

Monthly Current Affairs (One-liner) July 2020



Monthly Digest (One-liner Facts) July -2020

Dear readers,

This Monthly Current Affairs (One-liner) is a compilation of information that is relevant for PCS Exams. The information extracted and compiled from the events that have held in June 2020.

Important News – State

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched “Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya” campaign to take care of academic regularity of the students during the Lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: The scheme will start on 6th July 2020. Under the scheme, the school bells are going to be heard within the student’s house and the teachers will begin the class of the students after the bell. The scheme provides a school-like environment for the children taught at their home through online classes.
- ✓ **Karnataka** government has launched a portal, ‘Skill Connect Forum’ to connect job seekers and employers on a common platform.
Note: Job seekers can register on <https://skillconnect.kaushalkar.com> by uploading details of their educational qualification, skill sets and other details. Employers will also register on the portal. The portal matches the requirement and availability. The job seekers can search for jobs in different sectors and different regions within the state.
- ✓ The UK India Business Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (Mou) with **Maharashtra** for Sustainable Business Relation.
Note: MIDC is the premier industrial infrastructure development agency of the Government of Maharashtra. This business framework between the UKIBC and Government of Maharashtra will help the State to proactively better its business environment and strengthen its collaboration with British business.
- ✓ **Delhi** State government has launched an e-learning portal — LEAD for schoolchildren.
Note: The portals will give students access to textbooks, study material and course content as per the syllabus of the CBSE, NCERT and Delhi government’s curriculum online. It will include digital QR coded textbooks, explanatory videos, practice questions and evaluation.
- ✓ World’s largest, 10,000 bed Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital (SPCCCH) was inaugurated in **Delhi**.
Note: SPCCCH is built on the campus of spiritual organization ‘Radha Soami Satsang Beas’. SPCCCH is located in South Delhi’s Chhatarpur area. SPCCCH is an air-conditioned facility that will be cooled by 18,000 tons of air-conditioners. To date, SPCCCH is the World’s largest COVID-19 Treatment and Care facility.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched a social media campaign, ‘Intzaar Aap Ka’ to attract tourists in the state.
Note: The campaign will be conducted by describing the characteristics of the tourism destinations in Madhya Pradesh through photographs and videos. Through the campaign, the tourism board aims to establish the confidence back in the tourism sector by offering tour packages to the tourists that are specially designed by keeping in mind safe travel, stay, and excursion for prevention from COVID-19 infection
- ✓ **Odisha** state government has launched ‘Balaram Yojana’ to provide crop loans to landless farmers.
Note: Under the new scheme, the landless cultivators will get loans through joint liability groups (JLGs). Under ‘Balaram’ scheme, the government has set a target to provide farm loans to 7 lakh landless farmers in the next two years.
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched a mega plantation programme ‘Mission Vriksharopan-2020’.
Note: The name of the mega plantation programme is ‘Mission Vriksharopan-2020’. Yogi Adityanath planted 3 saplings at the Kukrail Reserve Forest’s Harishankari Vatika in Lucknow to

inaugurate the Mission Vriksharopan-2020. He planted saplings of a Banyan tree, Ficus Virens and Ficus Religiosa.

- ✓ **Haryana** government has decided to bring an ordinance under which 75 percent of the jobs with a salary of less than Rs 50,000 per month will be reserved for the locals of the state.
Note: In the month of June 2020, Haryana had the highest unemployment rate among all states in the country. The unemployment rate in June 2020 was 33.6 percent. The proposed draft Ordinance is named 'Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Ordinance 2020'.
- ✓ 'Self Scan' mobile application has been launched by **West Bengal** government as an alternative for the much popular Chinese document scanning application- Cam Scanner.
Note: Following the ban of 59 Chinese mobile applications by the Central Government on 29th June 2020, the West Bengal State's Information Technology Department has developed a mobile application that will serve as a better alternative for the much popular Chinese document scanning application- Cam Scanner. The Chief Minister launched the 'Self Scan' mobile application that will be available free of cost at various application download platforms.
- ✓ **Maharashtra** government has launched 'Maha Jobs' portal that will bridge the gap between the Industrial Units/Employers and the Workers.
Note: Anyone can access the portal by visiting- 'mahajobs.maharashtra.gov.in'. For registration in the Maha Jobs portal, a domicile certificate of the state of Maharashtra is compulsory for the workers. The portal will help in the resumption of business and industries in the state of Maharashtra, which will further help in recreating the economic cycle in the state that was disrupted due to the nationwide lockdown imposed against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ **Karnataka** government has launched 'Nekar Samman Yojane' for the weaver's community in the state.
Note: The name of the scheme is 'Nekar Samman Yojane', which means Weaver Samman Yojana. For becoming a beneficiary of the scheme, silk, cotton, woolen and other handloom weavers in the state of Karnataka have to register themselves at the Seva Sindhu portal.
- ✓ **Odisha** finance commission has recommended for Rs 23,848 crore for the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies over six financial year.
Note: These funds allocated will be for strengthening the ULBs and PRIs in the state financially so that various developmental projects and maintenance of existing assets can be taken up by these institutes and bodies.
- ✓ **Assam's** Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is being upgraded to a National Park is located in which state of India.
Note: It is located within the larger Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, spreading across the coal- and oil-rich districts of Upper Assam (Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sivasagar). After upgradation, Dehing Patkai will be the 6th national park in Assam. The other five are Kaziranga, Nameri, Manas, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.
- ✓ e-Commerce marketplace Flipkart has signed an MoU with **Karnataka** state MSME and Mines department to promote the states arts, crafts and handloom sectors.
Note: The partnership under the Flipkart Samarth programme will enable local artisans, weavers and craftsmen of Karnataka to showcase their hallmark products to a pan-India customer base, the company said in a release. Both the Government of Karnataka and the Flipkart Group will focus on creating avenues to increase business and trade inclusion opportunities for these underserved segments of the society, thereby adding further thrust to Made in India efforts.
- ✓ **Odisha** becomes the first state in India to use Space Technology & Artificial Intelligence for safeguarding government lands.
Note: The Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System is a geo-tagged repository that would monitor and detect all government lands in Bhubaneswar. This will be done by using high-resolution satellite imagery.
- ✓ **Maharashtra** government will be setting up a stress relief fund of around ₹700 crore to ₹1,000 crore, in a bid to support developers undertaking Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) projects.
Note: The State government's contribution will be around ₹700 crore to ₹1,000 crore, while the State Bank of India's contribution will be bigger."
- ✓ **Manipur** Chief Minister N Biren Singh has inaugurated five water supply projects worth Rs 48.39 crore.

Note: The five Water Supply projects located at different districts of Manipur were constructed with the total cost of 48.39 crore rupees having total capacity of more than 26.15 millions of liters per day. The New Development Bank has sanctioned 3,000 crore rupees to provide potable water to every household of the state and work orders for the projects have been issued.

- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** state government has approved the Startup Policy 2020.
Note: The validity of this policy is five years from the date of notification which is estimated to provide direct employment to more than 50,000 people and generate self-employment to around 1.5 lakh people. UP was anointed as the “Inspiring Leader” in the national startup ranking in 2018.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched 'Roko -Toko' campaign for those who do not wear masks.
Note: In Madhya Pradesh, the government will now run a Roko -Toko means stop and campaign for those who do not wear masks. As the Use of masks is mandatory in all public places in the state. Now selected voluntary organizations will provide masks to the people who do not wear masks in public places and will charge an amount of Rs 20 per mask from the concerned.
- ✓ India's first e-Lok Adalat to ensure the administration of justice and to solve the financial crisis of the parties and lawyers amid COVID-19 pandemic was organized in **Chhattisgarh**.
Note: The high court Chief Justice P R Ramchandra Menon inaugurated the e-Lok Adalat through video conferencing. Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute grievance mechanisms or a forum where pending cases or disputes in the court of law are settled or compromised whereas e-lok adalat will be handled virtually.
- ✓ **Jharkhand** government has signed an MoU with HDFC Bank to provide digital payment solutions to the state's transport department.
Note: The Digital solution will enable the traffic police to equip themselves with Point of Sale (POS) machines to collect traffic-related penalties. The traffic rules violators can also use this online payment facility to pay a fine.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh state** has topped among the other states in the implementation of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).
Note: The scheme is presently benefiting the beneficiaries of 378 urban bodies of the state. Till now 8,70,330 street vendors have registered under the scheme, out of which 1,76,000 street vendors have been issued the identity cards and vending certificates.
- ✓ **Telangana** Govt. has launched 'CybHER', a month-long virtual awareness campaign to make cyberspace safe for women and children.
Note: The campaign is organized by WSW in collaboration with Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad. To tackle cyberattacks in the midst of social isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic by offering proactive measures to stay safe in the digital world. To create an interactive and informative platform for a healthy discussion on cyber safety
- ✓ Poba Reserve Forest would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary in **Assam**.
Note: Assam Chief Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has announced, Poba Reserve Forest in Dhemaji district would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary. The announcement was made during a meeting with senior officials of Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Majuli districts at Jonai. Poba Reserve Forest declared in 1924 with an area of 10,522 hectares is home to a large number of flora and fauna.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** government has announced Renewable Energy Export Policy 2020, which permits the sale of power to the other states of India.
Note: Aim of the policy is to utilize the unused potential and to attract private investments to boost the economy and to generate additional revenue to the government. To implement the projects the New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of AP Limited (NREDCAP), will be the nodal agency under the new export policy 2020.
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched "Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana" for all-round development of the Scheduled Castes.
Note: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched "Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana" for all-round development of the Scheduled Castes. The state government is extending financial help to make people self-dependent.
- ✓ **Delhi** state government has approved 'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana', which will be launched in six to seven months.

Note: It will be linked to Centre's 'one nation, one ration card' scheme. The scheme will help the beneficiaries get ration delivered at home. They will not have to come to the ration shops. The scheme is expected to benefit lakhs of people in the national capital through 2016 PDS shops.

- ✓ **Punjab** government has approved a US \$285.71 million project for canal-based water supply for its two major cities under World Bank financing.

Note: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) would finance \$200 million (70%) and Punjab government \$85.71 million (30%) as per the proposal mooted by the local government department.

- ✓ **Punjab** government has an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, in the area of skill development.

Note: The institute will help the state in developing a model ITI and a model polytechnic. The IIT to help the state in the manufacture of small devices for controlling water wastage in irrigation.

- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched "Godhan Nyay Yojna" for cattle ranchers.

Note: Under the 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' Chhattisgarh government will purchase cow dung at the rate of Rs 2 per kg. This scheme will turn cow dung into a profitable commodity.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the ₹3,054-crore "Water Supply Project" in North Eastern state **Manipur**.

Note: The project outlay is Rs 3054.58 crore, with a loan component funded by the New Development Bank.

- ✓ **Mizoram** becomes the first state in the country to implement the Green-Agriculture (Green-Ag) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Note: It was launched by Agriculture minister of Mizoram C Lalrinsanga. Mizoram is first among the 5 states where the project is to be implemented. The other states are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

- ✓ The **UK India Business Council** (UKIBC) signed a **memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) with which state government to speed up the business and industrial development in **Gujarat**.

Note: Neelam Rani, Managing Director of iNDEXTb and Kevin McCole, Managing Director of UKIBC signed the MoU. The objective of the MoU is to enhance the business environment of Gujarat and to strengthen the collaboration of British business in Gujarat.

- ✓ **Haryana** government has employed the aerial seeding technique to improve green cover in the Aravalli area of the state.

Note: The project is being carried on a pilot basis to rejuvenate the low vegetation density of Aravalli and Shivalik hills. Using this method plantation on 100 acres is planned to be attempted during the pilot project.

- ✓ **Kerala** government has announced a new Entrepreneurship Development Programme to address the issues of shortage of working capital.

Note: The programme will be implemented through the Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC), which will provide loans up to 90 percent of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs 50 lakh at 10 percent interest. The government will give 3% interest as subsidy thereby; the net interest rate will be 7%.

Important News – India

- ✓ Two Maharatna PSUs the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has signed an MoU for setting up of a Waste to Energy Plant Okhla New Delhi -- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. & NTPC Ltd.**

Note: In Delhi, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management has been a major issue for the local Municipal Authorities, the Waste to Energy Plant will help in addressing the issue and also will lead us towards a more energy-efficient and greener future. The Plant in Delhi will serve as a demonstrative model, the success of which will further help in establishing such Plants in other cities of the country.

- ✓ The report titled "Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post-Covid-19 Opportunities for India's Energy and Mobility Sectors" released jointly by NITI Aayog and **Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)**.

Note: The report has recommended specific actions and laid down four principles as a framework by which India can revive two of our economic powerhouses – the transport and power sectors from the COVID-19 effect that has impacted their demand and supply.

