

Monthly One-liners 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 the upcoming **State Services Examinations**.

Important News: States

- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** topped in providing employment under the **MGNREGS**
 - **Note:** Chhattisgarh is the **first state** to provide employment to over 18 (18.51) lakh unskilled labourers, followed by **Rajasthan (2nd)** to 10.79 lakh workers & **Uttar Pradesh (3rd)** to around 9.06 lakh workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
 - 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.
- ✓ **Manipur's Chak-Hao**, the black rice gets Geographical Indication **(GI) tag.**
 - 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.
- ✓ Terracotta work of Gorakhpur (UP) has been granted with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
 - **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.
- ✓ Kovilpatti kadalai mittai of Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu) has been granted with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Saffron** of **Kashmir region** 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.
- ✓ **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%.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh government has decided to start the "Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna".
 - **Note:** In this **Yojana**, **120 days** assured employment will be provided to people living in urban areas. It is being launched to revive the coronavirus-hit economy of the state.
 - Adequate training will be given to the people for the skill upgradation, 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.**

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Tripura** government has launched 'Mukhyamantri Yuba Yogayog Yojana'.
 - **Note:** The scheme was announced by the Education Minister of Tirupura 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.**
- ✓ Madhya Pradsh 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 a 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.
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** govt has launched '**Pravasi Raahat Mitra**' to provide support to the migrant workers.
 - **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Jammu and Kashmir** Union Territory's administration 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 (Decentralization 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.
- ✓ **Jammu & Kashmir** (UTs), the Department of Information and Public Relations has started an initiative "SUKOON COVID-19 Beat the Stress" program.
 - **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.
- ✓ "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.**

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government has set up a 'Start-up Fund' under its Information Technology and Start-up Policy 2017.
 - **Note:** An MoU has been signed between the Uttar Pradesh government and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the fund will be managed by SIDBI.
 - 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.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** has started **Didi Vehicle Service** for rural women for the safe delivery and other emergency services, under the women **Rural Livelihood Mission**.
 - **Note:** The mission has been started in tribal-dominated Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh (MP).
 - 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.
- ✓ **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 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** government announced to **develop 800 km herbal road** along the **state and national highways** throughout 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 Jatrofa.

Important News: India

✓ 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.
- ✓ India secured 53rd rank in the 7th edition of 'Open Budget Survey 2019' conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP).
 - **Note:** In the survey time New Zealand has been topped the list with a score of 87.
 - 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.
- ✓ 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 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.
- ✓ National Board for Wildlife (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.
- ✓ India's rank in the in scientific publication in 2018 among the countries -- Third.
 - **Note:** The National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS), Department of Science and Technology (DST), has conducted a survey on Research and Development (R&D) Statistics and Indicators 2019-20.
 - The survey included more than 6800 S&T Institutions spread across varied sectors like central government, state governments, higher education, public sector industry, and private sector industry in the country.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the first time since 2014, Azerbaijan presented the group.
 - 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 organized under the leadership of its president Ilham Aliyev.
- ✓ **NITI Aayog** has launched virtual **'Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan'** to ensure wellbeing of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic in association with Piramal Foundation.
 - **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 focuses on behaviour change, access to services, early detection & tracking of COVID-19 symptoms.
- ✓ **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-àvis 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The **Defence Ministry** has signed a contract with **Tata Power** for **Phase-II of Modernisation of Airfield Infrastructure** of **37 airfields for Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.**
 - **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.
- ✓ **Mission Sagar** conducted by the Government of India to **provide assistance to Eastern Indian Ocean Region Nations** amid the coronavirus crisis.
 - **Note:** Under the mission, **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari** deployed, carrying on board two medical assistance teams, essential Food Items and COVID related Medicines and Special Ayurvedic Medicines five to Island countries in the Indian Ocean.

- The five countries are **Maldives**, **Mauritius**, **Seychelles**, **Madagascar** and **Comoros**.
- ✓ Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched "Bharosa" helpline for Central University of Odisha.
 - **Note:** This helpline has been launched with an objective of relieving the student community from the distress caused during the troubled time of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - 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 at any University in Odisha in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated **80km strategically crucial** road link connecting **Lipulekh pass (China Border) with Dharchula in Uttarakhand** through video conferencing.
 - Note: The Border Roads Organization (BRO) has constructed the road that originates from Ghatiabagarh and it ends at Lipulekh Pass which is a gateway to Kailash-Mansarovar.
 - It will help pilgrims visiting **Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet** as it is around **90 kms from the Lipulekh pass.**
 - This road, which has an altitude ranging from **6000 to 17060 feet**, constructed along the **banks of river Kali between India and Nepal.**
- ✓ India initiated "Mission Sagar" to send medical aid to five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amid COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Note: In this regard, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros, to provide Food items, COVID related Medicines 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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**.
- ✓ As per the **new definition of MSMEs** what the maximum investment limit for a micro unit is: **1 crore.**

