approval for setting up of a 1,320 MW thermal power plant in **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: Adani Power got an approval from the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission for setting up of a 1,320 MW thermal power plant in Madhya Pradesh. The commission has also approved sale of entire electricity from the plant to the state through Adani Power arm Pench Thermal Energy.
 33. **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched 'Rozgar Setu Yojana' for skilled migrant workers who returned to the state.
Note: The government of Madhya Pradesh launched a portal 'MP Rojgar Setu Portal' for the unemployed migrants to register and find jobs in the field related to their skills.
 34. **Uttarakhand** state government has launched "Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana" to retain the migrants who have returned to the state during the lockdown.
Note: The scheme aims at providing self-employment opportunities to youth and a boost to reverse migration, specifically entrepreneurs returning to Uttarakhand. The scheme will offer credit facility through nationalised banks, scheduled commercial banks and cooperative banks.
 35. **Uttar Pradesh** government announced to develop 800 km herbal roads along the state and national highways through the state.
Note: These herbal roads will have herbal and medicinal trees on the both sides of the road. The trees on the herbal roads include Peepal, Neem, Sehjan along with herbal trees like Brahmi, Ashvagandha and Jatropa.

Important News – World

1. The geological survey of **USA** has released the first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon namely "Unified Geologic Map of the Moon".
Note: The scientists from United States Geological Survey (USGS) Astrogeology Science Center, in collaboration with NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and the Lunar Planetary Institute have virtually released the first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon namely "Unified Geologic Map of the Moon". It will serve as a blueprint for future human missions and a source of research and analysis for the educators and the general public interested in lunar geology. It should be noted that the moon is the closest cosmic body to Earth
2. **Russia** country will launch its first Arktika-M satellite for monitoring the Arctic climate and environment at the end of the year.

- Note:** Russia will launch its first Arktika-M satellite for monitoring the Arctic climate and environment at the end of the year. Russia's Arktika-M remote-sensing and emergency communications satellites will gather meteorological data in the polar regions of the Earth, which will allow to improve weather forecasts and will enable scientists to better study climate change.
3. **USD 400 million** of multi-year financial support has been approved by the World Bank for India.
Note: It will help protect coastal resources by focusing on the rehabilitation of coastal beaches and mangroves. The 1st phase covers 8 coastal States and 3 coastal Union Territories, with USD 180 million in funding, for Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency (ENCORE). The loan from the international bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 14.5 years including a grace period of 5 years.
 4. Arabian country **Iran has** decided to change its currency from Rial to Toman by slashing four zeros from the rial.
Note: Iran's parliament has passed a bill allowing the government to slash four zeros from the rial and authorizing its replacement with another basic unit of currency called the toman (redenomination). Under the bill, Iran's national currency will be changed from the rial to the Toman, which is equal to 10,000 rials. It is the process whereby a country's currency is revalued due to significant inflation and currency devaluation, or when a country adopts a new currency and needs to exchange the old currency for a new one at a fixed rate.
 5. **China** country has successfully launched a new rocket named "Long March 5B" into space which will pave the way of its Moon landing plans.
Note: This rocket is launched in Wenchang launch site that is located on the island of Hainan, china. The rocket is a massive vehicle and is being compared with deep space Orion capsule of NASA. The rocket in the future will help China transport astronauts to space station by 2022. The rocket launch will also aid China in its plans of building a huge space station called "Tiangong". Tiangong is the space station programme of China.
 6. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nation (UN) postal agency released a commemorative postage stamp on the 40th anniversary of the eradication of **smallpox**.
Note: The commemorative stamp was designed and developed by Sergio Baradat, United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) in collaboration with WHO. The stamp will be available for purchase at unstamp.org and it can be used to mail postcards and letters around the world, provided that they are sent from the UN headquarters in New York, Geneva or Vienna respectively.
 7. **Israel** named street after Rabindranath Tagore on his 159th anniversary.
Note: Israel named it 'Tagore Street' to commemorate the poet's birth anniversary. Tagore, who wrote his poetry, novels, stories and plays in Bengali, In 1913 he won the prestigious Nobel prize in literature and till now, he is the only poet from India to have done so.
 8. **India** hold the chair of the World Health Organization in May 2020 after Japan completes its tenure.
Note: India is to hold the chair of the World Health Organization in May 2020 after Japan completes its tenure. India will continue to hold the chair for the next three years. This comes during the time when there are world wide criticisms faced by WHO. Especially the US, one of India's primary trading partner, accused WHO being China-centric. It is to be noted that US has also cut the funds allocated to the WHO.
 9. As per the World Health Organization's Global Nutrition Report, 2020 India is one among the 88 countries that are to miss global nutrition targets set for the year **2025**.
Note: The World Health Organization released Global Nutrition Report, 2020. According to the report, India is one among the 88 countries that are to miss global nutrition targets set for the year 2025. India also has highest rates of domestic inequalities, especially in malnutrition. Along with Nigeria and Indonesia, India was declared the least performing in case of disparities in stunting.
 10. World Health Organization (WHO) has released the first "The State of the World's Nursing 2020" report amid COVID19 pandemic in partnership with Nursing and **International Council of Nurses (ICN)**.
Note: In accordance with the report, there are 28 million nurses worldwide but still, there is a global shortfall of 5.9 million. Countries facing the greatest shortfall of nurses are in Africa, South East Asia and the WHO Eastern Mediterranean region as well as some parts of Latin America. Between 2013 and 2018, nursing numbers increased by 4.7 million. More than 80% of the world's nurses work in countries that are home to half of the world's population.
 11. In the fight against the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic, the United Nations (UN) and its partner agencies have appealed to governments, companies and billionaires to donate **\$ 6.7 billion**.
Note: In this campaign, special attention is being given to dealing with more vulnerable countries and combating food insecurity, gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, among others. As per the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock, the \$ 2 billion initial appeal by the United Nations on March 25, 2020, has been boosted because income and job losses have increased. However, due to increasing