- ✓ **SheshNaag** has been given to the longest 2.8 km long freight train operated Indian Railways.
Note: Indian Railways created another record by operating the longest freight train. Indian Railways named it as 'SeshNaag'. The rake had a total of 251 wagons which were pulled by four electric locomotives which were fitted in between. The feat was achieved in the South East Central Railway zone of the Indian Railways. The train had empty BOXN rakes.
- ✓ According to the report “Annual Marine Fish Landings in India for 2019” by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) **Tamil Nadu** state grabbed the top in annual fish production.
Note: As per the report, Tamil Nadu grabbed the top in annual fish production with 7.75 lakh tonnes followed by Gujarat (7.49 lakh tonnes), which had been holding the first position earlier, and Kerala (5.44 lakh tonnes) which retained the third position. Notably, in the global front, India is ranked 3rd after China and Indonesia in marine fish production.
- ✓ An inter-ministerial scheme called “Accelerate Vigyan” was launched by SERB which is a statutory body functioning under **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
Note: The primary objective of the scheme is to give thrust on encouraging high-end scientific research and manpower that will lead to a knowledge-based economy. The scheme will identify research potential, mentors and provide hands on training on a national scale.
- ✓ Under chairmanship **Ranbir Singh**, the Central Committee for reforms in Criminal Law has been constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
Note: The objective of this exercise is to gather opinions by consulting with experts and collating material for their report to the government. In this regard, the committee has invited experts in the field of criminal law to participate in the exercise through an online consultation mechanism.
- ✓ The CBSE has partnered with social media platform **Facebook** to launch a free and comprehensive training program for teachers and students of its affiliated schools in the first phase.
Note: The program will cover teacher training on augmented reality and student training on digital safety and online well-being. The training program will be of three weeks in which 10 thousand teachers will be trained on augmented reality while 10 thousand students will be trained on digital safety and well-being.
- ✓ ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge’ was announced by PM Narendra Modi is an initiative of **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
Note: The App Innovation Challenge is an initiative by the MeitY in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission. The prize money for apps is between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 2 lakh depending on the category. The app will be evaluated on the basis of ease of use, robustness, security features and scalability.
- ✓ For the formation of a **Joint Venture Company (JVC)** to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5000 MW on pan-India basis the Coal India Ltd signed an agreement with **NLC India Ltd**.
Note: The equity participation in the proposed JVC between Coal India and NLC will be in the ratio of 50:50. This joint venture company marks a new era in the power sector, with the synergy and expertise of two central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Coal.
- ✓ **DRDO** has developed 1000 bed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID-19 Hospital in New Delhi in partnership with Tata Sons Private Limited.
Note: The facility will be providing treatment and care for the COVID-19 positive patients. Along with Tata Sons Private Limited, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID-19 Hospital is developed by DRDO. The facility is set up in the land belonging to the Indian Air Force.
- ✓ Indian Railways has setup 1.7 MWp Solar Power plant project at **Bina** to directly power the Railway Overhead Line.
Note: This project is unique because, for the first time in the world, the power generated by the solar power plant will be directly fed to the overhead power lines of the national transporter to power the traction system of the electric locomotives to run trains. The pilot project of 1.7 megawatt solar power plant has been set up by Indian Railways in collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL) on railway land.

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is going to establish a research cell at **IIT-Hyderabad** to meet the future defence technological requirements of the country.
Note: Envisaged to become a 'Centre of Excellence', it is being established as an extension of the DRDO Research and Innovation Centre (RIC), Chennai. The research cell will ensure seamless execution of different projects between both organisations as IIT-H has a strong research base in advanced technologies.
- ✓ India's rank has released "Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2020", including the SDG Index and Dashboards by Cambridge University Press -- **117th**.
Note: The index has been topped by Sweden. The report contains data on changes over time in 17 SDG indicators, the future of the SDGs amidst Covid-19, as well as calculations for trajectories until 2030. The 2020 report has reviewed the performance of 193 UN Member States out of which 166 were ranked under SDG index 2020.
- ✓ India's rank in the "INFORM Report 2020:Shared evidence for managing crises and disasters" released by research centre INFORM -- **31st**.
Note: The report ranked the countries based on "INFORM Risk Index" which has been topped by Somalia with an inform risk of 8.9. The report has analyzed 191 countries. Notably, this report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) on behalf of all INFORM Partners.
- ✓ Under chairmanship of **K S Reddy**, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has set up an 11-member expert committee to study impact of Covid-19 on human rights of individuals.
Note: The expert panel would be headed by Dr K S Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation of India. The expert committee would assess the impact of Covid-19 on human rights of people, especially marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society, including migrant laborer.
- ✓ **Ministry of Home Affairs** has set up an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate investigations related to three Nehru-Gandhi family linked trusts, including the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF).
Note:The committee would be headed by special director of the Enforcement Directorate. Congress president Sonia Gandhi is the chairperson of RGF and its board has among others former PM Manmohan Singh, Rahul Gandhi, P Chidambaram and Priyanka Gandhi.
- ✓ Asia's Largest and World's Second Largest Uptime Tier IV Designed Data Centre was inaugurated in **Navi Mumbai**.
Note: The Data Centre is named 'Yotta NM1 or NM1' is located inside the 600-Acre Hiranandani Fortune City at Navi Mumbai's Panvel region. Inside the Hiranandani Fortune City, a Data Centre Park named Panvel Data Centre Park or Integrated Yotta Data Centre Park has been developed, NM1 is located inside the Panvel Data Centre Park.
- ✓ India's rank in the Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2020 released by the US-based Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL) -- **34th**.
Note: The Index was released by the United States-based property and investment management services firm- Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL). GRETI was first released in the year 1999. This year marked the 11th edition of GRETI. A total of 163 cities and 99 countries have been covered in the 11th edition of GRETI.
- ✓ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **SEBI** to exchange data between them.
Note: The MoU will facilitate the sharing of data and information between SEBI and CBDT on an automatic and regular basis. In addition to regular exchange of data, SEBI and CBDT will also exchange with each other, on request and suo moto basis, any information available in their respective databases, for the purpose of carrying out their functions under various laws.
- ✓ What is the budget outlay of the Central Sector Scheme "Agriculture Infrastructure Fund" which was approved by the Union Cabinet -- **Rs 1 lakh crore**.
Note: The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. Loans will be disbursed in four years starting with sanction of Rs. 10,000 crore in the current year and Rs. 30,000 crore each in next three financial years.
- ✓ The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has joined hands with **Microsoft India Private Limited** company to enhance the digital skills of the country's youth.

Note: The partnership with NSDC is an extension of Microsoft's Global Skilling Initiative. Under this, the company is teaching new digital skills to 25 million people all over the world, which is needed in the coronavirus (Covid-19) economy. The integration between the two firms will give the youth a chance to redefine their skills for the digital economy.

- ✓ Under chairmanship of **Suresh Mathur**, the IRDAI has formed a 9- member working group to look into the possibility of setting up 'Pandemic Risk Pool'.

Note: Suresh Mathur, Executive Director, Irdai, will be the Chairman for the 9-member working group with industry representatives as members. Apart from studying the need for such as pool, the group will also recommend the structure and operating model.

- ✓ Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) scheme is a sub-scheme under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY)**.

Note: Under this existing vacant government-funded housing complexes across key cities will be converted into ARHCs, and offered to concessionaires for 25 years to rent out the units to urban poor and migrant workers. State and civic bodies will select concessionaire through bidding, according to guidelines issued by the housing and urban development ministry.

- ✓ **IIT Hyderabad** has tie-up with a multinational technology company, NVIDIA to establish India's 1st 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre' (NVAITC).

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

- ✓ **Ministry of Culture** released first five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur Manuscript recently.

Note: The first set of five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur published under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was recently presented to the Government of Mongolia. Mongolian Kanjur, the Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia. In the Mongolian language 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.

- ✓ **T-Hub** company has partnered with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Digital India to lead the scale up program of Digital India and Information Technology start-ups.

Note: As many as 10-15 startups with leading-edge solutions in mobility, energy, agriculture, aerospace, manufacturing, consumer, healthtech, medtech, smart cities and logistics and supply chain sectors will be shortlisted. The call for application for the program will commence in July 2020. Startups will be shortlisted from hundreds of applications after an extensive screening process.

- ✓ **Kris Gopalakrishnan** was the head of the 9-member committee to study various issues related to non-personal data that called for a new legislation to regulate such information.

Note: The committee strongly recommends that the proposed Non-Personal Data Governance Framework becomes the basis of a new legislation for regulating non-personal data. The committee was set up last year the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY).

- ✓ India's second VNR 2020 report titled "Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local" was presented by **NITI Aayog** to the UN High-level Political Forum.

Note: The HLPF is the foremost international platform for follow-up and review of progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, presented the VNR.

- ✓ BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding with **IIT Alumni Council** to encourage listing of start-ups and develop 'high investor depth' in its start-ups platform.

Note: The alliance will ensure entity transparency, improvement in governance, market discovery of share price, provide liquidity for private equity investors and enable retail participation. IIT Alumni Council is the largest global body of alumni, students and faculty across all the 23 IITs with over 100 city chapters globally.

- ✓ The Ministry of Railways is on a mission mode with the goal of transforming Indian Railways into Green Railways by **2030**.

Note: All routes on Broad Gauge (BG) network have been planned to be electrified by December Indian Railways has also taken a number of initiatives to promote solar energy. Indian Railways is working to harness the potential of 500 Mega Watt (MW) energy through rooftop Solar panels

(Developer model). Already awarded for 245 MW and target for completion of these plants is December 2022.

- ✓ India's first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely "Anji Khad Bridge" is being built by **Konkan Railway Corporation Limited**. to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

Note: India's first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely "Anji Khad Bridge" being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) is all set to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which passes through the Young Himalayas.

- ✓ India along with **Chile** and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has co-hosted the official launch of 2021 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

Note: It was called side event of 2020 High-level Political forum - "On the road to the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021: Highlighting health and nutritional benefits through sustainable production and consumption of fruits and vegetables".

- ✓ The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with public sector undertaking **Bharat Electronics Ltd.** to collaborate and support the emerging global opportunities in the airport business.

Note: As AAI will act as the development partner, it will assist BEL in its domain of expertise to enable execution of the MEA projects outside India by BEL.The MoU is likely to boost the civil aviation industry.The Organisations will work in cooperation with each other in the civil aviation sector, in present and future projects handled by BEL.

- ✓ **GMR International Airport, Hyderabad** introduced India's first ever fully contactless airport car parking.

Note: The NETC FASTag Car Park is a part of the "One Nation One Tag" - NETC FASTag programme of Indian Government.The GMR airport introduced the first ever National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) FASTag Car Park in India in November 2019.

- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited (HCG) by **Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso)**.

Note: CCI has approved acquisition under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso) is an entity which forms part of the CVC Network. The CVC Network consists of three entities which are privately owned and offers investment advice to and / or managing investments on behalf of certain investment funds as well as platforms.

- ✓ **Shripad Yesso Naik** has inaugurated the 5th edition of the conference on "Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies".

Note: Tamil Nadu Technology Development & Promotion Centre (TNTDPC) jointly organised the conference with Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

- ✓ The length of the Anji Khad Bridge' being built by Konkan Railway Corporation which will connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) -- **473.25 metres**.

Note: India's first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely "Anji Khad Bridge" being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) is all set to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which passes through the Young Himalayas.

- ✓ According to the special bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016-18, released by the Office of the Registrar General's Sample Registration System (SRS) the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India has declined to **113**.

Note: One of the key indicators of maternal mortality is the MMR, defined as the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births. The target 3.1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set by the United Nations aims to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births.

- ✓ India's largest commercial **shipbuilder Cochin Shipyard Ltd** (CSL) has signed a contract to build the world's first fully automatic electric vessel for **Norway**.

Note: The value of two ships is Rs 125 crore, the cost does not include the value for two optional ships. The vessels are designed by Naval Dynamics Norway, using Kongsberg Maritime systems, with detailed engineering to be carried out by CSL. They will be built under DNV GL Classification and flagged in Norway.

- ✓ India is developing country's first and Asia's leading trans-shipment port Vallarpadam Terminal as part of **Kochi** port of India.
Note: It is a part of the Cochin Port in Kochi, Kerala. It is located on Vallarpadam Island. The Kochi International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT), is known as the Vallarpadam
- ✓ Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET) has been accredited by NABL for Testing and Certification of PPE Kit. CIPET works under **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.
Note: The PPE kit includes Gloves, Coverall, Face Shield, Goggles and Triple Layer Medical masks in line with International Standards. It is another achievement of CIPET in the fight against COVID- 19 Pandemic and a step forward towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ✓ As per the Railway Ministry private trains are slated to run from **2023**.
Note:According to the railway ministry's projections, the transporter will select the companies that will run the private trains by April 2021.The first 12 are expected to start plying by 2023-24, followed by 45 more in FY 2024-25, the next 50 in FY 2025-26 and the last 44 by 2026-27.
- ✓ Union Environment and Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar hailed the KURMA mobile application related with **Indian Turtles**.
Note: The Mobile Application, KURMA, was launched on 23rd May this year on the occasion of World Turtle Day. The citizen science initiative aims at conservation of turtles and tortoises. The mobile application has been developed by the Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN) in collaboration with the Turtle Survival Alliance-India and Wildlife Conservation Society-India.
- ✓ An e-Portal named "Automobile Solutions Portal for Industry, Research & Education (ASPIRE)" has been launched by **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)**.
Note: The portal has been launched to improve the technological capability of Indian automotive sector with the help of exchange of knowledge & expertise, to make them self-reliant and to enable the growth of automobile sector including overall socio-economic progress of the country.
- ✓ The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII was developed in collaboration with tech giant **IBM**.
Note: The curriculum was developed in collaboration with IBM (International Business Machines Corporation). The IBM AI curriculum is a part of CBSE's Social Empowerment through Work Education and Action (SEWA) program.
- ✓ India's rank in the Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2020 - **3rd**.
Note: The annual Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report was released by the US-based property consultant Cushman & Wakefield, to rank the most suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in Europe, Americas, and the Asia-Pacific.
- ✓ Name the biopharmaceutical company that announced a global collaboration agreement with Voluntis to develop and distribute digital therapeutics supporting people with diabetes on biologics therapy -- **Biocon Biologics**.
Note: Voluntis, based out of Boston and Paris, creates digital therapeutics that allow people suffering from chronic conditions to manage their treatment on their own every day. Insulia provides automated insulin dose recommendations enabling people with diabetes to self-manage their condition and healthcare teams to remotely monitor progress.
- ✓ **RK Singh** inaugurated India's first public Electric Vehicle charging plaza in New Delhi.
Note: The EV charging plaza is a new avenue for making e-mobility ubiquitous and convenient in India. EESL is spearheading the EV ecosystem development in India by undertaking demand aggregation for procuring EVs and identifying innovative business models for implementation of Public Charging Station.
- ✓ **Manodarpan** initiative has been launched by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health.
Note: The initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, aims to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health and well-being. Named as 'MANODARPAN' the initiative is covering a wide range of activities to provide Psychosocial Support to students for their Mental Health & Well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond.
- ✓ The acquisition wing of **Ministry of Defence** has signed a contract with **Bharat Earth Movers Limited, BEML** for procurement of 1,512 Mine Plough for Tank T-90 S/SK.

