

GK-Tornado Defence Exam 2021

Dear Aspirants,

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important **Defence Awareness & Current Affairs news** and events that occurred in last **5.5 months (1st August 2020 – 14th January 2021)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like **CDS, AFCAT, NDA Exams**.

Ranking, Indexes, Reports and Survey

January (1st-14th)-2021

1. India Ranks 85th In World Most Powerful Passport Index

Note: Henley and Partners Passport Index of 2021 has come out with a new ranking of the world's most powerful passports, and India ranks 85th on the new list. Last year, India held 84th position. Indian passport got a score of 58, which means Indian passport holders get to visit 58 countries without prior visa. India shared the rank with Tajikistan. Japan, once again topped the list with a visa-free score of 191. The nation has been holding the position for three consecutive years, either solely or jointly, with Singapore. This year, Singapore sits at the second position with 190 countries.

2. Centre Releases Management Report Of 146 National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries

Note: Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday released Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) report of 146 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the country, saying 70 per cent of global tiger population and over 60 per cent of leopard population in India is a certificate of its thriving biodiversity. As per the MEE report, West Bengal's Jaldapara national park and Raiganj wildlife sanctuary, Himachal Pradesh's Sainj and Tirthan wildlife sanctuaries as well as the Great Himalayan national park have been declared as top five national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India.

3. Global Economic Prospects: World Bank

Note: Recently, the World Bank has released a part of the Global Economic Prospects (GEP) June 2020 report. The report highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic will be having a "severe" short and long term effects on economic growth. The Covid-19 pandemic and economic shutdowns have devastated

the poor around the world which is unprecedented in modern times. It has been estimated that 60 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty in 2020. These estimates are likely to rise further, with the reopening of advanced economies. These economic lockdowns have also damaged the multiple channels, including lower investment and innovation, erosion of the human capital and a retreat from global trade and supply linkages.

4. Elon Musk overtakes Amazon's Jeff Bezos to become world's richest person

Note: According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Tesla CEO Elon Musk overtakes Amazon's Jeff Bezos to become the world's richest person. Elon Musk had a net worth of more than \$188.5 billion. A 6% rise in Tesla (TSLA) shares early Thursday lifted the value of its CEO's stock holdings and options by \$10 billion, taking his net worth to about \$188.5 billion. A more modest rise of less than 2% lifted Bezos' Amazon (AMZN) shares by about \$3 billion, putting his net worth at \$187 billion. Bill Gates is now a distant third at \$132 billion, according to Bloomberg.

5. Mukesh Ambani ranked 12th in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021

Note: India's richest man Mukesh Ambani, the chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) dropped down to 12th spot in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021 (as on 2nd January 2021). The net worth of Ambani dropped from 90 billion USD (around Rs. 6.62 lakh crore) (in early 2020) to 76.7 billion USD (around Rs. 5.6 lakh crore). The drop in the net worth of Mukesh Ambani was due to the correction in the shares of RIL which has fallen to Rs.1995.50 on 30th December 2020, which is 16% from its all-time high of Rs 2369.35.

December 2020

1. HDFC Bank ranks top among 100 BFSI Firms in India

Note: HDFC Bank is the top-ranked company among the 100 Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) companies in the country, as per the BFSI Movers and Shakers 2020 report by Wizikey. HDFC Bank has topped because of its customer service, monetary management, and innovative offerings amid the coronavirus pandemic.

2. Prakash Javadekar releases 'Status of Leopards in India 2018' report

Note: The Union environment minister, Prakash Javadekar has released a report titled the 'Status of Leopard in India 2018'. As per the report, the population of leopard in India has increased by 60 per cent in four years since 2014. India now has 12,852 leopards as per 2018 estimate, compared to the previous estimate of 7910 conducted in 2014. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra recorded the highest leopard estimates at 3,421, 1,783, and 1,690 respectively.

3. India ranks 111 in Human Freedom Index 2020

Note: A worldwide ranking of civil, economic and personal freedom, the Human Freedom Index 2020 was released. India was placed at the 111th spot out of 162 countries. In 2019, India ranked 94 on the index. The first three spots have been bagged by New Zealand, Switzerland and Hong Kong. The United States and the United Kingdom are tied at the 17th spot on the index. War-torn Syria ranked the last on the list.

4. Kylie Jenner tops Forbes' list of highest-paid celebrities of 2020

Note: American media personality and reality TV star, Kylie Jenner has been crowned the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes. The top-earning stars in the world earned a combined of \$6.1 billion in 2020 with Kylie Jenner. Setting aside Kylie's history with Forbes, the financial experts there calculated her earning this year to be at \$590 million after she sold a majority of her beauty brand's stake to Coty Inc.

5. India ranks 131 in Human Development Index 2020

Note: According to the report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India has been dropped two spots to 131 among 189 countries in the 2020 Human Development Index. Norway topped the index, followed by Ireland, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Iceland, the report showed. Niger is the lowest ranked country at 189, placed among Low human development category, with a score of 0.394. India(131), Bhutan (129), Bangladesh (133), Nepal

(142), and Pakistan (154) were ranked among countries with medium human development.

6. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at 41 on Forbes 2020 list

Note: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has grabbed the 41st spot in the 2020 list of Forbes 100 most powerful women in the world. This is the second time she features in the list, in 2019 ranked at 34 and ranked 41st in 2020. India's leading Businesswomen, Kiran Mazumdar-shaw, Chairman of Biocon Limited also featured in the list at 68th position. The list also saw the biggest jump in ranking to 3rd position by Kamala Harris, Vice President-Elect of USA, and Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina Wajed is ranked at 39.

7. India Ranks 10th in the Climate Change Performance Index 2021

Note: India is ranked at 10th place in the 'Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2021', released on 7th December 2020. The overall score of India is 63.98. It is for the second time in a row that India emerged among the top 10 countries with higher climate performance from among 58 economies. India was at 9th spot last year in the index.