human needs continuously, the updated “COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan” for the remaining time of 2020 was 6.7 billion dollars.

12. **Italy** country has developed ‘iFeel-You’ bracelet for social distancing.
Note: The Genoa-based Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) has developed ‘iFeel-You’ bracelet for social distancing. This bracelet will help users respect social distancing rules. The bracelet has been developed as the measures for safeguarding against the coronavirus lockdown is being gradually lifted.
13. **FAO** organization has released Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020.
Note: According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the forest loss rate in 2015-2020 has declined to an estimated 10 million hectares (mha), down from 12 mha in 2010-2015. The world has lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya.
14. **Russia** country hosted the SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting via video conferencing on COVID-19 which was attended by the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
Note: EAM mentioned that the security challenges faced today are not associated with the physical or political boundaries and stated that the threat to security and stability in the region of SCO requires collective actions. He also stated about the Pakistani deep state’s alleged involvement in the cross-border terrorism in Kashmir violating the ceasefire as the focus of India is on combating against COVID-19. India and Pakistan became the members of the SCO in 2017.
15. recently **USA** announce to donate ventilators to India.
Note: The announcement is seen as a reciprocal gesture of India’s lift on the export ban of the anti-malarial drug Hydroxychloroquine. India recently lifted the export ban over HCQ drugs. This benefitted the United States to larger extent.
16. India along with 61 other countries moved a proposal in the World Health Organization to **identify the source of COVID-19**.
Note: The countries together moved a proposal at the WHO to identify zoonotic source. Only three permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have backed the resolution namely Russia, France and UK. The other countries to support the resolution includes South Korea, Japan, Australia, South Africa, India, New Zealand, etc.
17. **Slovenia** becomes the first country in Europe to declare an end to its COVID-19 epidemic.
Note: The country officially marked an end to its virus epidemic after the government authorities confirmed less than seven new cases each day for the past two weeks. Slovenia, a country with a population of two

million, has also opened its borders after declaring the end of the virus. The country shares its borders with Croatia, Austria, Italy and Hungary, and now people have started arriving in Slovenia from other European Union states.