Note: The contract has Buy and Make (Indian) categorisation with a minimum of 50 per cent indigenous content in make portion of the contract. These mine ploughs will be fitted on T-90 Tanks of Indian Armoured Corps which will facilitate individual mobility to Tanks while negotiating mine field.

- ✓ The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have partnered with **UNICEF** to strengthen the youth volunteers in the country to achieve Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Note: The GoI has signed a statement with YuWaah of UNICEF. It is a multi-stake holder platform formed by UNICEF. The YuWaah initiative was launched by UNICEF in India in November 2019. The initiative promotes access to foundational and 21st century skills for youth inside and outside formal education system. This includes life skills, foundational skills, flexible learning and scaling impactful delivery models.

- ✓ India began its trial trans-shipment of goods from India to the North East through **Chittagong, Bangladesh** port.

Note: India and Bangladesh signed an agreement to transit goods to north east via ports of Bangladesh. Indian transshipment goods will enjoy a stay of 28-day free-stay at the ports of Bangladesh according to international transshipment agreement.

- ✓ US based Zoom Video Communications announced to open a new technology center in **Bengaluru**.

Note: U.S.-headquartered Zoom Video Communications announced opening of a new technology center in Bengaluru, India. It selected Bangalore as the location for the centre because of the exceptional engineering and I.T. talent.

- ✓ Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant-3 has reached its criticality; the plant is located in **Gujarat**.

Note: This indigenously designed 700 MWe KAPP-3 reactor is a shining example of Make in India. The Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant began its commercial nuclear power production in 1993. In 2015, two of its units were shut down due to coolant leaks. Later, in 2018 the power plant reached partial criticality. The leaks were due to corrosion and cracks.

- ✓ Actor **Sonu Sood** has launched an application “Pravasi Rojgar” for migrant worker to find right job opportunities.

Note: The application provides all necessary information to find jobs and offer specific job training programmes. The application “Pravasi Rojgar” will act as a platform for the workers to find right job opportunities.

- ✓ **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)** published the Global Rights Index 2020 according to which India became the new entrant in the 10 worst countries for working people in the world.

Note: The others include Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Turkey and Zimbabwe. The Middle East and North Africa is the worst region in the world for working people for seven years running due to the ongoing insecurity and conflict in Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Libya coupled with the most regressive region for workers' representation and union rights.

- ✓ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has notified new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product to effective from **1st December 2020**.

Note: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has notified new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs by making an amendment in the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008 vide GSR 458 (E) dated 21st July, 2020 “The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Third Amendment Rules, 2020”. The amended Rules will be applicable w.e.f. 1st December, 2020.

- ✓ Acquisition of Krishnapatnam Port Company Limited (KPCL) by **Adani Group** has been the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Note: According to the proposed combination, Adani Ports will acquire equity shareholding along with management control of KPCL. Adani Ports is a customer-facing integrated port infrastructure services provider and manages the logistics chain.

- ✓ AIIMS **Nagpur** has designed and developed a ‘smart wristband’ for effective tracking and monitoring of Covid-19 positive and suspect patients.

Note:The new device, a wristband is designed in collaboration with IIT Jodhpur and IIT Nagpur looks to overcome the limitations of existing online mobile apps used for tracking and monitoring coronavirus patients.

- ✓ The Indian Navy's largest solar power plant has been commissioned at **Ezhimala, Kerala**.
Note: It is a 3 MW Solar Power Plant which has been set-up in line with the Indian Government's initiative of 'National Solar Mission' which aims to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022.
- ✓ IT major **Wipro** will acquire Salesforce implementation partner 4C for 68 million euros.
Note: This is the company's second acquisition since Thierry Delaporte took over as chief executive officer earlier this month. Founded in 1997, 4C is an independent Salesforce Platinum Partner and it has deep capabilities across multiple Salesforce clouds including sales, marketing and field services.
- ✓ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has entered into a partnership with **IIT, Delhi**.
for the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).
Note: Tribal entrepreneurs under TRIFED's Van Dhan Programme will now be able to get access to the expertise of the entire network of over 2,600 academic and research institutions under UBA.
- ✓ Indian Institute of Management (IIM) **Kozhikode** has developed a wearable hand band Known as the "Veli Band" that helps in maintaining social distancing.
Note: The device has been developed by Qual5 India Pvt. Ltd, a startup co-founded by a woman entrepreneur, mentored and funded by IIMKs business incubator and entrepreneurship development centre. Veli Band helps implement social distancing and location/contact tracing which can help organisations comply with social distancing norms during the current pandemic situation.
- ✓ Indian city **Hyderabad** ranked 16th among the list of top 20 cities with maximum number of CCTV surveillance cameras installed in a survey done on most surveilled cities in the world by the UK-based Comparitech.
Note: The UK-based Comparitech released the list of top 20 cities in the world which use CCTV cameras for surveillance of open places with an intent to detect and prevent crimes. According to the report, three lakh cameras were installed in Hyderabad to keep a watch on one crore people at the rate of 29.99 cameras per 1,000 people in the city.
- ✓ The **Cotton Corporation of India** decided to setup set up its own warehouse in **Vietnam** to boost cotton exports.
Note: A memorandum of understanding is being worked out to export 1.5-2 million bales of cotton to Bangladesh while the state-run CCI will also set up its own warehouse in Vietnam to boost cotton exports.
- ✓ Defence Ministers' Dialogue between India and Indonesia was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the Indian delegation while the Indonesian delegation was led by their Defence Minister General Prabowo Subianto. The dignitary is in India for strengthening the ties between the two maritime neighbors. This is in consonance with the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two sides.
- ✓ Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App "BIS-Care" has been launched using which the authenticity of ISI-marked and hallmarked products can be checked, BIS is working under **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**.
Note: The mobile app 'BIS-Care', operational in Hindi and English languages, can be operated on any Android phone. Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan also launched three portals of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on standardisation, conformity assessment and training, which consumers and stakeholders can login through www.manakonline.in.
- ✓ On the occasion of "World Hepatitis Day" the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) has organised "2nd Empathy e-Conclave" in collaboration with **Airport Authority of India (AAI)**.
Note: The conclave was held on the occasion of "World Hepatitis Day". The theme of 2nd Empathy e-Conclave is "Keep your Liver Safe in COVID times".
- ✓ As per the update report on India's Tiger Survey from 2018, released by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest number of tigers.

Note: India has 2,967 tigers, a third more than in 2014, according to results of a census made public on July 29 last year. The present survey is a more granular estimate of these numbers.

- ✓ The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed an agreement with **IIT Kanpur** to provide training, research and Entrepreneurship Development (ED) in Smart grid technology.

Note: PFC will provide support to the IIT-Kanpur to develop the infrastructure of the research and development on smart grid technology. The PFC will provide financial assistance of Rs. 2.38 crore to the IIT-K under its CSR initiative. The IIT-K provides training in smart grid technology to 90 participants

- ✓ **Ministry of Earth Sciences** has launched a Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet) under the Digital India initiative of Government of India.

Note: These KRCs will be linked with each other and integrated into the KRCNet portal. This portal would be a single point entry to the intellectual world of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). With the launch of KRCNet, MoES aims to set up a Total Quality Management (TQM) system by securing ISO certification for documenting MoES knowledge resources, its maintenance, easy retrieval and dissemination.

Important News – World

- ✓ According to the US-based news agency Associated Press, **China** has been running a number of in-human campaigns to slash the birth rates among the minority Muslim population called 'Demographic Genocide'.

Note: Experts have labeled this Campaign of China as 'Demographic Genocide'. Among the Muslim minorities in China, most belong to Uyghurs ethnic groups. The Chinese Government continues to claim that the camps set up at the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China are for offering voluntary education and training.

- ✓ **India and Japan** have conducted Naval Exercise 'PASSEX' to promote mutual understanding and for tactical and communications training.

Note: This was the 15th exercise undertaken by the navies of these two nations in the last three years. The overall content of this PASSEX was goodwill training and to promote understanding.

- ✓ **New Zealand** has cancelled the 2021 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is opting to lead a virtual summit.

Note: New Zealand cancelled the 2021 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that was scheduled to be held in Auckland, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is opting to lead a virtual summit. The 2019 leaders' meeting was cancelled by Chile due to violent anti-government protests and the virtual APEC meeting of 2020 are being hosted by Malaysia.

- ✓ **Uganda** became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Note: Uganda became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which has opened the way for potential results based payments to Uganda. The submitted documents will help Uganda to claim the funds through the Green Climate Fund's forest conservation scheme.

- ✓ **Israel** has successfully launched a new spy satellite "Ofek 16" .

Note: Ofek 16 is a small electro-optical imaging satellite, which will capture high-resolution images of the Earth for Israel's Ministry of Defence. With the launch of Ofek 1 in September 1988, Israel became the eighth country to develop its own orbital launch capability. It uses this capability exclusively for military payloads, relying on foreign rockets to carry its civilian and commercial satellites into orbit.

- ✓ **Fourth** edition of "Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)" was held virtually for the first time in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: From India, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar participated in meet. The meet was co-chaired by European Union (EU), China and Canada.

- ✓ **Sri Lanka and Maldives** became the first two countries from the South East Asia Region of WHO to have successfully eliminated both the Measles and Rubella Virus.

Note: Sri Lanka and Maldives the first two countries from the South-East Asia Region of the WHO to achieve the target. The target year set by the WHO for eliminating Rubella Virus from the South-East Asia Region is 2023.

- ✓ **Germany** become the first industrialized country to phase out of both coal and nuclear energy.
Note: This phase out is a part of Germany's "energy transition" to reduce the use of fossil fuels and to support the use of renewable resources. German closed its last coal mine in 2018 and committed to close its nuclear power plants by 2022.
- ✓ India's rank among 10 Asia-Pacific countries in the "Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control" prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)--**eighth**.
Note: The 10 Asia-Pacific countries included in this report were — Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. India records below-average scores across all three pillars in the EIU's ICP — policy and planning, care delivery, and health system and governance.
- ✓ According to Dun and Bradstreet's (D&B) Country Risk and Global Outlook Report in 2020 the global economy is likely to contract by **5.2%**.
Note: As per report, the global economy will not reach pre-pandemic levels of activity again before 2022. India's economy is expected to contract this fiscal year after four decades of positive growth. In March, 2020 D&B downgraded India's rating to DB5c from DB4d, stating the magnitude of downgrade and the risk level highest since 1994.
- ✓ **Nepal** has imposed a ban on all private Indian news channel.
Note: Except for the Indian State-owned Doordarshan's news channel DD News, Nepal based Multi-System Operators have issued a broadcasting ban on all other Indian News Channels in Nepal.
- ✓ What will be the rise in mean average global temperature in next 5 years as per the report "Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2020-24" released by the WMO -- **1.5°C**.
Note: This is because of man-made greenhouse emissions and there is a 20% chance that it will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) in at least one year between 2020-2024. Overall, it is very likely to be within the range 0.91 – 1.59°C. The 1.5 C mark is the level to which countries have agreed to try to limit global warming as per 2015 Paris accord.
- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) has formulated an independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response to evaluate the world's response to the COVID-19 -- **Helen Elizabeth Clark & Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**.
Note: The Panel will be co-chaired by former Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Elizabeth Clark and former President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. While Helen Clark served as an administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on the other hand, Ellen Sirleaf is a recipient of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. Both will choose other Panel members.
- ✓ The ADB has entered into a 5-year agreement with Qatar-based Education Above All Foundation to work jointly for project worth of **\$100 million**.
Note: It will put at least 3.2 lakh out-of-school children, including refugees and internally displaced children into quality primary education. Initially, 10 nations have been selected for projects namely- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Recently **UAE** has expressed interest to have an Open Sky Agreement with India.
Note: Open Sky Agreements are bilateral agreements that the two countries negotiate to provide rights for airlines to offer international passenger and cargo services. It expands international passenger and cargo flights. Open skies between India and UAE will allow unlimited number of flights to the selected cities of each other's countries.
- ✓ **Kuwait** has approved an Expat Quota Bill.
Note: According to the bill, Indians should not exceed 15% of the population and if it is enacted into law, over 8 lakh Indians could be forced out of Kuwait. The draft expat quota bill has been deemed constitutional and will be transferred to the respective committee so that a comprehensive plan is created. Lawmakers and government officials including the Prime Minister of Kuwait have been calling to reduce the number of expats from 70% to 30% of the population.