8. HCL's Roshni Nadar tops Kotak Wealth-Hurun wealthy women list 2020

Note: Chairperson of HCL Technologies, Roshni Nadar Malhotra has topped the list of wealthiest women in India, according to the second edition of 'Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women' report. The report is compiled by Kotak Wealth Management, a division of Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Hurun India. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon and Leena Gandhi Tewari of USV are at the second and third rank respectively in the Kotak Wealth Hurun wealthy women list 2020.

9. Reliance Industries tops Fortune India 500 Ranking 2020

Note: Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has topped the 2020 Fortune 500 list of Indian companies, released. The revenue of RIL clocked Rs 615,854.00, accounting for 7% of cumulative revenues and 11 per cent profit of the companies. The country's biggest oil firm, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), bagged the second spot, followed by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at the third position. The list was published by Fortune India, which is part of the Kolkata-based RP Sanjiv Goenka Group.

10. India ranked 8th in Global Terrorism Index 2020

Note: In the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2020, India has been ranked at 8th spot globally in the list of countries most affected by terrorism in 2019. The GTI score of India is 7.353 out of 10. India recorded

277 Deaths, 439 Injuries & 558 Incidents due to Terrorism in 2019. Regionally, South Asia was the most impacted region by terrorism in 2019, recording more deaths than any other region. Also, globally the deaths caused due to terrorism fell by 15 per cent to 13,286 in 2019 over 2018.

11. US Air Quality Index: Lahore is world's most polluted city

Note: Lahore, the cultural capital Pakistan, has been ranked as the world's most polluted city, according to air pollution data released by the US Air Quality Index (AQI). Lahore reported a particulate matter (PM) rating of 423. New Delhi stood second with a PM of 229, while Nepal's capital Kathmandu ranked the third with a PM of 178.

November 2020

1. Fifteenth Finance Commission Report

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

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

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

Note: The Wildlife Institute of India recently released a survey on the Ganges river. According to the survey, 49% of the river is high on biodiversity. These are results of phase I of the survey. The second survey is to be conducted shortly. The Gangetic Dolphins and Otters in the river have increased in numbers. This indicates that the pollution level in the river has decreased and the river is in healthy state. The study was conducted by the WII on behalf of National Mission for Clean Ganga undertaken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The first phase of the survey was held in 2017-19.

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

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

4. World Wide Fund Water Risk Filter Report

Note: The World Wide Fund Water Risk Filter Report says that nearly 30 Indian cities are likely to face acute

water risks. This includes Jaipur, Amritsar, Indore, Srinagar, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, Vishakhapatnam and Kozhikode. Of these cities Jaipur topped the list. It was followed by Indore, Thane, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. The report defines "water risk" as battling between flooding and droughts.

5. India rise four spots to 104th in latest FIFA rankings

Note: The Indian national team have moved up a spot to 104 in the latest FIFA Rankings. The Indian team were ranked 108th in the October 2020 rankings. In two months, India has climbed 5 spots after being 109th in September.

6. EIU's Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL) Index 2020 announced

Note: The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released its biannual 'Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL)' report of the World's Most Expensive Cities in 2020, based on their cost of living. Hong Kong (China), Paris (France) and Zurich (Switzerland) share the top spot as the most expensive cities in the list, which comprises of 133 cities.

7. India Ranks 77 in TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020

Note: India is placed at 77th position in the TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020. India has achieved a score of 45 in a global list that measures business bribery risks of 2020. India's rank stood 78 positions in 2019. It was a better performance than neighbouring nations such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and China. But, Bhutan scored better than India and got 48th place in the list. North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea had the highest commercial bribery risk. Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand showed the lowest bribery risk.

8. India's Param Siddhi ranked 63rd in most powerful supercomputers

Note: According to the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Indian supercomputer, Param Siddhi has achieved 63rd rank in the list of 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world. Param Siddhi is the high-performance computing-artificial intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer established under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at C-DAC. The Top 500 project which ranks the top 500 non-distributed computer systems in the world is published twice a year.

October

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

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

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

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

3. Uttar Pradesh emerges as top destination in 2019

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

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

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

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

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

6. Haryana tops Anemia Mukh Bharat Index in country

Note: Haryana is the best State in Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Index with 46.7 among 29 states in the country. Further, in the year 2019-20, the state had

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

7. Annual Status of Education Report for Rural India

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

8. Migration and Development Brief Report of World Bank

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

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

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

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

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

11. NITI Aayog released “Electricity Access in India and Benchmarking Distribution Utilities” report

Note: The report says that 92% of customers received electricity infrastructure within 50 metres of their premises. Around 87% of the customers had access to grid-based electricity. Reminding 13% were those who either used non grid sources or did not use electricity at all. The survey focused on good connectivity, access, electricity, customer satisfaction and utilities capacity. The customers included in the survey were from rural households, commercial Enterprises, agriculture and institutions. Uttar Pradesh performed far below then the other utilities according to the report. Around 66% of the surveyed customers were satisfied.

12. State of Global Air report 2020 released

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

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

Note: The world economic forum recently released the third edition of the future of jobs report 2020. According to the report the covid-19 and its impacts will disrupt more than 85 million jobs by 2025. The automation and new division of labour between the Machines and humans will be the major reason for disruption of jobs in the next five years. The redundancy in workforce will decrease from 15.4 % to 9 percentage. The covid-19 economic crisis has accelerated the disruption of jobs. Around 43 percentage of businesses all over the world have reduced their work force due to integration of Technology. Around 41 % of businesses in the world are using contractors for task specialised work.