18. **USD 2 billion** amount has been announced by China over two years to fight the coronavirus pandemic at WHO assembly.
Note: The decision comes after, when China faced growing global pressure over the lockdowns, the death toll and a huge increase in coronavirus cases that has brought the world to a standstill. WHO announced the coronavirus outbreak to be a worldwide health emergency on January 30th 2020.
19. United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) partnered with Indian telecom company **Airtel Africa** to support the school children in the coronavirus affected areas of Africa.
Note: Under this partnership, UNICEF and Airtel Africa will use mobile technology to benefit an estimated 133 million school age children currently affected by school closures in 13 countries across sub-Saharan Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic. Airtel Africa will zero-rate select websites hosting educational content, which will provide children with remote access to digital content at no cost.
20. Alfanar group of **Saudi Arabia** will sell 300MW wind power projects in India which is likely to be among the largest wind energy deals in India.
Note: Riyadh-based Alfanar Group has a clean energy portfolio of 1.4 gigawatts (GW) in West Asia, Africa, Europe and Asia. In India, Alfanar has a wind project portfolio of around 600MW that it won in auctions conducted by state-run Solar Energy Corp. of India (SECI). India is running the world’s largest clean energy programme, with an aim of having 175 gigawatts (GW) of clean energy capacity by 2022
21. India handover war game centre named as “INDIA” to **Uganda**.
Note: The state of the art military training facility was handover by the Indian Association Uganda (IAU), in association with the Indian Military Advisory and Training Team to the UPDF. The Ugandans of Indian origin made voluntary contributions for the establishment of war game centre.
22. NASA has renamed its next-generation space telescope “Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST)”, which is set to launch in 2025 in honour of **Nancy Grace Roman**.
Note: Nancy Grace Roman is the US space agency’s first chief astronomer, who paved the way for space telescopes focused on the broader universe. She left behind a tremendous legacy in the scientific community when she died in 2018.

23. Social media platform **Facebook** has launched a group calling application named as “CatchUp”.

Note: The app allows its users to engage in group calling with up to 8 members. However, this is not the

first platform from Facebook that gives users this facility including WhatsApp, Messenger Rooms, etc

Honor & Awards

1. **Thangjam Dhabali Singh** has been conferred with “Order of Rising Sun- Gold and Silver Rays” by the Japan government for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between 2 countries.
Note: The Japan Government conferred the decoration on Singh while announcing the names of the foreign recipients of the Spring Decoration 2020. He is the founder and the former president of the Manipur Tourism Forum (MTF). Singh organised the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal of the Second World War and several Japanese citizens, including officials from the Embassy of Japan in India had participated in the event.
2. **Shobhana Narasimhan** has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Science.
Note: Prof. Shobhana Narasimhan from the Theoretical Sciences Unit (TSU) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Science (AAAS). JNCASR is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology. AAAS honors such scholars and leaders who have distinguished themselves in the sciences, arts, humanities, and public life.
3. **Sania Mirza has** become the first Indian to be nominated for the Fed Cup Heart Award from the Asia/Oceania zone.
Note: Sania had recently made a comeback to Fed Cup after four years. With her 18-month son Izhaan present in the stands, Sania had helped India qualify for the Play-offs for the first time. The winners of the Heart Awards will be determined by online voting by fans which will go live on May 1 and will go on until May 8.
4. **Kim Jong Un** has been honoured with a commemorative World War II medal to mark the 75th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany by Russian President Vladimir Putin.
Note: The medal was awarded to Kim for the role he played in safeguarding the memories of Soviet soldiers who died in the territory of North Korea. Russian ambassador in North Korea, Alexander Matsegora presented the award to North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Son-gwon.