- ✓ World's first gold-plated hotel was unveiled in **Vietnam**.
Note: The hotel overlooks the Giang Vo Lake. It boasts of a gold-plated infinity pool on the roof. The 25-storey hotel cost approximately \$200 million to build. Rooms at Dolce start at \$250 per night.
- ✓ **Russian** Gamalei Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology's COVID-19 vaccine becomes the first in the world to successfully completed the Human Clinical Trials.
Note: The trials on volunteers were conducted from 18th June 2020 at Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University. At Sechenov University, the Director of Institute for Translational Medicine and Biotechnology has informed that the First Group of Volunteers will be released on 15th July 2020 while the Second Group of Volunteers will be released next Monday (20th July 2020).
- ✓ According to the data released by the United Kingdom, **India** has become the second largest Foreign Direct Investor in the United Kingdom (UK) after the United States in 2019.
Note: The United States of America remains as the top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of the UK, delivering 462 projects and 20,131 jobs. The List is followed by India, Germany, France, China and Hong Kong.
- ✓ **China** has launched a two-month campaign to clean up websites aimed at users under the age of 18.
Note: The campaign will be for a period of two months, mostly websites providing online learning content through live streamlining or video conferencing. They will be checked as a part of the campaign, also instant messaging tools and android applications offering entertainment, quick part-time jobs for easy money, etc will be checked.
- ✓ **Iran** drops India from Chabahar rail project, cites funding delay.
Note: Four years after India and Iran signed an agreement to construct a rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan, the Iranian government has decided to proceed with the construction on its own, citing delays from the Indian side in funding and starting the project.
- ✓ UNICEF India joined hands with **FICCI** to jointly develop UNICEF's "#Reimagine Campaign".
Note: The campaign aims to support the most vulnerable populations and children during the COVID-19 response and its after-math in India. It will also help in avoiding the potential long-term damage to business operations as well as employment pipeline.
- ✓ **China** has successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite via a Long March 3B carrier rocket.
Note: China Academy of Space Technology has developed the commercial satellite 'APSTAR-6D'. APSTAR-6D marked the 18th Rocket Launched by China in the year 2020. The APSTAR-6D satellite was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology Corp. (CASC), a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp.
- ✓ Elyes Fakhfakh resigned from the post of prime minister of **Tunisia**.
Note: His resignation has come after a campaign to oust him in a vote of no confidence gathered momentum and to avoid more conflicts between state institutions in the country. Elyes Fakhfakh was appointed prime minister of Tunisia in January 2020.
- ✓ **UNICEF** has partnered with SAP India to improve the employability skills of young people in a COVID-19 as well as post COVID-19 era.
Note: Under this initiative, UNICEF has collaborated with YuWaah (Generation Unlimited) to offer digital education as well as occupational skillset to the underserved young people of India. The UNICEF – YuWaah – SAP India partnership has a prime objective to empower young people, to utilize their creativity, problem-solving and leadership assets, to improve their own lives as well of their communities.
- ✓ Pakistan and China signed an agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project being built on **Jhelum** river of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).
Note: The first agreement, for the 1,100 MW Kohala project, was signed on June 23. That project, worth \$ 2.3 billion, too will come up on the Jhelum near Muzaffarabad. Gezhouba set up a special purpose joint venture with the Laraib Group, a Pakistani renewable energy developer.
- ✓ **Jordan** apex court dissolved the country's branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, a transnational Islamist movement.

Note: The Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1928, is a pan-Islamic movement with both charitable and political arms. It has faced years of pressure, especially in the wake of the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings and has been outlawed as a “terrorist” group in Egypt and banned in several other countries.

- ✓ The first Arab space mission dubbed as ‘HOPE Probe’ was launched by United Arab Amirate (UAE) from **Japan**.

Note: H2A, the rocket carrying the Hope Probe to space, was launched from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Japan. It is the Arab world’s first interplanetary landmark mission, putting UAE firmly ahead of all the countries in the Middle East in the area of space and technology. Hope Probe Spacecraft is expected to reach the Red Planet by February 2021, to coincide with UAE’s 50th anniversary of its formation.

- ✓ The United Nations has declared Noor Wali Mehsud associated with terrorist organization **Tehrik-e-Taliban** as a global terrorist.

Note: The UN has blacklisted Mehsud for participating in the financing, planning and perpetrating acts on behalf of and in support of entities associated with al-Qaeda.

- ✓ **India** and Maldives signed an agreement to establish “Emergency Medical Services” in Male.

Note: The Emergency Medical Service is financed by India under grant assistance of 20 million USD for neighbouring countries. This will help to increase the collaboration between the countries, especially in the areas of health care facilities, disaster responses during critical times, etc.

- ✓ Rescue package **€750 billion** has been announced by the European Union (EU) to rebuild the bloc’s economies ravaged by COVID-19.

Note: The European Commission plans to raise the money in the financial markets, rather than injecting new money into the system.

- ✓ **Saudi Arabia** hosted the G20 Digital Ministers’ Meet 2020.

Note: Union Minister of Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad attended G20 Digital Ministers’ Meet. The Saudi Arabian Presidency has selected the theme, “Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All”

- ✓ **75th** session of United Nations General Assembly is to be conducted virtually in 2020 for the first time in its history.

Note: Every year, world leaders meet at UN headquarters in New York to debate important issues of the planet. The UNGA is the main policy making body of the United Nations. It was created under Chapter IV of the UN charter. The charter was signed in San Francisco in 1945.

- ✓ **Nicaragua** has become the 87th country to join the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, an initiative led by India to promote sustainable energy.

Note: The ISA is an alliance of 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

- ✓ World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council has granted the “Observer” status to Asian country **Turkmenistan**.

Note: After receiving the observer status from WTO, Turkmenistan has become the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the trade body. Turkmenistan has become the 25th observer of the organization.

- ✓ **China** has successfully launched “Tianwen-1” its first independent mission to Mars.

Note: China had launched an orbiter destined for Mars on a Russian rocket in 2011, but the mission failed because the rocket malfunctioned. Tianwen-1, whose name means “Questions to Heaven,” is a combined orbiter, lander and rover that aims to explore the Martian environment and search for hints of life.

- ✓ India handed over 10 Railway Locomotives to **Bangladesh** to bolster its Neighborhood First Policy.

Note: India had committed to Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina during her visit to India to provide broad gauge diesel locomotives to the country. The handing over event was conducted virtually and was attended by Indian External Affairs Minister S Jai Shankar, Railways Minister Piyush Goyal and their Bangladeshi counter parts.

- ✓ The **World Wildlife Crime Report 2020** is published by **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** organization that says that India and Thailand are the main source of (82%) of illegal shipment of tiger body parts.

Note: According to the report Thailand and India are the main source countries for shipments seized in international trade of tiger parts. The report says that India and Thailand source 82% of illegal shipment of tiger body parts. The tiger body parts have great medicinal values. The medicines made of bones of the tiger are used to heal ligament injuries, joint and bone fractures.

- ✓ Kali temple (300 years-old) is being reconstructed in **Bangladesh** with the support of India.
Note: The reconstruction is happening with Indian grant assistance of Bangladeshi Taka 97 lakhs and a total cost of Bangladeshi Taka of 1.33 Crores under the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) scheme of India.
- ✓ **Delhi** government has launched a free website 'Rozgaar Bazaar 2020', that will connect the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform.
Note: The portal connects the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform. The aim of the portal is to boost the economy and employment in Delhi. In this website, the employers and companies can post their jobs and vacancies.
- ✓ Under the aegis of International Solar Alliance (ISA) NTPC Ltd planned to establish solar power plants in **Sri Lanka**.
Note: The Ceylon Electricity Board(CEB) has an installed power generation capacity of around 35.8 GigaWatts(GW).The NTPC's Sri Lanka Solar park with installed capacity of 62.91 GW is one of the contracts to help the ISA member countries to build a 10 GW solar capacity.
- ✓ **Zimbabwe** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
Note: The objective of the MoU is to promote traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy between two nations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.
- ✓ The polycarbonate facility of SABIC in **Spain** is set to become the world's first large scale chemical production plant which will run entirely on renewable energy.
Note: Once the solar plant is operational, SABIC's customers including the ones from automotive and constructive sectors will have access to polycarbonate solutions produced with 100 per cent renewable power.

Important News: Economy

- ✓ **World Bank** has approved a USD 750 million Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Emergency Response Program to support severely impacted MSMEs in India due to COVID-19 crisis.
Note: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will provide the loan. The World Bank's MSME Emergency Response program will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of around 1.5 million applicable MSMEs.
- ✓ Fitch Ratings Inc in its 'Global Economic Outlook (GEO)', has lowered India's growth forecast for FY 2021-22 to **8 per cent**.
Note: However, Fitch has not made any change in its previous estimate of a 5% decline in the economy during the current financial year (FY 2020-21). Fitch has also predicted growth in the global economy at 4.9 % in 2021& in 2022 it is estimated to be 3.4 %.
- ✓ Care Ratings has forecasted Indian economy in the financial year 2020-21 to contract by **6.4 per cent**.
Note: The rating agency has slashed the GDP growth rate of Indian economy citing continued restrictions in the economic activities due to the lockdown on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also expects that the positive growth will come from only agriculture and the government sector.
- ✓ **SAP India** has launched the Global Bharat program, designed to enable Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) become globally competitive by equipping them with digital technologies.
Note: A subsidiary of Germany based enterprise technology firm in partnership with NASSCOM foundation United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Pratham InfoTech Foundation, has rolled out Global Bharat program.It is to equip micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by providing them access to global marketplace, digital skilling for the workforce and transforming business processes.

- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** has joined the Paris based Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as an observer.
Note: The NGFS is a global forum that brings together central banks and supervisors committed to understanding and managing the financial risks and opportunities associated with climate change. ADB now joins the ranks of the World Bank (WB), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as NGFS observers.
- ✓ **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** has released USD 50 million in the first tranche of assistance to L&T Infrastructure Finance Ltd (LTIF), to fund renewable Energy Projects in India.
Note: The released amount is part of a sanctioned USD 100 million External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) loan. This is the 1st loan of AIIB to a non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India. The objective of the project is to enhance the supply of renewable energy in India by mobilizing private capital.
- ✓ As per the Reserve Bank of India data Indian state **Tamil Nadu** is at the top in market borrowings in the fiscal 2020-21(FY 21).
Note: TN, which has accounted for 17% of the borrowings done through the issue of bonds (known as state development loans), has been followed by Maharashtra ₹25,500 crore (14%), Andhra Pradesh ₹17,000 crore (9%), Rajasthan ₹17,000 crore (9%).
- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** has renewed its 3-year MoU signed in 2017 with the Paris based International Energy Agency (IEA) for promoting advance clean energy development in the developing member countries.
Note: ADB signed the MoU with International Organization-IEA back in March 2017 for promoting advance clean energy development in the developing member countries under the ADB. The purpose of the MoU was to overcome the critical experience and knowledge gaps that were blocking the development of sustainable forms of energy in the developing economies under the ADB.
- ✓ As per the data from the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, **USA** remains as the top trading partner of India during the Financial Year 2019-20.
Note: This is the second consecutive Financial Year that the United States has become the top trading partner of India (in Financial Year 2018-19 United States surpassed the People's Republic of China to become the top trading partner of India), indicating the continuously increasing economic ties between both the countries.
- ✓ As per the Industry body FICCI what will be the country's annual median GDP growth for FY 2020-21 -- **- 4.5 per cent.**
Note: Industry body Ficci on Sunday said its Economic Outlook Survey has projected the country's annual median GDP growth for 2020-21 at (-) 4.5 per cent. With the rapid spread of COVID-19 pandemic manifesting into an economic and healthcare crisis globally, the latest forecast marks a sharp downward revision from the growth estimate of 5.5 per cent reported in the January 2020 survey.
- ✓ Technology giant google announced to invest **Rs 75,000 crore** in India over the next five to seven years with a focus on digitizing the economy and building India-first products and services.
Note: Firstly, the Rs 75,000 crore investment will focus on help in enabling affordable access and information to every Indian irrespective of the language. Secondly, India's unique needs to be met by products and services. The huge investment will also help local businesses to move towards digital transformation. Also, it will work towards using Artificial Integellince (AI) in areas like health, education, etc.
- ✓ **In Andaman and Nicobar Islands** NABARD has launched development projects of Rs 44 lakhs to strengthen the Atmanirbhar Bharat through rural entrepreneurship.
Note: The development projects include formation and development of Self-Help Groups(SHG). The development project will help in skill development of SHGs members to promote rural entrepreneurship at the micro level. NABARD will conduct 385 village-level programmes. It will also provide training to leaders of newly formed SHGs with an amount of more than RS 10 lakh.
- ✓ Domestic rating agency ICRA has revised its forecast for contraction in the country's GDP in the current fiscal to **9.5 per cent** from 5 per cent.

Note: Most of the analysts have projected the country's GDP to contract in the range of 5-6.5 per cent in this fiscal. It said the country's economy may have contracted by a sharp 25 per cent in the first quarter of FY21, and expects a shallow recovery in the subsequent quarters, with a contraction of 12.4 per cent in the second quarter of FY21 and a milder 2.3 per cent in the third quarter, followed by a growth of 1.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of FY21.

- ✓ In the new World Bank country classifications by income level 2020-2021, India remains in the classification of **Lower Middle-income economy**.

Note: According to the New World Bank country classifications by income level 2020-2021, India remains in the classification, Lower-Middle-Income Economy. In total 218 countries have been included in this classification. The World Bank classifies countries into four income groups namely: low income, lower-middle income, upper-middle income, and high-income economies.

- ✓ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) would lend \$250 million to **Pakistan** to help the country deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: The project will be co-financed by the World Bank and will bolster a Pakistan government programme to strengthen health infrastructure, social safety nets, investment in human capital and economic growth. The AIIB has previously approved a loan of \$500 million for Pakistan's response to COVID-19. Both loans are part of the AIIB's \$10 billion funding facility to help public and private sectors fight the outbreak.