- **Note:** The GoI has changed the definition of MSMEs. The new definition has **increased the investment limit** upwards.
- Previously, an **enterprise with investment up to Rs 25 lakh** was called a micro unit.
- Under the new definition, a firm upto investment of **Rs 1 crore is to be called Micro unit**, **of Rs 10 crore** is to be called as small unit and investment greater than **Rs 20 crore** will be called as medium unit.
- ✓ The amount of **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan announced by the Prime Minister 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.
- ✓ Flagship social security scheme of the Government of India 'Atal Pension Yojna' has completed five years of its implementation in May 2020.
 - **Note:** The scheme is being administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority through **National Pension System (NPS)**.
 - Any citizen of India can join the **APY scheme**.
 - The age of the subscriber should be **between 18-40 years**.
 - The **contribution levels** would vary and would be low if a subscriber joins early and increases if she joins late.
- ✓ **Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme** approved by the **Union Defence** minister Rajnath Singh and allotted Rs 400 crores.
 - **Note:** The establishment of defence testing infrastructure will provide easy access and thus meet the testing needs of the domestic defence industry.
 - The scheme will run for a period of 5 years & envisages to set up 6 to 8 new test facilities in partnership with private industry.
 - This will facilitate defence production, therefore reduce imports of military equipment and help make the country self-reliant.
- ✓ An 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 be 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.

- ✓ For multi-mode access to digital/online education Government of India has decided to launch **PM-eVIDYA programme.**
 - **Note:** Under the programme the DIKSHA programme will provide "one nation, one digital platform" for school education in states/UTs.
 - It will also include the launch of **Energized Textbooks** for all grades.
 - One earmarked **TV channel** will be launched for per **class from 1 to 12** following the **concept of "one class, one channel".**
- ✓ National Disaster Management Authority has developed "National Migrant Information System (NMIS)" to secure information regarding the movement of migrant workers.
 - **Note:** An online dashboard "National Migrant Information System (NMIS)" has been developed by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
 - The dashboard has been developed by NDMA to secure information regarding the movement of migrants and to facilitate the smooth movement of stranded persons across States.
 - A central repository on migrant workers would be maintained by the dashboard NMIS.
- ✓ Landing Craft Utility Ship 'INLCU L57' commissioned into Indian Navy in Port Blair.
 - Note: The "INLCU L57" is the seventh LCU Mark IV class warship.
 - The **primary role of the warship**, being transportation and deployment of main battle tanks, armored vehicles, troops and equipment from ship to shore.
 - The first ship of the **Mark IV LCU Vessels INLCU L51** was commissioned into **Indian Navy in March 2017**.
- ✓ Mobile application **National Test Abhyas** developed by the National Testing Agency will help the candidates to take mock tests for exams such as JEE Mains, NEET, etc.
 - 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.
- ✓ **Six cities** rated **5 stars in Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities**, for the assessment year 2019-2020.
 - **Note:** In rating Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysuru, Indore and Navi Mumbai were rated 5 Star (6 cities).
 - 65 other Cities rated 3 Star and 70 Cities rated 1 Star out of 141 cities.
 - He also launched the revised protocol for the Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet has extended **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana** (PMVVY) till year 2023.
 - **Note:** It is a **social security scheme for senior citizens** for those who are above 60.
 - The government has fixed its annual rate of return at 7.4% for financial year 2020-21.
 - Now, **Senior citizens** will have time till **March 31**, **2023** to invest in **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana** which provides **higher return** than any bank.

- ✓ The **National Skills Development Corporation (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.**
- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched a scheme for 100% solarization of Konark city of India
 - **Note:** The scheme has been launched to develop the **historic Sun Temple** in the town of Konark.
 - Also, the scheme will develop the town into **Surva Nagri**.
 - The scheme mainly aims at **promoting solar energy.**
- ✓ **India's position** in manufacturing **personal protective equipment (PPE)** body coveralls -- **Second.**
 - **Note:** PPE body coveralls are crucial to safeguard against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
 - China is the world's leading producer of PPE body coveralls, crucial to safeguard against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ National Health Authority is the nodal agency for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
 - **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.
- ✓ Indian Navy has formed PPE kit with innovative breathable fabric material.
 - **Note:** This PPE kit provides comfort to healthcare workers working against COVID-19 pandemic wearing multi-layered coverall PPE treating patients within the hot and humid condition for quite 12 hours.
 - The ability of the material to permit water vapour to undergo and stop the water from entering is understood as Breathability.
- ✓ The length of the tunnel built by **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** on Rishikesh-**Dharasu Highway (NH 94)** in **Uttarakhand -- 440 Km.**
 - **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).
- ✓ **Tejas Mk-1 FOC aircraft** has been inducted by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** into the recently **resurrected No 18 Squadron** the "**Flying Bullets**" at Air Force Station **Sulur.**
 - **Note:** Tejas Mk-1 FOC is a single engine, light weight, highly agile and all weather multi role fighter aircraft.
 - The aircraft is capable of air-to-air refueling and hence makes the Squadron the first in the IAF to induct this platform.
- ✓ Missile Park **Agneeprastha** being established in Eastern Naval Command (ENS) at INS Kalinga, Visakhapatnam.