14. Global tuberculosis report 2020

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

15. Uttar Pradesh emerges as top destination in 2019

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

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

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

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

Note: India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 out of 100, in the Asia Power Index 2020, released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute. The Asia Power Index 2020 ranks 26 countries and territories to assess the relative power of states in Asia. The United States has retained its position as the most powerful country influencing the Asia-Pacific with a score of 81.6. It is followed by China (76.1) and Japan (41) at second and third spot respectively.

18. Mukesh Ambani tops the Forbes India Rich List 2020

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

Shiv Nadar acquired the third spot with a net worth of \$20.4 billion.

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

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

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

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

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

Note: India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020. Last year, India’s rank was 102 out of 117 countries. The Global Hunger Index data showed that 14 per cent of India’s population was undernourished. Besides, the country recorded a 37.4 per cent stunting rate among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3 per cent. The under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent. Bangladesh ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan are in the 78th and 88th position in the index.

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

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

23. India slips to rank 151 in protecting labour rights

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

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

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

September

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

Note: India has ranked 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank’s annual Human Capital Index 2020. Last year, India ranked **115 out of 157 countries**. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries. The Human Capital Index 2020 update included health and education data for 174 countries up to March 2020. It covered around 98% of the world’s population. India’s score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank.

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

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

3. Finance Minister launched Doorstep Banking Services:

Note: Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks (PSBs). She

- also felicitated the best performing banks on **EASE Banking Reforms Index**. The EASE index was launched in **January 2018**. The top three in the 'Top Performing Banks' category are: Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce
4. **Kerala topped NSO report as Most literate state in India:**
Note: Kerala topped the list of the most literate state in India in the National Statistical Office (NSO) survey. The literacy rate of Kerala is 96.2%. Andhra Pradesh stood last with 66.4% literacy rate. The report was released by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The report by NSO was titled "Household Social Consumption on Education in India".
 5. **India ranks 48 on 2020 Global Innovation Index:**
Note: India has ranked 48th position in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020. India has jumped to four places since 2019. The index was compiled by the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** along with Cornell University and the **INSEAD business school**, presents the latest global innovation trends and annual innovation ranking of 131 economies. As per the Index, India became the third most innovative lower-middle-income economy in the world. It is attributed to newly available indicators and improvements in various areas of the GI.
 6. **4th edition of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states for 2018-19:**
Note: BRAP is also known as Ease of Doing Business rankings. Andhra Pradesh secured 1st position, followed by UP and Telangana. The ranking is done by

Department of Industrial Promotion and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

August

1. **Gujarat topped NITI Aayog's report on 2020 Export Preparedness Index :**

Note: NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. It is the first report to examine the export preparedness and performance of Indian states. The report was aimed to identify challenges and opportunities. Gujarat topped the Export Preparedness Index 2020. The Export Preparedness Index 2020 focus to enhance the effectiveness of government policies and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework.

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

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

Note: The report was stopped due to the data collection irregularities in the annual ranking of countries' business and investment climates. It ranks countries based on their business competitiveness but has pending investigation into a number of irregularities in its 2017 and 2019 surveys. World Bank will conduct a systematic review of data changes in the last 5 Doing Business reports

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

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

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

Note: INFORM report released by Research Wing, European Commission ranked India as the 31st

World's most dangerous places to live due to high risks of natural disaster, poverty and social injustice. It is a global risk index that ranks 191 countries.

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

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

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

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

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

7. Sustainable Development Report 2020:

Note: The report has SDG Index of 166 nations and Dashboards for all UN member states. It is published by Cambridge University Press and prepared by independent experts at Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Bertelsmann Stiftung. India has been placed at 117th in SDG index 2020. The index is topped by Sweden followed by Denmark and Finland.

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

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

9. India's second Voluntary National Review 2020:

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

progress and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

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

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

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

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

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

Note: It is released for measuring the most-suitable locations for global manufacturing in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions. India is placed at 3rd position in MRI 2020. It ranks 28 nations. China retain the top position followed by US.

13. 2020 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

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

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

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

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

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

Economy News

January(1-14th) 2021

1. New Foreign Trade Policy 2021-2026 to be rolled out from April 1.

Note: Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced new Foreign Trade Policy 2021-2026. The New policy will be effective from 1st April 2021. Making India a five trillion USD economy is the main goal of the FTP. It will bring improvements in the operations of domestic manufacturing and services sector through infrastructure support. The policy will bring changes to regulatory and operational framework and lower transactional costs.

2. Nitin Gadkari launched “Khadi Prakritik Paint” developed by KVIC

Note: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched an innovative new paint developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The eco-friendly, non-toxic paint, called “Khadi Prakritik Paint” is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties.

3. Amit Shah launches 'Single Window Clearance System' for coal mines

Note: Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the 'Single Window Clearance System', an online platform to obtain clearances for smooth operationalisation of coal mines. The Single Window Clearance System for Coal Mines is an online platform launched to obtain clearances for smooth operationalisation of coal mines. It is aimed at allowing coal bidders to obtain all required clearances from a single portal. Currently, a company has to receive 19 major approvals to start a coal mine. Now with the single Window Clearance System, all the 19 approvals can be obtained in one place.

4. Government approved Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir

Note: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in its meeting yesterday considered and approved the proposal of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade for Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir. The scheme is approved with a total outlay of Rs. 28,400 crore upto the year 2037. Government of India has formulated New Industrial Development Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir (J&K IDS, 2021) as Central Sector Scheme for the development of Industries in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. The main purpose of the scheme is to generate employment which directly leads to the socio economic development of the area.

5. PM Modi dedicates Rewari-Madar section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor to Nation

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the 306-km New Rewari-New Madar section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) to the nation. Modi also flagged off the world's first double-stack long-haul 1.5-km-long container train hauled by electric traction from New Ateli-New Kishangarh. The New Rewari-New Madar section of the WDFC is situated in Haryana --approximately 79 km in Mahendragarh and Rewari districts -- and Rajasthan --approximately 227 km in Jaipur, Ajmer, Sikar, Nagaur, and Alwar districts.