- ✓ Amount of rescue package has been announced by the European Union (EU) to rebuild the bloc's economies ravaged by COVID-19 -- **€750 billion**.

Note: The European Commission plans to raise the money in the financial markets, rather than injecting new money into the system. Approximately half the funds required (€390 billion euros) will be granted to the hardest hit EU states, while the rest will be provided as loans, to be repaid by 2058.

- ✓ **Airtel Payments Bank** partnered with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to train and skill young people in rural areas on financial services.

Note: The collaboration has an objective to design & conduct focused skill development programs for rural youth and enabling them to adopt the tools to boost online banking and digital financial services. After the completion of skill development programmes, both the organizations will leverage their industry connections to help the trainees find jobs.

- ✓ As per the Financial Stability Report, July 2020 released the Reserve Bank of India what will be the Gross Nonperforming Assets (GNPA) ratio of all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) by March 2021 -- **12.5 per cent**.

Note: The central bank warned that the Gross Nonperforming Assets (GNPA) ratio of all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) may increase from 8.5 per cent in March 2020 to 12.5 per cent by March 2021. The report further said that if the macroeconomic environment worsens further, the GNPA ratio may escalate to 14.7 per cent under very severe stress.

- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** has agreed to partner with Green Climate Fund (GCF) toward a 'green recovery' for members confronting the harsh economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: This collaboration focuses on enhancing the steps to reduce the carbon emission and for climate-resilient development in Asia-Pacific. ADB has offered a support package of USD 20 billion for COVID-19. Under Strategy 2030, ADB will ensure that 75% of its committed projects will support climate change mitigation and adaptation by 2030.

- ✓ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India announced a special resolution framework for **MSMEs**.

Note: The Government of India has already suspended several provisions of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to tackle COVID-19 crisis. It includes exemption of COVID-19 related debts. The GoI also passed the IBC (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 to prevent companies from being pushed into insolvency. The Sections 7, 9, and 10 of the IBC were suspended.

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed an agreement with **Sri Lanka** for extending a \$400-million currency swap facility till November 2020.

Note: This currency swap is used to boost the foreign reserves and ensure the financial stability of the country, which is badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The currency swap arrangement will remain available till November 2022.

- ✓ What per cent of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been decided by the union government in defence sector -- **74 per cent.**
Note: The second draft of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020, now renamed as the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, was put out in public domain for comments from stakeholders and public.
- ✓ The Central Government in collaboration with **World Bank** has decided to convert the area of ravines in the region of Gwalior-Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh into cultivable land.
Note: Around 3 lakh hectares land of this region are non-cultivable, this conversion will improve and support the integrated development of the Bihad area in the region of Gwalior-Chambal. In addition to the agricultural and environmental development this project will also create employment opportunities and will support the substantive development of this region.
- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** has approved USD 3 million (Rs 22 crore) grant to India from the **Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund** to support India's battle against COVID-19.
Note: The grant is financed by the Japanese government. It will be used to seek thermal scanners, enhancement of disease surveillance and early detection, contact tracing, and treatment. COVID-19 pandemic response option (CPRO) was established to provide assistance to the member countries' pandemic response.

Awards and Honors

- ✓ **Raghuram Rajan** has been conferred with the first Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award in Official Statistics for lifetime achievements.
Note: He received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution in providing solutions in the issues related to the estimation of national income. The award has been instituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) from 2020
- ✓ **Ravindra Jadeja** has been named as the India's 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) of the 21st century by Wisden.
Note: He made his debut in 2009 and represented India in 49 test matches, 165 ODIs and 49 T20Is as of 2020. Jadeja's MVP rating is around 97.3 which is second only to Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka making him the second most Valuable Test Player of the 21st Century.
- ✓ Name the Indian-American who were listed among the 38 immigrants to be honoured as the '2020 Great Immigrants' by the Carnegie Corporation -- **Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee and Prof Raj Chetty.**
Note: The noted biologist, oncologist and the author Siddhartha Mukherjee was awarded Pulitzer Prize in 2011 for his book: The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer. Raj Chetty was chosen as the recipient for the award for his efforts in launching a real-time economic impact monitor of COVID-19.
- ✓ Government announced to release commemorative stamp to honour **PV Narasimha Rao.**
Note: PV Narasimha Rao served as 9th prime minister from 1991 to 1996. He is the only non-Gandhi who completed a full term as prime minister. He was also the 1st prime minister of the country to hail from South India. His 100th birth anniversary was celebrated on June 28, 2020.
- ✓ Mon District of **Nagaland** state received 2020 SKOCH awards under three categories in the 65th SKOCH summit 2020.
Note: The SKOCH Crucible Award for its focus on mission mode implementation of opening bank accounts through the Indian post Payment Bank (IBBP). SKOCH Order of Merit for its quick and innovative response to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and its initiative to home deliver the essentials to assist the citizens.
- ✓ A new category of awards titled 'Prerak Dauur Samman' has been announced as a part of **Swachh Survekshan 2021.**
Note: The Prerak Dauur Samman has a total of five additional subcategories namely, Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze) and Aarohi (Aspiring). In Swachh Survekshan 2020, cities are evaluated on the criteria of 'population category' but for 2021, they will be categorised on the basis of six select indicator wise performance criteria
- ✓ **Freya Thakral** has received the 2020 Diana Award for her "Recycler App".

Note: She developed this App to connect users with waste-handlers as a measure to help the ragpickers of Delhi. Her recycler App is a web-based mobile application which connects the users with waste handlers.

- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** state's Darpan Portal and Mobile app, which contains the details of the schemes of the government received the Elites Excellence Awards 2020 by the IT institution Elites Technomedia under the Digital India Initiative.

Note: The e-certificate was presented during the three-day virtual conference from 10th July to 12th July organised to encourage innovation in the IT Sector of the Government. The conference was inaugurated on 10th July 2020 by Nitin Gadgari, Union Minister of MSME.

- ✓ **Sachin Awasthi** has been honoured with the "Top Publicist" award in the Global Humanitarian Awards 2020 held as a webinar over a virtual platform in London.

Note: The Global Humanitarian Award 2020 is instituted as a part of the Honoring the Honorable initiative of the World Humanitarian Drive (WHD). The award is to honour the popular men and women who contribute to the betterment of the society and the world.

- ✓ **NTPC Limited** has won the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019, under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category.

Note: The company has also received Commendation for Significant Achievement in the category of CSR. CII-ITC Sustainability Awards recognize and reward excellence in sustainability practices. It is considered to be the most credible platform for sustainability recognition in the country.

- ✓ **Kezang D Thongdok** has won the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2020.

Note: Kezang D Thongdok won the 2020 Dada Saheb Phalke Award for his documentary "Chi Lupo". The documentary Chi Lupo portrays the customs and practices of the Shertukpen community.

- ✓ **Edappadi K Palaniswami** has been honored with Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

Note: The recognition is in the honor of Rotary founder, Paul Harris who contributed to The Rotary Foundation. The Paul Harris Fellow recognition is conferred to honour the efficient service of people who provide drinking water, sanitation, prevention of diseases, environment, world peace etc. to its people.

- ✓ **Ashok Kumar** has been honoured with the Lifetime achievement award by the football club – Mohun Bagan Athletic Club.

Note: The Club decided not to celebrate any physical programme for 2020 Mohun Bagan Day on 29th July 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. The awards will be personally presented to the awardees available in Kolkata and for the other awardees the award will be handed after the pandemic.

- ✓ Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index as the world's richest man -- 6th

Note: Larry Page is ranked in 7th position with a net worth of USD 71.6 billion, Sergey Brin in 9th position(USD 69.4B) and Elon Musk in 10th position(USD 68.6 billion). Warren Buffett is ranked in 8th position with a networth of USD 69.7B, after he gave away USD 2.9 billion to charity.

- ✓ **Parkash Dudeja** has been awarded with coveted 'Infra Business Leader of the Year' award for 2020.

Note: He is the vice chairman of Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA). He has been awarded for his contribution towards the infrastructure development.

- ✓ **N Chandrasekaran** has been awarded the 2020 USIBC Global Leadership Award along with Lockheed Martin CEO Jim Taiclet.

Note: Every year, the USIBC Global Leadership Awards are conferred upon executives in recognition of outstanding leadership and for promoting Indo-US trade and business. The earlier receivers of this award include Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Google CEO Adena Friedman, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, and Sun Pharmaceuticals Founder and Managing Director Dilip Shanghvi.

- ✓ **Amal Clooney** has been awarded with the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award 2020.

Note: In recognition of her tremendous efforts towards the freedom of press, CPJ is awarding Clooney the highly prestigious award. She has been a strong supporter of CPJ's advocacy in recent years and has taken up the call for governments to provide emergency visas to journalists

in distress. She is currently representing Maria Ressa, CPJ's 2018 Gwen Ifill award winner, who has been convicted of cyber libel, a criminal offense, in the Philippines.

- ✓ **Greta Thunberg** has been awarded with the 'Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2020'.
Note: The Climate Activist is to donate the prize money to organizations focused on environment and climate change. Miss Thunberg is the first person to receive the prize. She was selected among 136 nominees from 43 countries.
- ✓ **Arnab Chaudhuri** has been conferred with 'Legend of Animation' award instituted by the Toonz Media Group (TMG) as part of the Animation Masters Summit (AMS) 2020.
Note: The award is being presented for his invaluable contribution to the animation and entertainment industry of India.

Important News - Sports

- ✓ **Kiren Rijju** has launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app named as "NADA App".
Note: The recently launched mobile application aims to bridge the gap between NADA and the athletes by offering easily accessible information on various aspects of sport, prohibited substances as well as dope-testing.
- ✓ **G. Akash** has become the country's 66th Grandmaster.
Note: Akash got his third GM norm in the National senior chess championship in Majhitar (Sikkim) last year, but his rating fell short of the required Elo mark of 2500. He played another five tournaments across the world to reach that rating. He attained his final norm in Bad Worishofen (Germany) in March.
- ✓ **Quinton de Kock** was named the men's 'cricketer of the year' at Cricket South Africa's (CSA) annual awards ceremony.
Note: The 27-year-old also bagged the Test cricketer of the year while young opener Laura Wolvaardt took home the women's cricketer of the year and ODI cricketer of the year awards. Pacer Lungi Ngidi was named ODI and T20 player of the year while David Miller was voted the fans' favourite player.
- ✓ **Valtteri Bottas** has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2020.
Note: Austrian Grand Prix 2020 was the first race of 2020 Formula One season. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished second while McLaren's Lando Norris came third. Another Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton being handed a 5 second penalty that dropped him from second place to fourth. The event was held at the Red Bull Ring without spectators
- ✓ **China's** two-times Olympic badminton champion Lin Dan announced his retirement.
Note: During his 20-year glorious national team career, he won the Olympics singles titles in Beijing in 2008 and the 2012 London Games.
- ✓ **Valtteri Bottas** has won the Formula One's season opening Austrian Grand Prix 2020.
Note: Austrian Grand Prix 2020 was the first race of 2020 Formula One season. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished second while McLaren's Lando Norris came third. Another Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton being handed a 5 second penalty that dropped him from second place to fourth.
- ✓ Egyptian Raneem El Welily is associated with **Squash** announced her retirement recently.
Note: Nouran Gohar of Egypt claims the No.1 ranking after the retirement of Welily. Raneem El Welily became the top- ranking squash player in 2015 and became the 1st Arab woman to secure the world's top ranking in any sport.
- ✓ Joshna Chinappa is associated with **Squash** sports who secured 10th position in World Women's Ranking 2020.
Note: She first entered the top 10 list in 2016 second to Dipika Pallikal, the other Indian woman squash player to enter the top 10 ranking. Saurav Ghosal, India's top male squash player, remains in the 13th position in the latest Professional Squash Association (PSA) ranking.
- ✓ **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Styrian Grand Prix 2020 at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria.
Note: Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) finished second while Max Verstappen (Red Bull-Belgium) was third. It was the second race of the 2020 Formula One World Championship and the first running of the Styrian Grand Prix.
- ✓ Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has announced to postpone the Asia Cup cricket tournament until **June 2021**.

Note: The tournament was earlier scheduled to be held in September 2020. India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament and is the defending champions, having won the last two tournaments.