- Note: Agneeprastha aims to capture glimpses of Missile History of INS Kalinga.
- Agneeprastha is to provide a **one-stop arena for motivation and stimulation** of people regarding the missiles and related technologies, from school children to **Naval personnel and their families**.
- ✓ **Swath Sagar** has been given to the plan to modernize the fisheries sector which is part of **Pradhan Mantri 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.

Important News-World

- ✓ 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 public interested in lunar geology.
 - It should be noted that the moon is the closest cosmic body to Earth.
- ✓ **Russia** to 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.

- ✓ 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 unstamps.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.
 - It is to be noted that US has also cut the funds allocated to the WHO.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **Russia** 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **India** hands over war **game center** named as "**INDIA**" to **Uganda**.
 - **Note:** The state-of-the-art military training facility was handover by the Indian Association Uganda (IAU), in association with the Indian Military Advisory and Training Team to the UPDF.
 - The Ugandans of Indian origin made voluntary contributions for the establishment of war game centre.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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 worldwide criticisms faced by WHO. Especially the US, one of India's primary trading partner, accused WHO being China-centric.

Important News: Economy

- ✓ 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.
 - ✓ **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
 - ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.**
- ✓ **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).

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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).

Awards and Honours

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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 newspage 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."
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.

Important Events: Sports

- ✓ 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.
- 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ Tennis player **Youssef Hossam** awarded lifetime 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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 Superfinal 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
- ✓ India will host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2021 which was postponed due COVID 19 pandemics.
 - **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.
- ✓ 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).
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

Personalities in News

- ✓ **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%.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.**
- ✓ 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.
 - ✓ 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.

- ✓ **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 cardbased 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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 AshishAgarwal 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **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.
 - angakkara 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Rajesh Bhushan** has been appointed as the chairman of the11-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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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)

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.

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.
 - owever, 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.
- ✓ Renowned personality Hari Shankar Vasudevan passed away recently, he was a famous **Historian.**
 - **Note:** He served as the Director of MaulanaAbulKalam 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.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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'.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson of **Tennis** Ashley John Cooper passed away at the age of 83 in Sydney
 - **Note:** Cooper, the former Ranked No.1 player, led Australia's Davis Cup team to victory over the United States to retain the title in 1957.
 - A right-handed serve-and-volley player, Cooper won 8 Grand Slam titles- 4 Grand Slam singles and 4 Grand Slam doubles titles in the amateur era.
- ✓ Famous **Hockey** sportsperson Balbir Singh Dosanjh, passed away recently.
 - Note:Balbir Singh Sr. made his International debut in May 1947 tour of Sri Lanka.
 - He was appointed as the Captain of Indian hockey team for the Melbourne Olympics in 1956.
 - Retiring from his active hockey career, he served as the Manager of India's World Cup winning team lead by Ajitpal Singh in 1975.
 - He wrote his biography "The Golden Hat Trick: My Hockey Days" in 1977.
- ✓ Renowned **Football Coach** Gigi Simoni passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was an Italian football official, player & manager.
 - Simoni played as an attacking midfielder for Mantova, Napoli, Torino, Juventus, Brescia and Genoa.
 - 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ First chief minister of **Chhattisgarh** Ajit Pramod Kumar Jogi passed away.
 - **Note:** Jogi studied Mechanical Engineering at the Maulana Azad College of Technology & also won the University Gold Medal.
 - He served as a lecturer at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Raipur and was also a successful IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer.
 - In 1998, Jogi was elected as a Lok Sabha member from Raigarh, Chhattisgarh and became a spokesperson of the Indian National Congress (INC) party.
- ✓ Famous personality associated with Indian cinema passed away recently, he was a veteran **lyricist**.
 - **Note:** Famous Indian Lyricist and writer Yogesh Gaur, commonly known as Yogesh in the film industry passed away at the age of 77 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - He 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 Labours 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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".
- ✓ 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).

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ To increase awareness about athletics and to encourage youth to take up sports World Athletics Day is observed every year on 7th May.
- ✓ World Red Cross Day is observed globally every year on 8th May.
 - **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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)"
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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".
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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).
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The United Nations celebrates International Day for Biological Diversity every year on **22**nd **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".
- ✓ 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!".
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ World Thyroid Day is observed globally every year on **25**th **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.
- ✓ 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".
- ✓ International Day of Action for Women's Health is observed globally every year on **28**th **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

Miscellaneous Activities

- ✓ **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 Nocca Robotics Private Limited(NRPL), an incubated startup of IIT Kanpur.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
 - Koshy 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.
- ✓ **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 Ultraviolet 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.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
 - ✓ **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.
- ✓ (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.
- ✓ 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'.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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 shareholding of 74% and 26%.
 - With this, India has become the sixth country in the world to produce high horsepower locomotive.
 - ✓ **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 far away 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.
 - ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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
- ✓ 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.



Monthly One-liners May -2020

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