6. World's largest floating solar project to start in MP by 2023

Note: The world's largest floating 600 MW solar energy project to be constructed at Omkareshwar dam on Narmada river in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh will begin power generation by year 2022-23. The estimated investment in this project stands at Rs 3,000 crore. The International Finance Corporation, World Bank and Power Grid have granted in-principle consent for providing aid for the said project development.

7. Vietnam buys Indian rice for first time

Note: Vietnam, the world's third biggest exporter of rice, has started buying the grain from rival India for the first time in decades after local prices jumped to their highest in nine years amid limited domestic supplies. The purchases highlight tightening supplies in Asia, which could lift rice prices in 2021 and even force traditional buyers of rice from Thailand and Vietnam to switch to India - the world's biggest exporter of the grain.

8. PM Dedicated Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline to Nation

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline of the Gail Authority of India Limited (GAIL). The key infrastructure project has come about after overcoming protests in Kerala, misconceptions about safety. The pipeline will deliver liquefied natural gas (LNG) sourced from a terminal in Kochi built by Petronet LNG in 2013 at a cost of Rs 4,500.

9. IFSCA becomes associate member of the global lobby group IOSCO

Note: International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has become an associate member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). The IOSCO works closely with the G20 nations and the Financial Stability Board (FSB), in setting up the standards for strengthening the securities markets. The membership of IOSCO

will provide the IFSC a platform to exchange information at the global level, and even at the regional level, on areas of common interests.

10. PM unveils project for affordable housing

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of six Light House Projects, as part of the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-

India) initiative, in Indore, Rajkot, Chennai, Ranchi, Agartala and Lucknow via videoconference. About 1,000 houses at each location are to be constructed in a year, using six distinct technologies from a basket of 54 such technologies shortlisted under the GHTC-India, 2019.

December 2020

1. Standard norms for travel insurance mooted

Note: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) recently proposed the "Standard Travel Insurance Policy". The Policy aims to ensure insurance coverage during domestic as well as international travel. The IRDAI recently released a draft 'Guidelines on Standard Travel Insurance Policy'. The Guidelines states that standard travel insurance products would be available from IRDAI. The travel insurance coverage and its terminology will be uniform throughout the industry.

2. One nation, one mobility card

Note: PM Modi launched the National common Mobility Card. The National Common Mobility Card will allow passengers with RuPay debit card to be swiped for Metro level. The National Common Mobility Card can be used at all transit locations. The card makes all new metro and transit payments interoperable with a single card. The National Common Mobility Card will allow passengers with RuPay debit card obtained from twenty-three banks. This includes UCO, SBI, Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank.

3. PM Modi Inaugurates 351-km Stretch Of Dedicated Freight Corridor In UP

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated the New Bhaupur-New Khurja section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor in Uttar Pradesh via video conferencing. The 351-km section, which has been built at a cost of ₹ 5,750 crore, will open new avenues for local industries in Uttar Pradesh. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor's (EDFC) operation control centre at Prayagraj.

4. Centralised investment clearance cell by April 15

Note: The union of government recently announced that the Central Investment Clearance Cell is to be launched by April 2021. The Centralised Investment Clearance Cell was announced as an integral part of the single window system. The Single Window System is being worked out by Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The idea of establishing Central Investment Clearance Cell was announced by Finance Minister during the Union Budget 2020-21.

5. Centre to implement Coal Import Monitoring System

Note: The government will implement a Coal Import Monitoring System (CIMS) from February 1. This will

require coal importers to submit advance information in an online system for import and obtain an automatic registration number. The categories of coal on which the CIMS would be applicable include anthracite coal, bituminous coal, coking coal, and steam coal. The CIMS will enable the government to keep a tab on the various categories of coal being imported and help make policy decisions accordingly.

6. World Bank, GoI ink pact for \$500 million project to develop green, safe highway corridors

Note: The government inked a \$500 million loan pact with the World Bank (WB) to develop safe and green national highway corridors in the states of Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Green National Highways Corridors project will support the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in constructing 783 km of highways by integrating technology designs such as local and marginal materials, industrial byproducts, and other bioengineering solutions.

7. ONGC begins production in Bengal basin, making it India's eighth functional

Note: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited has begun crude oil production from the Asokenagar-1 well, Bengal Basin in 24 Paragana district. This has made the Bengal basin India's eighth producing basin. Others are Krishna-Godavari (KG), Mumbai Offshore, Assam Shelf, Rajasthan, Cauvery, Assam-Arakan Fold Belt and Cambay.

8. Govt identifies new routes for ferry, RO-RO services through inland waterways

Note: To promote coastal shipping and boost tourism, new routes for ferry and RO-RO (Roll-on Roll-off) services have been identified that include Somnath Temple, Hazira, Okha and Jamnagar, the government. The destinations along with six international routes have been identified under the Sagarmala project, a flagship programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW). The programme aims to promote port-led development in the country through harnessing India's 7,500 km long coastline and potentially navigable waterways.

9. MPEDA launches India's first aquafarmers call centre

Note: The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), headquartered in Kochi, has

launched a multilingual call centre for aquafarmers at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, which will address their technical issues and impart knowledge about efficient farming methods round the clock. The call centre primarily caters to aqua farmers of Andhra Pradesh, the state that contributes more than 60 per cent of the country's marine products export basket.

10. World Bank approves 4 development projects in India worth \$800 mn

Note: The World Bank on Wednesday approved four India projects worth over USD 800 million to support development initiatives. The projects that have been approved are: Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth Project (CHIRAAG); Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project; and Second Dam Improvement and Rehabilitation Project (DRIP-2).

11. Govt. plans \$60-bn investment to bolster gas infrastructure

Note: Union government had planned a \$60-billion investment for creating gas infrastructure in the country till 2024, and that gas's share in the energy mix is expected to rise to 15% by 2030. Currently, gas accounts for 6% in the country's total energy mix. Speaking at the Assocham Foundation Day Week 2020.