- ✓ Mile Jedinak is associated with **soccer** sports who has announced his retirement.
Note: Former Soccerooos captain Mile Jedinak has announced his retirement from the sport. Soccerooos is the official nickname of the Australia national soccer team that represents Australia in international men's soccer.
- ✓ Australian sportsperson Mile Jedinak is associated with **Soccer** sports who has announced his retirement.
Note: He has played in 2010, 2014, 2018 FIFA World Cups. Mile captained the Soccerooos' to win the 2015 Asian cup in his own country. He has represented many clubs in his career.
- ✓ The International Olympic Committee has postponed the Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games to year **2026** due to COVID 19 Pandemic.
Note: The postponement of Dakar 2022 allows the IOC, the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the International Federations (IFs) to better plan their activities, which have been strongly affected by the postponement of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020
- ✓ Sports person **Marcus Rashford** becomes the youngest ever recipient of an honorary degree from The University of Manchester is associated with **Football**.
Note: He will receive the degree in recognition of his achievements as a footballer and as a passionate campaigner against child poverty. He will follow in the footsteps of Manchester United legends Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Bobby Charlton by receiving an honorary doctorate.
- ✓ **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Formula-1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 at Hungaroring, Mogyoród, Hungary.
Note: Lewis Hamilton won the Formula-1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 at Hungaroring, Mogyoród, Hungary. Max Verstappen (Dutch-Red Bull) was second, followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes- Finland) at the third spot. Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 was the third race of the 2020 Formula One World Championship.
- ✓ World cup winner famous footballer **Andre Schurrle** has announced retirement from the sport held from **Germany**.
Note: He helped his country to win the 2014 FIFA World Cup. He represented Germany in 57 matches, scoring 22 goals. He also played for Chelsea from 2013-15 and also won a Premier League winners medal in 2015.
- ✓ **Fabio Quartararo** has won the Moto Grand Prix 2020.
Note: Quartararo, 21, who rides for the Yamaha satellite outfit, had started on pole position and his main threat was removed when reigning world champion Marquez crashed out on lap 20.
- ✓ Football Club **Real Madrid** has been crowned with the La Liga Champions for the 34th time after defeating Villarreal 2-1 at Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano.
Note: Karim Benzema was the leading scorer for a 2-1 victory against Villarreal. Real Madrid, who are standing at the top spot with 26 wins from 37 matches, will lock horns with Leganes in their last game of the 2019-2020 La Liga season on July 20. Last time the team won the title in 2017.
- ✓ Due to COVID-19 the ICC Men's T20 World Cup has formally been postponed to **2022**.
Note: Besides rescheduling the T20 World Cup to October-November, 2022 the ICC Board also decided to push the 2023 ODI World Cup in India to October-November 2023 from its designated window in February-March, 2023
- ✓ India's 2018 Asian Games mixed relay medal upgraded to gold after disqualification of **Bahrain**.
Note: The medal was upgraded to gold following the disqualification of Bahrain squad that finished first in the 4×400 mixed relay final. The Bahrain squad was disqualified as Kemi Adekoya of Bahrain has been handed a 4-year ban by the Athletics Integrity Unit for failing a dope test.
- ✓ **Haryana** state will host 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.
Note: The announcement was made by the state's chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union sports minister Kiren Rijiju via video conference. The Games will be held in Panchkula. Haryana has done well in all three editions of KIYG. While they came second in both 2019 and 2020

editions (200 medals in 2020 and 159 medals in 2019) Haryana won it in 2018 with 102 podium finishes (38 gold, 26 silver, 38 bronze).

- ✓ **Jamie Vardy** has won the Premier Leagues Golden Boot award after netting 23 goals across the 2019/20 season.
Note: He beat Arsenal striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (22 goals), Southampton Danny Ings (22 goals), and Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling (20 goals) to scoop the prestigious individual award.
- ✓ Bangladesh bowler **Kazi Anik Islam** has been banned for two years by the national cricket board for failing a dope test in 2018.
Note: Bangladeshi pacer, Kazi Anik Islam has been handed a 2-year ban by the national cricket board for failing a dope test in 2018. Kazi, who was Bangladesh's leading wicket-taker in the 2018 U-19 World Cup, tested positive for Methamphetamine, a prohibited substance, during a National Cricket League game in the same year. The 21-year-old admitted to the offence. His two-year ban began on February 8, 2019.
- ✓ **Mohun Bagan** became the country's first-ever football club to feature on NASDAQ billboards in New York's Times Square.
Note: The billboard announcing "131 years of unmatched legacy" of the club also reminded fans about the, "time to start believing, again," in an obvious reference to Mohun Bagan's recent amalgamation with the ISL champion ATK.
- ✓ Rajat Bhatia associated with **Cricket** sports has announced his retirement.
Note: He started his career with Tamil Nadu in 1999-2000 but played most of his cricket for Delhi. Bhatia played 112 first-class games, scoring 6482 runs at an average of 49.10 and taking 137 wickets at a shade under 28. He also played 119 List A games and 146 T20s.

Personalities in News

- ✓ **Shyam Srinivasan** has been appointed as the managing Director and Chief Executive officer of Federal Bank Limited.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) approved the reappointment of Shyam Srinivasan as the managing Director and Chief Executive officer of Federal bank Limited with effect from September 23, 2020. In June 2020, RBI proposed to limit the tenure of the CEO's and Whole Time Directors (WTDs) from the promoter and non-promoter groups to 10 years and 15 years respectively. The RBI also proposed to limit the upper age limit of the CEOs and WTDs of the Banks to 70 years.
- ✓ Gudni Johannesson was re-elected as president of **Iceland**.
Note: In 2016, Gudni became the youngest president of Iceland since Independence in 1944. He enjoyed a solid support from 76 to 86 percent throughout his first term. Iceland is the Second European country to hold polls during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- ✓ **Indra Mani Pandey** has been appointed as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland.
Note: He will represent India in more than 25 important organisation of the UN in Geneva including World Health Organization (WHO) and therefore the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). India was appointed as the chair of the executive committee of the WHO in 2020 at the World health assembly.
- ✓ **Ravinder Bhakar** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC).
Note: He is a 1999 batch officer of Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS). He will replace Anurag Srivastava. Prior to this, Bhakar was posted as the Secretary & Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railways. He also served as an Indian Engineering Services officer.
- ✓ **Sanjay Dwivedi** has been appointed as the as the Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC).
Note: He is presently serving as the Registrar of Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal. K.S. Dhatwalia, Principal Director General in the Press Information Bureau, is presently holding the additional charge of the post of Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC).

- ✓ **Srikant Madhav Vaidya** has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

Note: Vaidya will also be the chairman of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd, a stand-alone refining subsidiary of IOC, and Indian Oiltanking Ltd, a joint venture providing terminalling services. He will also take over as the head of Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd and also be a director on the board of Petronet LNG Ltd. He has had a decade-long association with India's largest cracker plant—the Panipat Naphtha Cracker Complex.

- ✓ As per the votes during referendum in Russia the President Vladimir Putin can lead the Russia until **2036**.

Note: As per the votes during the Referendum, 77.95 percent of Russian citizens have voted in support of the Amendments to the 1993 Constitution of Russia. Only 21.23 percent of the Russian Citizens voted against the Amendments.

- ✓ **V Suryanarayanan** has been appointed as the New **Managing Director** (MD) of Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company.

Note: Suryanarayanan was a Chartered Accountant and Company Secretary served in financial services sector of the Murugappa Group for the past 24 years. Suryanarayanan served in Cholamandalam Investments and Finance for 10 years and moved to Chola MS as the CFO in 2006 and became the President and COO in April 2019.

- ✓ Jean Castex has been appointed as prime minister of **France**.

Note: He is known for his role in drafting the strategy to lift lockdown measures in the country in the French Media. He is known as Mr Deconfinement of French Media.

- ✓ **Injeti Srinivas** has been appointed as the 1st chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for a period of three years.

Note: Besides the Chairman, IFSCA has a member each nominated from RBI, IRDAI, SEBI and PFRDA. There are also two members from the Central Government and full-time or part-time members in the Authority. The IFSCA was recently established by the finance ministry on April 27 as the unified authority to regulate all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in the country.

- ✓ **G. Srinivasan** has been appointed as the chairman of the nine-member working Group (WG) set up by IRDAI to study the suitability of insurers offering surety bonds for contractors.

- ✓ **Injeti Srinivas** has been appointed as the first chairman of the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) for a 3 years term.

Note: IFSCA regulates all financial services in international financial services centres (IFSCs) in Gandhinagar. In addition to the chairman, IFSCA has other members who have been nominated from the RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA and two members from the Centre. Injeti Srinivas is a 1983 batch IAS officer from the Odisha cadre

- ✓ **Jayant Krishna** has been appointed as the first India based Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UKIBC.

Note: He will assume office from 3rd August 2020 succeeding the current CEO Richard Heald. Richard Heald will take charge as the chairman of the Group from 1st September 2020 succeeding Lord Davies of Abersoch, the current Chair. Lord Davies of Abersoch will assume the position of President of UKIBC's new Senior Leadership Council.

- ✓ **Sukhbir Singh** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Luxury Ride the multi-brand luxury car showrooms.

Note: He will soon be seen in a full-fledged marketing campaign besides being leveraged across its upcoming brand and product communication initiatives. Luxury Rides is a chain of pre-owned, multi-brand luxury car showrooms. Its pre-owned luxury car portfolio includes Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, Volvo, Jaguar, Land Rover, Mini Cooper, and others.

- ✓ The term of Rajkiran Rai as Managing Director and **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of **Union Bank of India**

has been extended for two years.

Note: Rai was appointed as the managing director of Union Bank on July 1, 2017, for a period of 3 years until June 30, 2020. The extension of Rai's tenure implies to facilitate the merger properly. The merged entity is now India's fifth-largest public sector bank.

- ✓ **Priyanka Chopra** has been appointed as the ambassador for Toronto IFF.

Note: She joined the list of 50 celebrated filmmakers and actors who are invited as the ambassadors of the TIFFF. The esteemed film festival will be opting for digital screenings and virtual red carpets in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The festival is scheduled to kick off from September 10 to September 19, 2020.

✓ The Incumbent President of **Poland**, Andrzej Duda has secured a victory in the 2020 Presidential Election.

Note: Andrzej Duda has secured 1,04,13,094 (1 crore 4 lakh 13 thousand 94 votes) votes in the Second Round of the Election to cross the majority figure marginally with 51.21 percent of the total valid votes. Duda's opponent Rafal Trzaskowski secured 99,21,219 (99 lakh 21 thousand 219 votes) to finish at second place with 48.79 percent of the total valid votes. Andrzej Duda's current term will expire on 6th August 2020, with this win, he will continue as the President of Poland for another five-year term.

✓ **Gyanendro Ningombam** has been appointed as the new President of Hockey India.

Note: He will replace Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad. This was following the resignation letter of Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad received by Hockey India on 7 July 2020 due to his personal and family commitments.

✓ **Hemang Amin** has been appointed as the interim chief executive officer (CEO) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Note: He will replace Rahul Johri who recently resigned as the chief executive officer (CEO) of BCCI and his resignation was accepted by the BCCI office-bearers. Hemang Amin is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Indian Premier League. He joined the IPL operations team in June 2010 and was appointed as the COO of IPL in 2015.

✓ **Ashok Lavasa** has been appointed as the vice president of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Note: Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa has been appointed as vice president of the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB). Lavasa still has over two years left in his term at the Election Commission of India. He would have retired as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in October 2022.

✓ **Brett Lee** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of SportsAdda, the news and information website for Cricket, Football and Kabaddi.

Note: As the brand ambassador of SportsAdda, Lee conducts activities like quizzes, bowling masterclasses, Q&A's and giveaways featured exclusively on the SportsAdda's app, social media and website.

✓ **Chandrikapersad "Chan" Santokhi** has been elected as the President of Suriname.

Note: Santokhi won Desi Bouterse, former military strongman of National Party of Suriname (NPS) in the general elections held in May. He was born in Suriname, a former dutch colony, and studies in Police academy, Netherlands. He was a police inspector in Suriname from 1991 and was named chief of Police.

✓ Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda has been appointed as the first woman prime minister of **Gabon**.

Note: Prior to holding this position, Ossouka Raponda served as Defence Minister since February 2019. Her appointment is the fourth cabinet reshuffle by the President of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba since January 2019.

✓ **Ashwini Kumar Tewari** has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Card.

Note: The new appointment will be valid for two years and his appointment will come into effect from August 1, 2020. He was nominated by parent State Bank of India for the position. Tewari's appointment is followed by the resignation of present MD & CEO, Hardayal Prasad who decided to quit from the directorship of the company owing to his voluntary retirement from the State Bank of India.

✓ **Aditya Puri** has become the highest-paid banker for FY20 with Rs.18.92 cr in remuneration.

Note: HDFC Bank Managing Director Aditya Puri has emerged as the highest paid banker among the top lenders for FY 2019-20, with a 38 per cent jump in salary and prerequisites to Rs.18.92 crore.

✓ **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** has been appointed as the new Chairman of IT company, HCL Technologies.

Note: The appointment of non-executive director Roshni Nadar Malhotra to the new role takes effect immediately. She will replace her father, Shiv Nadar. Shiv Nadar will continue to be HCL Tech's managing director, with the designation as the chief strategy officer.

✓ **Sahil Seth** has been appointed as the honorary adviser of steering committee for BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI).

Note: The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a parent organization that promotes commerce and industry in BRICS. It was founded in 2012. The main objective of the BRICS CCI is to create support system to MSME segment. The BRICS CCI mainly aims to reach out young entrepreneurs. It proposes to champion their business and act as voice of young entrepreneurs.

✓ **Arun Kumar** has been nominated as the Vice-Chairman of the International Union of Railways (UIC).

Note: The decision was taken at the UIC General Assembly. The International Union of Railways is also called Union Internationale Des Chemins (UIC).The headquarters of UIC is in Paris.

✓ **Prakash Chandra Kandpal** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Non-life insurer SBI General Insurance.

Note: He is serving as the deputy CEO of SBI General Insurance since June 2019. He will replace Pushan Mahapatra who has been appointed as director.

✓ **Sumit Deb** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).

Note: Deb is presently serving as Director (Personnel) in the NMDC. His tenure as the CMD of NMDC would be applicable till 28 February, 2023. He will succeed N Bajendra Kumar as the CMD of NMDC who will retire as CMD on 31st July 2020.

✓ **R Narayanaswamy** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

Note: The committee consists of 7 members including the chairman. The members of the committee will support and provide insights to the Executive body of the NFRA on the issues related to the drafts of the accounting and auditing standards.

✓ **Ramesh Babu Boddu** has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Karur Vysya Bank (KVB).

Note: His three-year appointment is effective from the date of taking charge, on the terms and conditions approved by the Reserve Bank of India.He retired as Deputy Managing Director in State Bank of India in April 2020.

✓ **Kulmeet Bawa** has been appointed as the President and Managing Director of Systems, Applications & Products in Data Processing (SAP) for Indian Subcontinent.