5. Indian journalist **Siddharth Varadarajan** has been named for Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award 2020.
Note: Siddharth Varadarajan, one of the founding editors of non-profit online newspaper The Wire, was handed a notice for appearance by a police team on April 10, 2020 following a story about a politician violating COVID-19 guidelines by participating in a religious ceremony. The Wire was accused of “causing a riot” and “leading to panic.”
6. **Sania Mirza has** become the 1st Indian to win Fed Cup Heart Award 2020 for Asia/Oceania zone.
Note: She decided to give a prize money of \$ 2000 to the Telangana Chief Minister Relief Fund to help battle against coronavirus. Sania is one of 4 winners chosen by a public vote, alongside Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia (wins Qualifiers award), Mexico’s Fernanda Contreras Gomez (Americas I zone) and Estonian Anett Kontaveit (Europe/Africa I zone).
7. Indian airport **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru** has won this year’s SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia.
Note: The airport was voted by customers because of the Best Regional Airport in India & Central Asia for the third time in four years at the 2020 World Airport Awards. The Awards have supported the planet Airport Survey questionnaires completed by over 100 nationalities of airport customers during the 6-month survey period.
8. **Akshay Kumar** has been conferred with the Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy for the year 2020.
Note: He commissioned in Anti-Submarine Warfare School of the Southern Naval Command in Kochi. The award ceremony was held at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Kochi, Kerala. This trophy was instituted in 2013 for the officer performing best in tactics during the year-long warfare specialisation course. The trophy was instituted within the memory of the late flag officer GM Hiranandani, who was the commissioned naval officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Naval Command from 1985 to 1987 and retired as Vice Chief of Naval Staff in 1989.
9. **Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar** has been awarded the Alexander Dalrymple Award 2019.
Note: This award is given to him for his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography and across the

broader Indian Ocean region. The award was presented by the UK Ministry of Defence.

10. **Naomi Osaka** becomes the highest paid female athlete in the world.

Note: Osaka has been ranked No.1 by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA). The complete Forbes list, due to be released next week. She toppled American great Serena Williams.

11. Indian American inventor **Rajiv Joshi** has bagged the prestigious "Inventor of the Year award" in recognition of his pioneering work in advancing the electronic industry and improving artificial intelligence capabilities.

Note: He was awarded in recognition of his pioneering work in advancing the electronic industry and improving artificial intelligence capabilities. Dr Joshi, who is a master inventor with more than 250 patented inventions in the US, works at the IBM Thomson Watson Research Center in New York.

12. **Suman Gawani** has been selected for the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (2019) along with Brazilian Naval Officer Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo.
Note: Suman Gawani becomes the 1st Indian peacekeeper to win the award. The award will be given during an online ceremony presided over by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on May 29, the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.
13. **Quarraisha Abdool Karim** has been awarded Christophe Merieux Prize 2020 for finding a topical gel could stop many women catching the HIV.
Note: Christophe Merieux Prize is one of France's top science prizes. She won the half a million-euro (\$551,000) Prize for her work for the Durban-based Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), which she heads.

Sports News

1. Sports organization **FIFA** has launched the campaign "#WeWillWin" to pay a special tribute to health workers and other professionals.
Note: Through this campaign FIFA tribute a special video to health workers and other professionals who ensure the society continues to function among COVID-19 pandemic. Former India football captain Bhaichung Bhutia who is also featured among 50 past and present football stars.
2. The governing body of swimming the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) has postponed the 2021 aquatics world championships to 2022. The tournament is scheduled to be held in **Japan**.
Note: Following the postponement of 2020 Tokyo Olympics to 2021 the governing body of swimming Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) has postponed the 2021 aquatics world championships, Fukuoka, Japan to May 12 to May 29 of 2022 due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. FINA had to move the championships because the 2021 slot of Jul 16 to Aug 1 clashed with the new date for the Tokyo Games, which were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Sandeep Kumari has been given a 4 year ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) after failing a drug test, she is associated with **Discus throw** sport.
Note: World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has banned Indian discus thrower Sandeep Kumari for 4 years after failing a drug test. National Dope Test Laboratory (NDTL) had failed to detect the banned substance "steroid" which was present in her blood sample. This blood sample is collected by NDTL officials during the Inter-State Championships in June 2018, in Guwahati,

Assam where Kumari had won the gold with a throw of 58.41 meters in the competition. WADA referred Kumari's results management to the AIU (Athletics Integrity Unit) which notified her of the charges & provisionally suspended her in November 2018.