12. Govt, World Bank sign \$400-mn project to protect India's poor

Note: The Government of India and the World Bank on Wednesday signed a \$400 million project to support

India's efforts at providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households, severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This is the second operation in a programmatic series of two. The first operation of \$750 million was approved in May 2020. The programme will strengthen the capability of state and national governments in India to provide coordinated and adequate social protection to the poor and vulnerable from the shocks triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

13. India, Qatar set up task force to identify projects for investment

Note: India and its biggest LNG supplier Qatar agreed to set up a task force to identify projects in India for investment by the gas-rich Gulf nation. India imports 8.5 million tonnes per annum of gas in its liquid form (LNG) from Qatar under a long-term contract. It also buys LPG to meet the fast-expanding cooking gas requirements in the country.

14. ADB, India sign \$50-million loan to boost Bengal's financial management reforms

Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Central government have signed a \$50-million policy-based loan to improve financial management procedures and operational efficiencies aimed at achieving more fiscal savings, promote informed decision-making, and improve service delivery in West Bengal.

November 2020

1. Asian Development Bank approves \$133 million loan for Meghalaya power sector

Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday approved a \$132.8-million loan to improve the power quality and upgrade the power distribution network in Meghalaya, with an aim to benefit about 180,000 households. This is the second external help in quick succession after the the state recently received \$120-million World Bank support to improve and modernise the transport sector.

2. Centre inks \$120mn loan agreement with World Bank for Meghalaya's transport sector

Note: The government inked a loan agreement worth \$120 million with the World Bank (WB) to modernise the transport sector of Meghalaya. The funds will be used to improve about 300 km of strategic roads and stand-alone bridges through climate-resilient and nature-based solutions. It will also support the procurement of precast bridges to reduce both the time and cost of construction.

3. 4 Indian Cities Selected To Pioneer Roadmap For Smart Cities

Note: Bengaluru, Faridabad, Indore and Hyderabad figure among the 36 cities across the world that have

agreed to pioneer a roadmap for safely adopting new technology as part of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance. Apart from Bengaluru, Faridabad, Indore and Hyderabad, cities such as London, Moscow, Toronto, Brasilia, Dubai and Melbourne have also been selected.

4. EESL Signs MoU with DNRE Goa to implement the country's first Convergence Project

Note: Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power and Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Goa, have signed a memorandum of understanding today to discuss rolling out of India's first Convergence Project in the State. The project is to focus on energy solutions that are evolved based on the concepts that combine climate change, renewable energy and Artificial Intelligence.

5. WPI inflation for October rises third month in a row to 1.48%

Note: The rate of inflation, based on the monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI), stood at 1.48 per cent for October 2020, compared to 0% during the corresponding month previous year. On a month-on-month basis too, WPI inflation rose for the third

straight month. This is also the highest level of Wholesale price index-based (WPI) inflation since February when it was 2.26 per cent.

6. Finance Minister Announces ₹ 900 Crore Grant For COVID-19 Vaccine Research

Note: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman today announced a ₹ 900 crore grant to the Department of Biotechnology for COVID-19 vaccine research. The actual cost of the vaccine or logistics required for distributing the vaccine is totally different and whatever is required for that, as and when it is required will be provided. But this is totally a different purpose and this is for research for vaccine development which goes towards department of biotechnology.

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

Note: Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) said the company signed a contract worth Rs 400 crore with Tech Mahindra for implementation of enterprise resource planning (ERP) to support its project Parivartan. As a system integrator, Tech Mahindra will implement project Parivartan over a period of nine years at a cost of Rs 400 crore. Project Parivartan is a comprehensive business transformation exercise initiated by HAL through technology enhancement and centralised ERP.

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

Note: India's unemployment rate in October rose to 6.98% from 6.67% in September, according to data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). The novel coronavirus has infected approximately 8.2 million people in the world's second most populous country with a large share of the economy.

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

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

7. National Saffron Mission

Note: The saffron bowl, which was so far confined to Kashmir, may soon expand to the North East of India. Plants from seeds transported from Kashmir to Sikkim and acclimatized there are now flowering in Yangyang in the Southern part of the North-East state. Saffron production has long been restricted to a limited geographical area in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Pampore region, in India, commonly known as Saffron bowl of Kashmir, is the main contributor to saffron production, followed by Budgam, Srinagar, and Kishtiwari districts. Saffron has traditionally been associated with the famous Kashmiri cuisine.

11. MoU signed between SAI and Arunachal Pradesh government

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

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

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

13. CCI Approves Acquisition of Bharti AXA by ICICI Lombard

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

October

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

Note: Asian Development Bank and Government of India signed a 177-million-dollar loan to upgrade 450 kilometres of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra. Under the Maharashtra state road improvement project, two major district roads and

11 state highways, with combined length of 450 km will be upgraded to two-lane standard across seven districts. The projects would improve connectivity to national highways, interstate roads, seaports, airports, rail hubs, district headquarters, industrial areas, enterprise clusters and agricultural areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: As per the "World Economic Outlook" report published by the IMF the Indian economy, severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic and is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 percent this year.

However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 percent growth rate in 2021 and will become the fastest growing economy in the world. The report said global growth would contract by 4.4 percent this year and bounce back to 5.2 percent in 2021.

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

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

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

Note: India is likely to overtake Japan as the third largest economy in the world by 2050 and continue in that position till 2100, according to a study published in the medical journal Lancet. The study based 2017 as the reference when India was the seventh largest economy in the world, and forecast that India will emerge as the fourth largest economy by 2030 behind USA, China, Japan and by 2050 it will go onto the third spot. By 2100, India was forecasted to still have the largest working-age population in the world, followed by Nigeria, China, and the USA.