Note: Kulmeet will be responsible for driving and delivering an exceptional SAP experience for employees and customers across our ecosystem, as well as guide businesses in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to adopt a digital-first mindset. Kulmeet will report directly to Scott Russell, President of SAP Asia Pacific Japan.

✓ **Alok Misra** has been appointed as the Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN).

Note: The appointment will be effective from 1st August 2020. Dr Misra takes over from the present CEO, Harsh Shrivastava, who has put down his papers after spending over 2 years at MFIN. Dr. Alok Misra has around 28 years of professional experience in international development, rural finance, microfinance, inclusive finance and research at both policy and implementation level.

✓ **Riva Ganguly** has been appointed as the secretary of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI.

Note: Ms. Das who is an Indian Foreign Service officer of 1986 batch will succeed Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh after her retirement on 30th September this year.

✓ **Partha Pratim Sengupta** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank.

Note: His appointment will be up to date of attaining the age of superannuation which is December 31, 2022, or until further orders whichever is earlier. Currently, he is serving as Deputy Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer at State Bank of India.

✓ **Thierry Bollore** has been appointed as the new chief executive officer of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR).

Note: He will succeed Ralph Speth, who will continue as non-executive chairman of JLR. Bollore has worked in automotive and auto component companies like Renault, Faurecia and Michelin. He most recently was the CEO of Groupe Renault.

✓ **N. Sivaraman** has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICRA Limited.

Note: Sivaraman held the position at L&T finance (Larson and Turbo) as President and Wholetime Director. In December 2018, he held the position of Chief Operating Officer at IL&FS which ends by July 31, 2020.

✓ **Archana Soreng** has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders.

Note: Archana Soreng joins six other young climate leaders from around the world who have been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.

✓ **Hardik Satishchandra Shah** has been appointed as the Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on co-terminus basis.

Note: Currently, He is serving as a Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Before moving to the PMO last year, he worked as the PS to Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar.

Obituaries

- ✓ Renowned **Actor** Carl Reiner passed away recently.
Note: Legendary comedian, Carl Reiner passed away. He was a prolific writer, comedian, director and actor. He had a run as a movie director with such films as "Oh, God!" (1977) and "The Jerk" (1979). He won several Emmys awards in writing and producing.
- ✓ Renowned personality Saroj Khan passed away recently, she was a veteran **Choreographer**.
Note: In a career spanning over four decades, Khan is credited with choreographing more than 2,000 songs, including Dola Re Dola from Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Devdas, Ek Do Teen from Madhuri Dixit-starrer Tezaab and Ye Ishq Haaye from Jab We Met in 2007.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson Everton Weekes passed away recently he was associated with **Cricket** sports.
Note: Everton Weekes made his first-class debut at 19-year-old and his Test debut in 1948 at 22. His test career spanned between 1948 to 1958, where he played 48 Tests & scored 4455 runs at an average of 58.62.
- ✓ Name the Hollywood screen writer, film maker, actor and voice artist passed away recently -- **Carl Reiner**.
Note: Veteran Hollywood and multi-hyphenate personality Carl Reiner, a creator and director of several Steve Martin films, died at 98 of natural causes at his Beverly Hills home. He has won multiple Emmy Awards, among which 5 awards were backed by "The Dick Van Dyke Show" in the 1960s.
- ✓ Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri popularly known as Jagdeep passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: Jagdeep appeared in around 400 films but it is his role as Soorma Bhopali in 1975 film "Sholay. Better known by his stage name Jagdeep, the actor also directed the movie "Soorma Bhopali" with his character as the protagonist.
- ✓ Renowned personality Charlie Daniels passed away recently.
Note: He was country music and southern rock icon who entertained fans for decades with songs like "Long-Haired Country Boy," "In America," and his signature fiddle tune "The Devil Went Down To Georgia", who won his only Grammy Award in 1979. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2016.
- ✓ Renowned personality Nagindas Sanghvi passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.
Note: He was 100 and suffering from acute asthma. Mr. Sangvi was conferred Padma Shri award in the year 2019. He was in teaching at Bhavan's College Andheri from 1951 to 1980. Later he moved to Ruparel College, Mahim and Mithibai College, Vile Parle for teaching political science.
- ✓ Famous footballer Wim Suurbier of **The Netherlands** passed away recently.

Note: Suurbier, who won three European championships with the legendary Ajax side of the same decade, had been in hospital since suffering a cerebral haemorrhage in April. Suurbier was an attacking full-back whose role epitomised the "Total Football" style pioneered by the Ajax and Dutch national sides during his heyday.

- ✓ English sports person Jack Charlton passed away recently, he was associated with **Football** sports.

Note: A member of the England 1966 World-Cup winning team, Jack Charlton passed away. He was also an integral part of the great Don Revie-managed Leeds United side that won the 1969 League title and the 1972 FA Cup.

- ✓ Renowned personality Avad Bin Hassan Jami passed away recently, he was a veteran **cartoonist**.
Note: His cartoons were published in Gujarati magazine "Abhiyan" for last over two decades. He had also worked in Gujarati newspaper **Phulchhab** as a cartoonist. He was a drawing teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jamnagar and became a full-time cartoonist after retirement.

- ✓ Amadou Gon Coulibaly who passed away recently was prime minister of **Ivory Coast**.
Note: He recently returned from France after receiving medical treatment. He was also chosen as the ruling party Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (**RHDP**)'s candidate for October's presidential election.

- ✓ First woman election commissioner of Maharashtra **Neela Satyanarayan** passed away recently.
Note: The 1972 batch officer was admitted at the Seven Hills Hospital, Mumbai after she was diagnosed with COVID-19. Neela Satyanarayan retired in 2014. She has penned more than 150 songs. Also, she has composed music for several Marathi movies.

- ✓ Renowned personality John Lewis passed away recently, he was a veteran **Civil Rights Activist of US**.

Note: He was also the youngest and last survivor of the Big Six civil rights activists, a group led by the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr that had the greatest impact on the movement. He was best known for leading around 600 protesters in the Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

- ✓ Renowned personality Professor C. S. Seshadri passed away recently, he was a veteran **Mathematician**.

Note: A leader in the field of algebraic geometry, he made breakthroughs that lie at the base of many branches of this profound discipline. Seshadri began his career at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research as one of the first batches of graduate students. He moved to Chennai in 1984, to the Institute of Mathematical Sciences. In 1989, he got an opportunity to start the School of Mathematics as part of the SPIC Science Foundation, which has evolved into the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI).

- ✓ Renowned personality Lalji Tandon passed away recently, he was governor of **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note: Lal Ji Tandon was the governor of Bihar between August 2018 and July 2019 when he took over as Madhya Pradesh's Governor. In 2009, the senior BJP leader and a protege of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, succeeded him as the Lucknow MP. He began his career from his hometown Lucknow in the 1970s and had also served as a state minister in Uttar Pradesh several times between 1991 and 2003.

- ✓ Renowned personality Bijay Mohanty passed away, recently he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: His performance in his debut film, Chilika Tire, earned him several accolades including the National Film Award. He is most famous for negative roles in films including Samay Bada Balaban, Naga Phasa, Sahari Bagha, Danda Balunga and Chaka Bhaunri.

- ✓ Rajat Mukherjee who passed away recently was a famous **Film Maker**.
Note: Rajat Mukherjee directed Urmila Matondkar, Fardeen Khan, Sonali Kulkarni and Rajpal Yadav in 2001's Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya. He also directed the 2004 film Love In Nepal, which starred singer Sonu Nigam, Rajpal Yadav and Flora Saini.

- ✓ Renowned personality **Juan Marse** passed away, he was a veteran **Novelist**.
Note: Spanish novelist, Juan Marse passed away. He was one of Spain's most-respected novelists over the past few decades and the winner of the 2008 Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's top literary award. His most important novel was "Últimas trades on Teresa" ("Last Afternoons with Teresa") published in 1965.

- ✓ Renowned personality **John Saxon** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: He was born on 5th August 1936 as Carmine Orrico in Brooklyn, New York, United States of America. He was debuted in 1954 and starred in detective and horror shows like "A Nightmare on Elm Street".

- ✓ Renowned personality P Achyuta Rao passed away due to COVID-19, he was a **Child Rights Activist**.

Note: He is known to have helped prevent child marriages, incidents of child sexual abuse, and child labour. Rao recently filed a petition in Telangana High Court demanding that mid-day meal be served to students in government schools since they have not been able to access it due to the pandemic-imposed lockdown.

- ✓ Renowned personality Sonam Tshering Lepcha passed away recently, he was veteran **Folk Musician**.

Note: Lepcha was born in Kalimpong in 1928 and started his career as a soldier. He travelled to various parts of Sikkim and compiled a wide range of Indian folk and traditional Lepcha songs and played folk music on All India Radio in 1960.

- ✓ Renowned personality **Somendranath Mitra** passed away recently he was a veteran **Politician**.

Note: A veteran Congress leader, Somen Mitra as he was often referred to, took charge of West Bengal Congress in 2018. He played a crucial role in forging an electoral understanding of Left parties and Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

- ✓ Renowned personality **Kumkum** passed away recently, she was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: Her real name was Zaibunnissa. She has featured in over 100 Hindi films like Mother India, Kohinoor, Ek Sapera Ek Lootera, Naya Daur, Ujala, Raja Aur Runk, Lalkar, Aankhen, Geet, among others.

- ✓ Renowned personality **Parvej Khan** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Action Director**.

Note: He had been working in the film industry since 1986. Some of his well-known films include Andhadhun, Badlapur, Bullett Raja, Fukrey, Ra-One, Johnny Gaddaar, Vishwaroopam, Vishwaroopam 2, Dev. D, Gangster, Sehar, Ab Tak Chhappan, The Legend Of Bhagat Singh, Soldier, and Mr. And Mrs Khiladi.

- ✓ Renowned personality **Olivia de Havilland** passed away, she was a veteran **Hollywood Actor**.

Note: She was born on 1st July 1916, in Tokyo, Japan. The actress, who starred in blockbusters like Captain Blood (1935), The adventures of Robin Hood (1938), Gone with the Wind (1939), The Snakepit, The Heiress. She unchained the Hollywoods contract system which was later called as "De Havilland Law".

- ✓ Renowned personality Amala Shankar passed away, she was a veteran **Choreographer and danseuse**.

Note: She was honored with the West Bengal government's Banga Bibhusan award in 2011 for her contributions to art. First performance of Amala Shankar was in Kaliya Daman which was staged in Belgium in 1931. She also acted in the film "Kalpana" which was released in 1948.

- ✓ Renowned personality Annie Ross passed away, she was a famous **Jazz Singer**.

Note: he was born Annabelle McCauley Allan Short in Surrey, England, on July 25, 1930. She was a popular jazz singer in the 1950s before crossing over into a successful film career.

Important Days

- ✓ National Postal Worker Day is observed every year on **1st July**.

Note: National Postal Worker Day is a unique way to say 'thank you' to the postmen and all delivery personnel, as online shopping has become a lifeline for many of us. In India, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, postal services have uniquely diversified. Workers in postal departments have become the new 'corona warriors', playing an active role in India's fight against COVID-19

- ✓ National Chartered Accountants Day is celebrated every year on **1st July**.

Note: This day is celebrated to commemorate the finding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) by the parliament of India in 1949. Every year on the day of the establishment of the ICAI, CA Day is celebrated to honour the Chartered Accountant.

- ✓ The theme of the National Doctor's Day 2020 which is celebrated every year in the country on 1st July-- **Lessen the mortality of COVID 19**.

Note: The theme for National Doctor's Day 2020 is "Lessen the mortality of COVID 19" and includes awareness about asymptomatic hypoxia and early aggressive therapy. The National

Doctor's Day also marks the birth and death anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. He was the one of the most renowned physicians of India.

- ✓ World Sports Journalists Day is observed globally every year on **2nd July**.
Note: The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work. The day was established in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS). This year 2020 marks the 96th anniversary of AIPS.
- ✓ The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the **first Saturday of July**.
Note: In the year 2020, the International Day of Cooperatives will be celebrated on 4th July with a focus on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change. UN has also appealed to spread the word: “#Coops4ClimateAction” to celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives 2020.
- ✓ International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) celebrated Dharma Chakra Day on **4th July**.
Note: This day commemorates Buddha's First Sermon to his first five ascetic disciples at the **Deer Park, Rsipatana** in the present day Sarnath near Varanasi, UP. The day is also observed as Guru Poornima by both Buddhists as well as Hindus as a day to mark reverence to their Gurus.
- ✓ World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day is observed every year on **7th July**.
Note: The day celebrates the existence of chocolate in our lives. It is marked by eating chocolates and sharing with dear ones. The first International Chocolate Day was celebrated in 2009. The day is celebrated on July 7th because it was on this date in 1550 that chocolate was first brought to Europe.
- ✓ World Population Day is observed globally every year on **11th July**.
Note: This day is observed to raise awareness among people about the impact of a growing population and issues including gender equality, the importance of family planning, poverty, maternal health, human rights, etc. This year theme of World Population Day 2020: Putting the brakes on COVID-19: Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls.
- ✓ The United Nations celebrates World Malala Day to honour the young activist, Malala Yousafzai every year on **12th July**.
Note: Malala Day is commemorated, the birthday of Malala Yousafzai to honour women and children's rights around the world. On October 9, 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen after she publicly advocated for the education of girls. Despite the attack, Malala soon returned to the public eye, fiercer in her views than earlier and continued her advocacy for gender rights.
- ✓ World Youth Skills Day is observed every year on **15th July**.
Note: It was designated by the General Assembly in 2014. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a digital conclave on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day (WYSD).
- ✓ World Day for International Justice is observed every year on **17th July**.
Note: 17 July every year to mark the importance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and for the people to pay attention to serious crimes happening around the world. 17 July is the Day of International Criminal Justice. It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, the founding treaty of the ICC, which seeks to protect people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.
- ✓ United Nations celebrates World Chess Day globally every year on **20th July**.
Note: The day marks the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924. To celebrate the International Chess Day 2020 top chess personalities will participate in a high-level virtual event “Chess for Recovering Better”.
- ✓ To mark the anniversary of man's first historic landing on the moon the Space Exploration Day is celebrated every year on **20th July**.
Note: On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Buzz became the first humans to land on moon's surface. The Armstrong-Aldrin duo spent 21.5 hours on the surface of the moon. Also, they spent 2.5 hours outside of their capsules. The day is mainly celebrated in the United States.
- ✓ Nelson Mandela International Day is celebrated every year on **18th July** by the United Nations.