4. Tennis player **Youssef Hossam** awarded life-time ban by the Tennis Integrity Unit following his conviction on multiple match fixing and associated corruption charges.
Note: Egyptian Youssef Hossam has been banned from tennis for life after being found guilty of multiple match-fixing and other corruption offences. A Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) investigation found that the 21-year-old had committed 21 breaches of anti-corruption rules between 2015 and 2019 and conspired with others to carry out a campaign of betting-related corruption at the lower levels of professional tennis.
5. Remy Di Gregorio has been banned for 4 years for using a form of banned blood-boosting hormone EPO (Erythropoietin) is associated with **Cycling**.
Note: French cyclist Remy Di Gregorio has been banned for 4 years by the International Cycling Union (UCI) for using a form of banned blood-boosting hormone EPO (Erythropoietin). Remy Di Gregorio had tested positive for the hormone during a long-distance trip from Paris to Nice during a doping test on March 8, 2018. His suspension starts from the date of the test so he is going to be suspended until 7 March 2022.
6. **China** has won the 1st edition of FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup.
Note: China was adjudged the winner on the basis of its topping the points table in the round-robin stage. In

- this tournament, India finished at 5th rank. The Super final concluded six days of online competitive chess at the highest level between six international teams full of top grandmasters. These 6 teams are China, USA, Europe, Russia, India, Rest of the world
7. **India** will host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2021 which was postponed due COVID 19 pandemic. **Note:** FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup was scheduled to be held in India from November 2 to 21, 2020 across 5 venues and has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. FIFA announced that the tournament will keep original eligibility criteria despite the postponement: players born on or after 1 January 2003 and on or before 31 December 2005 will be eligible to compete.
 8. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna awardee Deepa Malik announced her retirement, she is associated with **Shot-put**. **Note:** She is the 1st Indian woman to earn a medal at the Paralympic Games (silver). She announced her retirement as per the national sports code so as to hold her post as the President of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI). She is the 1st woman para-athlete to receive Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna on August 29, 2019 and is a recipient of Arjuna Award (2012) & Padma Shri (2017).
 9. The Bundesliga of **Germany** becomes the world's first major sports event to resume after COVID-19 lock down. **Note:** The Bundesliga games began with empty stadium though the stadium had capacity to hold more than 80,000 players. The players are being tested twice a week. The teams participating in the games were kept under quarantine. The teams entered the ground at different times. The substitutes sat well apart during the matches.
 10. The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) provisionally suspended Savita Kumari and Ankit Shisodia for violating anti-doping rules. They are associated with **Powerlifting** sports. **Note:** Athletes were given an opportunity to present themselves before the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) and explain their cases on the date and time fixed by the panel for a hearing. Both athletes were given a chance to present themselves before the Anti Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) to explain their cases. But because of lockdown amid COVID-19 pandemic, no sitting of panel could take place.
 11. Tennis player Jamie Hampton announced her retirement from the professional tennis belong to **UAS**. **Note:** American tennis player Jamie Hampton has proclaimed that she is taking retirement from the professional tennis. Former World Top 25 player played her last official match 6 yrs ago when she was ranked 24th in the world. The right hander player then suffered numerous injuries and was unable to play against Venus Williams in the semi finals of ASB Classic in Auckland in 2014.
 12. The World Health Organization (WHO) has partnered with **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** to work together to promote health through sport and physical activity. **Note:** The collaboration is to work with host countries to ensure Health of athletes, supporters and workers at the games. The two institutions will also work to ensure that the games leave a healthy legacy in host countries through enhanced awareness of the value of sport.
 13. Sri Lankan cricketer **Shehan Madushanka** has been suspended from all forms of cricket with immediate effect for alleged possession of heroin. **Note:** The decision to suspend will stand until the board conducts a full inquiry of the matter. Madushanka took a hat-trick against Bangladesh on his one-day international debut in January 2018.
 14. Indian sprinter **Kiranjeet Kaur** has been banned for four years by the World Athletics' anti-doping body for testing positive for a banned substance. **Note:** She will be stripped of the gold medal she won at the Tata Steel Kolkata 25K. Her ban period begins from December 15 (2019), the date of in-competition sample collection. She was provisionally suspended by World Athletics on February 26.
 15. Spanish Famous footballer Aritz Aduriz has announced his retirement citing medical reasons. **Note:** He has won 13 caps for Spain and also become the Spain's oldest goalscorer in 2016, scoring at the age of 35 years and 275 days.

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