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

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

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

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

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

Note: As per the World Bank report titled 'South Asia Economic Focus' India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6% in the fiscal year 2020-21 (FY21). The World Bank earlier in June had estimated the Indian economy to shrink by 3.2% in the current fiscal.

South Asia as a region is set to plunge into its worst ever recession with a sharper than expected contraction of 7.7%. India's growth is projected to rebound to 5.4% in FY22, mostly reflecting base effects, assuming Covid19 -related restrictions are completely lifted by 2022.

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

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

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

Note: IBM announced the creation of an AI centre of excellence in partnership with the government e-marketplace during the inaugural session of RAISE 2020 virtual summit. The AI centre of excellence's goal will be to apply the power of AI to improve usability and transparency and drive efficiency and cost savings in public procurement.

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

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

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

Note: Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani launched the first ever Brand and Logo for Indian Cotton on Second World Cotton Day. Now India's premium cotton would be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton trade. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness. India is the second largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

September 2020

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

Note: The High Commission of India shared the news on September 20, 2020. The loan was handed

over at a ceremony in the presence of Maldives Finance Minister Ibrahim Ameer, Foreign Minister Abdullah Shahid, CEO of SBI in Male, Bharat Mishra, and Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Sudhir.

2. **Central government plans to introduce law to ban Cryptocurrency trading**
Note: The Central Government has been planning to introduce a new law that will ban the trade in cryptocurrencies. The bill has been expected to be discussed by the federal cabinet before it is sent to the Parliament for approval. Under the law, the federal government will be encouraging the blockchain, the technology underlying cryptocurrencies, but is not keen on cryptocurrency trading.
3. **Fitch Solutions projects India's GDP growth at -8.6% in FY21**
Note: Fitch Solutions has revised downward its forecast for Indian economic growth and now estimates that India's GDP will contract by 8.6% in 2020-21 (FY21).
4. **UBS Securities projects India's GDP at -8.6% in FY21**
Note: UBS Securities has projected India's GDP for 2020-21 (FY21) to contract by 8.6%. (Earlier it was -5.8%). For FY22, UBS Securities projects India's GDP to grow by 10%. UBS Securities is a Chinese investment bank and brokerage firm headquartered in Beijing, China.
5. **OECD projects India's GDP at -10.2% in FY21**
Note: The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) expects the Indian economy to contract by 10.2% in FY21 (2020-21) as compared to its previous estimate of 16.7% in June. For FY22 (2021-22), the Paris-based OECD projects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at 10.7%.
6. **Asian Development Bank projects India's GDP at -9% in FY21**
Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has estimated that the GDP of India is expected to contract by 9% in fiscal 2020-21 (FY21). This estimate is worse than ADB's previous estimate of -4%. However, for the FY22 (2021-22), ADB expects India's GDP at 8 per cent. ADB also expects the gross domestic product (GDP) growth for developing Asia at -0.7 per cent in 2020, the first negative economic growth since 1962.
7. **S&P Global Ratings Projects India's GDP at -9% in FY21**
Note: S&P Global Ratings has projected the GDP of India to contract by 9% in the fiscal year 2020-21 (FY21), as against its previous estimate of

a 5% contraction, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the FY22 (2021-22), S&P expects GDP growth of 6% and for the FY23 (2022-23), GDP growth is projected at 6.2%.

8. **CARE ratings projects India's GDP to contract between 8-8.2% in FY21**
Note: The Indian rating agency, CARE Ratings has projected the GDP of India to contract in the range 8 to 8.2% for 2020-21 (FY21). This is more than its earlier projection of -6.4%. The decline in GDP growth by around 8 per cent would also be associated with a decline in the gross fixed capital formation.
9. **Moody's forecasts India's GDP at -11.5% for FY21**
Note: The rating agency, Moody's has projected the GDP growth rate for India to contract 11.5 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 (FY21) due to the coronavirus pandemic. For 2021-22 (FY22), Moody's projected the economy of India to grow at 10.6 per cent.
10. **Crissil projects India's GDP for FY21 at -9%**
Note: CRISIL has projected India's GDP rate at -9% for the financial year 2020-21 (FY21). CRISIL revising its forecast down from 5% owing to uncertainty over the spread of Covid-19 and lack of adequate financial support from the government.
11. **India Ratings forecasts contraction of 11.8% in FY21 GDP**
Note: The Indian arm of Fitch Ratings, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has projected India's FY21 GDP growth forecast at -11.8% as against its earlier prediction of -5.3%. The rating agency estimates the economic loss in FY21 to be Rs 18.44 lakh crore. The rating agency also expects India's GDP to rebound and grow at 9.9% year-on-year in FY22 primarily due to the weak base of FY21.
12. **Indian economy contracted by 23.9% in Q1 of 2020-21**
Note: The estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the first quarter (April-June) Q1 of 2020-21 has been released by the NSO. NSSO has released the GDP estimates at both Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices. As per the estimate the Indian economy has experienced a contraction of 23.9% as compared to 5.2% growth in Q1 2019-20.

August

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

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

Challenge Contest to boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of India. The programme aims to identify around 300 startups working in identified areas and provide

them seed fund of upto Rs. 25 Lakh and other facilities. The government has earmarked an amount worth Rs 95.03 crore over a period of 3 years for the programme.