Note: The day acknowledges Nelson Mandela's contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world. Nelson Mandela Day is an occasion for all to take action and inspire change.

- ✓ National Broadcasting Day is observed every year all over India on **23rd July**.

Note: On this day in 1927, the first-ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company. The first radio broadcast was made on July 23, 1927, from Bombay Station. The station was then owned by a private company called the Indian Broadcasting Company.

- ✓ Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on **26th July**.

Note: On this day, the country remembers the extreme valour, sacrifice and exemplary courage of Indian soldiers during the 1999 Kargil war. This year nation is celebrating the 21 years of victory in Kargil war.

- ✓ The theme of the 2020 World Hepatitis Day (WHD) celebrated every year on 28th July -- **Hepatitis-Free Future**.

Note: Every year, World Hepatitis Day is marked by the **World Health Organization** and various other organizations all over the world. The day is marked to encourage actions, partners and public for greater response towards controlling Hepatitis.

- ✓ In a bid to promote conservation, raise awareness and encourage sustainability, every year World Nature Conservation Day is observed on **28th July**.

Note: The day is marked globally to spread awareness about the best practices to protect the natural resources as our Earth has limited resources which we need to use efficiently to maintain the balance. People share ideas and some also take-up activities to contribute their bit in preserving nature and its resources. However, this year a global theme has not been decided due to the pandemic.

- ✓ International Tiger Day is observed every year on which date across the globe to create awareness about tiger conservation -- **29th July**.

Note: Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released All India Tiger Estimation Report-2018 yesterday. He also released a poster on small wild cats of India. India is home to nearly 70 per cent of the global tiger population and it leads the world in showing effective conservation of the wild species.

- ✓ United Nations observes 30th July every year as **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** days.

Note: The 2020 theme for the World Day Against Trafficking: "Committed to the Cause – Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking". The theme will focus on the first responders to human trafficking. These are the people who work in different sectors – identifying, supporting, counselling and seeking justice for victims of trafficking, and challenging the impunity of the traffickers.

- ✓ The International Day of Friendship is observed every year on **30th July**.

Note: To mark the International Day of Friendship, the UN encourages governments, organizations, and community groups to hold events, activities and initiatives that promote solidarity, mutual understanding and reconciliation.

- ✓ The International Day for the conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem is observed every year on **26th July**.

Note: It is celebrated each year on July 26 and aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangroves as "a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem". It also aims to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.

Books and Authors

- ✓ **CA V Pattabhi Ram** has authored the book titled "Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends".

Note: Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has virtually released a book titled "Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends".

- ✓ **RC Bhargava** has authored the book titled "Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India".

- Note:** he bok published by HarperCollins India, provides practical suggestions to make India a competitive industrialised country.
- ✓ **Urjit Patel** has written the book titled "Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver".
Note: The book focuses on the non-performing assets (NPAs) issue that has afflicted Indian banking in recent years, its causes and Mr Patel's efforts as the RBI Governor in dealing with it. It is published by Harper Collins India. Patel worked with a '9R' strategy which would protect depositors' savings, rescue the banks and protect them from "unscrupulous racketeers"
 - ✓ **Ruskin Bond** has authored the book titled 'A Song of India' .
Note: The book is the 4th instalment in his memoir series. The book portrays his unknown life before he became a successful author. It is published by Puffin Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House India.
 - ✓ **Tenzin Geyche Tethong** has authored the book titled 'His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography' to be released in 2020.
Note: The book is published by Roli Books. The biography is a memorable portrait of the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso.
 - ✓ **Stephen King** has authored the book titled "If It Bleeds".
Note: The book published by Hachette India. The book has the story centres around a bomb at Albert Macready Middle School. It is a sequel to his bestselling work, "The Outsider".
 - ✓ **S Hussain Zaidi** has authored the book titled 'The Endgame'.
Note: The book has been published by HarperCollins India. 'The Endgame' gives the readers a close-up of complex political machinery at work, including state security, defence services, and intelligence agencies like – all building up to an explosive climax.
 - ✓ The book titled "Suraj Kade Marda Nahi" is authored by **Baldev Singh Sadaknama**.
Note: The book portrays many aspects of freedom fighter Udham Singh. The book is published by Unistarbooks. The book has been released and will be formally launched on July 31, 2020.
 - ✓ **Dr. S Jaishankar** has authored the book titled "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World".
Note: The book was published under the HarperCollins India publications. The book centers about the three burdens that India's foreign policy carries. He insisted that India should not only visualise its interest but also try to communicate effectively. The e-version of the book is available on Amazon.
 - ✓ **Viral V. Acharya** has authored the book titled "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India".
Note: The book portrays his quest to restore financial stability in India and offers a concrete plan for sustained improvement. The book is published by SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd. The book is a compilation of his speeches, research and comments as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee, mostly concerned with central banking.
 - ✓ Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu virtually unveiled the "Padi Bhavajalalu" the Telugu version if the book titled 'Ten Ideologies' was written by **S Jaipal Reddy**.
Note: The translation was done by Kalluri Bhaskaram. The original English version of the book was launched by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in August 2018.
 - ✓ **Avni Doshi** has authored the book titled 'Burnt Sugar' one among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2020 Booker Prize.
Note: A version of the same novel has been published in India under the title Girl in White Cotton. The Book narrates the story about a woman, Tara who abandoned her loveless marriage to join ashram and ended as a beggar.

Science and Technology

- ✓ **Mylab Discovery Solutions Private Limited** has launched a cartridge-based machine named 'Compact XL' that will be able to test and handle multiple samples at the same time.
Note: The machine will reduce the need for laboratory technicians for handling and testing samples to one, as an individual will be able to operate the machine. This automated system will be able to handle samples of RNA/DNA based test, RT-PCR test, Plasma, Tissue, Swab, and Sputum.

- ✓ To bolster the comprehensive strategic partnership and boost maritime relations the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has signed an MoU with **Indonesia**.
Note: The MoU was signed through video conferencing amid the global travel restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic. The objective of this MoU is to enhance the collaborative and cooperative engagements in maritime law enforcement, maritime search and rescue and marine pollution response.
- ✓ **Loyal Textile Mills** has launched the first of its kind in the world- reusable face masks and PPE Kits in collaboration with Reliance Industries Limited and Switzerland based HeiQ Materials AG.
Note: The reusable mask and PPE Kit was launched by Loyal Textile Mills with collaborating with Reliance Industries Limited and Switzerland based textile innovation company- HeiQ Materials AG. Along with reusable masks and PPE kits, reusable garments with zero virus penetration were also unveiled by Loyal Textile Mills.
- ✓ Israel Weapon Industries Assault Rifle's- Arad and Carmel will be manufactured at the PLR Systems Private Ltd in **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: This will be a major boost to the domestic small arms industry and as well as the Make in India initiative. Both IWI Carmel Assault Rifle and Arad Assault Rifle was a caliber 5.56 X 45 mm, Carmel Assault Rifle has a Rate of Fire (RPM) in between 700-1000 rounds per min.
- ✓ The Indian army has set its eyes on acquiring hand-launched, remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle Raven from **USA**.
Note: As per media reports, procurement of 200 pieces of AeroVironment RQ-11 Raven is in advance level. The RQ-11 Raven is a remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle that is launched with hand.
- ✓ The Indian army is set acquire state-of-the-art Spike Firefly "loitering" ammunition from **Israel**.
Note: The Spike Firefly is developed under a joint venture of Israeli company- Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel's Ministry of Defence. The Spike Firefly has loitering capability and can be carried by a soldier as a part of his kit. The Spike Firefly can be operated from a table by a single user without requiring any special skills to operate.
- ✓ Indian Navy will get new twin-engine aircraft carrier-based fighter aircraft in **2032** developed by the DRDO.
Note: It will replace the MiG-29Ks in service which are scheduled to start going out by 2034. The Navy currently operates Russian-origin carrier INS Vikramaditya and expects to have the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I) Vikrant operational by 2022.
- ✓ **IIT Kanpur** has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing product, 'SHUDH' to make Surroundings COVID free.
Note: SHUDH is a smartphone operated Handy UV Disinfection Helper. It helps to make the surroundings COVID free especially the highly prone places such as hospitals, hotels, malls, offices and schools. SHUDH has 6 UV lights each of 15 Watts, which can be monitored individually from a distance.
- ✓ The scientists from **International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials** have developed low cost, environment friendly super capacitor from industrial waste cotton.
Note: The capacitor can be used as energy harvester storage device. The scientists have used natural seawater as the aqueous electrolyte. This has reduced the cost of super capacitors greatly.
- ✓ **IIT Delhi** has developed world's most affordable Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) based COVID-19 diagnostic kit "Corosure".
Note: The kit was e-Launched by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', the Union Minister of Human Resource Development (MoHRD). It was approved by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).
- ✓ India's first fully indigenously developed vaccine against pneumonia, 'Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine' got approval from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has been developed by **Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd**.
Note: The vaccine is administered in an intramuscular manner. The Serum Institute of India first obtained the approval of the DCGI to conduct Phase I, II and III clinical trials of the vaccine in India. These trials have since been concluded within the country. The company also conducted the clinical trials in Gambia.

- ✓ Indian Navy undertook a passing exercise 'PASSEX' with the navy of **USA** in the Indian Ocean Region.
Note: US Navy carrier strike group, led by USS Nimitz and Indian Navy conducted the maritime drills, PASSEX, which aims at further enhancing interoperability between Navies of both the countries. The Nimitz Carrier Strike Group is on its way to be deployed in the Gulf region from the South China Sea. Indian Navy had also recently conducted similar joint exercises with Japanese and French Navy.
- ✓ The three-days long Air Force Commanders' Conference to be held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Air Force Commanders' Conference will be chaired by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria. During the three-day conference the discussions would take stock of the current operational scenario and deployments.
- ✓ The researchers of **Dalhousie University** have come up with a new app that can detect mental conditions like anxiety and depression based on how you use your phone.
Note: The app is called PROSIT and includes tracking features like exercise, sleep, call frequency, message histories and music tastes.
- ✓ SpaceX has successfully launched first military satellite "ANASIS-II" of **South Korea**.
Note: The satellite was deployed into a geostationary transfer orbit (GTO) by a Falcon 9 rocket. It was launched from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in the US of Florida.
- ✓ Indigenously developed anti-tank guided missile **Dhruvastra** has successfully launched by India from Integrated Test Range at Chandip.
Note: 'Dhruvastra' is an anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) which has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It is a helicopter version of 'Nag Helina'.
- ✓ Indian gets 'Bharat' drone for carrying out accurate surveillance in high altitude areas and mountainous terrain developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
Note: Bharat Drones a series of drones that comes under one of the world's lightest and agile drone surveillance systems and is made in India. Bharat drones are equipped with artificial intelligence which helps the drone to detect friends from foes and helps take any action accordingly.
- ✓ NASA is working on a new mission called Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observations at Submillimeter wavelengths (ASTHROS), to study **COSMOS**.
Note: The mission called Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observations at Submillimeter wavelengths (ASTHROS) will be launched by 2023 from Antarctica.
- ✓ As per the Global Forest Resources Assessment report released by the FAO what is India's rank among top 10 countries where forest cover has increased in the last decade -- **3rd**.
Note: The Food and Agriculture Organization bring out the report once in every five years. The report assesses state of forests in the member countries, their conditions and management.
- ✓ **DRDO** has launched "Dare to Dream" an innovative contest and open challenge that promotes innovators and startups in the country.
Note: The Dare to Dream is an open challenge that promotes innovators and start-ups in the country. It is launched to boost emerging technologies. The challenge promotes individuals and start-ups for innovation in aerospace technologies. The award money for the winners is up to Rs 10 lakhs. The contest was launched by Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh.
- ✓ **Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre For Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS)** has developed a device named "AJO-Neo" for "No-touch" and "Painless" non-invasive bilirubin level screening in newborn.
Note: As per the study the device is capable of measuring bilirubin levels in premature as well as natural birth babies irrespective of menstrual or Chronological age, sex, risk factors, feeding behavior or skin color. It can deliver reports within 10 seconds to the doctor remotely.
- ✓ The microorganism decontamination box '**Suraksha**' developed by the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) along with AMESYS INDIA.
Note: The box sanitizes an object in the span of 10 - 15 minutes using heat and UVC light. UVC light refers to ultraviolet light with wavelengths between 200 - 280 nanometers (nm).

- ✓ **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)** has developed 'Aashray', a medical bed isolation system to combat COVID-19 by preventing or minimising the spread of the virus.
Note: This medical bed isolation system is a low cost, reusable solution to maintain proper isolation of COVID-19 patients by creating a suction or negative pressure near exhale, further filtering and disinfecting the aerosol. The bed isolation system envelopes are made up of specialised material.

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