2. **Govt launches national GIS-enabled land bank system**
Note: Union govt e-launched the national GIS-enabled land bank system. It will help investors in getting real-time information about the availability of industrial land and resources. The system has been developed by the Integration of Industrial Information System (IIS) with state GIS (Geographic Information System). The project has been launched for six states
3. **India, Bangladesh to open new trade connectivity route**
Note: India and Bangladesh have decided to open a new trade route to promote regional connectivity by expanding the scope of inland water transport mechanisms that will enable trade boost in the region. The route which will be connecting Sonamura in Tripura to Daudkandi in Bangladesh has been operationalized under the agreement signed by the two countries in May 2020 to boost riverine trade.
4. **Government to sell up to 15 percent stake in HAL**
Note: The central government has decided to sell up to 15 percent stake in Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) through an offer for sale (OFS). The floor price has been fixed at Rs 1,001 per share. The Government has proposed to sell 3,34,38,750 equity shares in the state-run aerospace and defence company through the OFS, which constitutes 10 percent paid-up share capital of the company,
5. **KVIC creates self employment for migrant workers through its flagship Honey Mission Programme**
Note: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken a big major leap towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' by creating the local and self-employment for the migrant workers through its Honey Mission Programme. To provide the livelihood opportunity under the mission, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Minister of State for MSME distributed 700 bee boxes to the 70 migrant workers of Bulandshahr and Saharanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh on August 25, 2020.
6. **AIIB and India sign agreement of USD 500 million for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III**
Note: The Indian Government, Maharashtra government and Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation has signed a loan agreement of USD 500 million dollars with the Asian Infrastructure Investment bank (AIIB) for Mumbai Urban

Transport Project-III. The project aims at improving the service quality, network capacity, and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.

7. **Businesses with annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh now GST exempt: Finance Ministry**
Note: The Union Ministry of Finance announced that now businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh will be GST exempt. The Ministry added that those with a turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and pay only 1 percent tax. Earlier, only businesses with an annual turnover of Rs 20 lakh were exempted from GST tax.
8. **Centre to develop a single e-compliance window soon to promote ease of doing business**
Note: The central government has been planning to develop a single e-compliance window for India Inc. This new framework will enable the companies to comply with the different regulatory requirements at one go. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has also initiated discussions with various regulators including RBI, SEBI, and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, to create a single platform with common data sources.
9. **India, Japan and Australia to launch Supply Chain Resilience Initiative to counter China**
Note: India, Australia, and Japan have started the discussions for the launch of a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in order to reduce the dependency on China. The initiative which was first proposed by Japan might be executed. Earlier, Japan through its Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry had approached India and had pressed on the urgency of taking the initiative forward.
10. **India ranks first in number of organic farmers, 9th in terms of area under organic farming**
Note: India has been ranked first in the number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming. Sikkim has become the first state in the world to become fully organic. Other states including Uttarakhand and Tripura have also set similar sustainability targets. North-east India has traditionally been organic and the consumption of chemicals is far less than the rest of the country.
11. **ADB approves \$1 billion package for Delhi-Meerut Rapid Transit System**
Note: The Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system (RRTS) network of 82 kms is the first of the three priority rail corridors in India's integrated transport network under NCR Regional Plan of 2021. The rail project report mentioned that about eight lakh passengers will be boarding the high-speed RRTS trains, which will be running at 180 kmph, for the long and short distance commuting every day.

12. **India to provide USD 500 million assistance for connectivity project in Maldives**
Note: Indian government will fund the implementation of major connectivity project in the Maldives with USD 400 million line of credit and USD 100 million grant. The announcement was made after the Union External Affairs Minister had wide-ranging talks with Abdulla Shahid, his Maldivian counterpart.
13. **PM Modi launches Transparent Taxation- Honoring the Honest platform**
Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a platform called "Transparent Taxation - Honoring The Honest" to honour the honest taxpayers of the country. The "Transparent Taxation - Honoring The Honest" platform will initiate major tax reforms aimed at bringing transparency in income tax systems and empowering taxpayers.
14. **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches online dashboard of National Infrastructure Pipeline**
Note: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an online dashboard of National Infrastructure Pipeline. The Dashboard will showcase over 6,800 projects online. The Online dashboard of NIP is to be hosted on the India Investment Grid (IIG), which is a dynamic and interactive online platform that showcases real-time and updated investment opportunities in India.
15. **Indian government contributes over \$15 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund**
Note: The Indian government has contributed over \$15.46 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund. The contribution highlights India's commitment to support developing nations in their developmental priorities across all Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The contribution of the fund was made during a low-key ceremony which was held within the social distancing guidelines at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN.
16. **Atal Innovation Mission launches 'AIM-iCREST' program in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**
Note: Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched AIM-iCREST- an incubator capabilities enhancement program for an ecosystem which will be focused on creating high performing startups. The step has been taken to encourage and enable the holistic progress in the incubator ecosystem across India making it the first kind of initiative for advancing innovation at scale in the country.
17. **ADB approves USD 3 million grant to India to fight COVID-19 pandemic**
Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on July 29 announced that it has approved USD 3 million grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Respond Fund. The bank has provided the grant to support India's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic
18. **India's FATF review of anti-money laundering regime postponed to 2021**
Note: India's much-awaited Financial Action Task Force (FATF) review has been postponed to 2021. The review was scheduled for this year as a part of the regular review cycle after 10 years. The FATF review would comprise an evaluation of India's anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regime and the legal measures taken to keep a check on financial crimes.
19. **India-UK affirm shared commitment towards Free Trade Agreement**
Note: India and the United Kingdom affirmed their shared commitment towards a Free Trade Agreement during the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee meeting. The virtual meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and UK Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss.
20. **CBDT, CBIC sign MoU to share data regularly**
Note: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the data exchange between the two organisations. Along with the signing, a Data Exchange Steering group has also been constituted.
21. **NABARD launches development projects in Andaman & Nicobar Islands worth Rs. 44 lakhs**
Note: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched development projects in Andaman & Nicobar Islands worth Rs. 44 lakhs. These projects aim at strengthening the concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat through rural entrepreneurship. The projects by NABARD will include the formation and development of Self-Help Groups, SHG.
22. **NABARD to provide banks refinance of Rs. 5000 crores to support watershed projects**
Note: The NABARD announced Rs. 5,000 crores of refinance scheme for the financial institutions and banks in order to provide finance to the beneficiaries of its 2,150 watershed development projects. The financial institution also designated another Rs. 5,000 crores for turning Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) into multi-service centres.
23. **India becomes a second largest source of FDI for UK**

Note: United Kingdom (UK) government figures which were released on July 10 showed that India has become the second-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the UK by investing in 120 projects and creating 5,429 new jobs in the United Kingdom. It represents an overall 4 percent FDI increase for the UK in 2018-2019, with 1,852 new inward investment in 2019-20.

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

Note: Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced an investment of Rs. 75,000 crore (approximately \$10 billion) into India over the next five to seven years through the 'Google for India Digitization Fund'. The major investment is significant as it has come in the

middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and multinational companies look across the world for alternative investment destinations.

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

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

Agreement & Deals

January(1-14th) 2021

1. Bharat Biotech inks pact with Precisa Med to supply Covaxin to Brazil

Note: Bharat Biotech has announced that it has signed an agreement with Precisa Medicamentos for the supply of its indigenously manufactured Covid-19 vaccine 'Covaxin' to Brazil. The supplies of Covaxin will be prioritized for the public market, through direct procurement by Brazil government. A team from Precisa Medicamentos had visited the Bharat Biotech facility in Genome Valley near here last week to discuss export of COVAXIN, India's first indigenous vaccine for Covid-19.

2. IREDA-NHPC Partnership in Green Energy Projects

Note: NHPC Limited has signed an MOU with the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for providing assistance in setting up renewable energy (RE) projects for the next 5 years. The agreement was signed in the presence of Abhay Kumar Singh, NHPC CMD, and IREDA, CMD, Pradip Kumar Das.

3. Tata Power partners with SIDBI to offer easy & affordable financing scheme for MSME

Note: Tata Power, India's largest integrated power company, announced its partnership with SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) to offer easy and affordable financing scheme for MSME customers in the rooftop solar segment. This scheme

will empower MSMEs to adopt sustainable energy for their businesses and promote greener.

4. Indian Army inks pact with Goa Shipyard to get 12 fast patrol boats

Note: Indian Army has inked a contract with Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) to procure 12 Fast Patrol Boats for surveillance and patrolling of large water bodies, including those in high altitude areas like Pangong Tso lake in Ladakh. Pangong Tso's 134-km length is divided into eight 'fingers', military parlance for mountain spurs jutting into the water body that is contested by both sides. The lake is frozen with the onset of winters, and the Army plans to deploy around two dozen such boats by next summer.

5. UNDP and PCMC join hands for 'first social impact bond

Note: Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Pune has recently signed an MoU with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India to co-create India's first Social Impact Bond (SIB). This is the first time that a government body will act as the 'outcome funder' in a bond, whereas traditionally most government-funded public projects require large and early investments by the government with a substantial gestation period of outcomes and involve various kinds of risks.

December 2020

1. UN Women and Kerala govt tie-up for India's 1st Gender Data Hub

Note: The UN Women and Kerala government have collaborated to establish India's first Gender Data

Hub. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in this regard in the presence of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Three key areas of co-operation, as specified in the MoU, will be setting up

the Gender Data Centre at The Gender Park, launching the second edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality, and increasing engagement on the global normative frameworks on gender equality and empowerment of women.

2. ADB announces Rs 2100 crore loan to Tripura

Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced to provide Rs 2,100 crore loan to the Tripura government for the development of urban areas and tourism in the northeastern state. From the total fund of Rs 2,100 crore, Rs 1600 crore will be for urban development and Rs 500 crore for the tourism sector.

3. SBI General Insurance, IntrCity RailYatri partner to offer ₹5L travel cover

Note: SBI General Insurance partnered with IntrCity RailYatri, to provide travel insurance of ₹5 lakh on tickets for bus commuters opting to travel through IntrCity RailYatri. The travel cover is offered on buying the ticket. Under this partnership, SBI General insurance will provide a wide variety of coverage including accidental death, permanent total disability, and medical evacuation.

4. GoI inks \$1-bn loan pact with NDB to support Indian Economy

Note: The Government of India and the New Development Bank (NDB) have signed a loan agreement worth \$1,000 million for 'supporting India's economic recovery from COVID-19'. The loan has a tenor of 30 years, including a 5-year grace period. The programme will support Indian Government in mitigating the adverse economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic and enable economic recovery in the rural areas.

5. Norway signs MoU with Clean Ganga Mission in India

Note: The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) has signed an MoU with cGanga, a think-tank of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) for development of sludge management framework in India. Through this initiative, Norway intends to deepen the relationship with India especially in the prevention of climate change and conservation of the environment.

6. India and Austria inks MoU on Technology Cooperation

Note: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Ministry of Climate Action,

Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of the Republic of Austria on Technology Cooperation in the Road Infrastructure Sector. The MoU will further strengthen ties, promote long-standing bilateral relations and enhance trade and regional integration between the two countries.

7. India and Uzbekistan inks 9 Agreements to strengthen strategic partnership

Note: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev co-chaired the virtual Summit held between the two countries, to strengthen strategic partnership among them. The Government of India also approved a US \$448 million Line of Credit for four developmental projects in Uzbekistan in the fields of road construction, sewerage treatment and information technology.

8. PwC, UNICEF and YuWaah partner to redefine education

Note: Consulting firm PwC India has collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and YuWaah (Generation Unlimited in India) to upskill 300 million young Indians over the next 10 years. This collaboration is part of PwC's global multi-sector partnership with UNICEF and Generation Unlimited to upskill and provide about 1.8 billion youngsters with socio-economic opportunities from school to work by 2030.

9. NTPC inks MoU with IIFM-Bhopal for Narmada Landscape Restoration Project

Note: National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), a PSU under Ministry of Power, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, for the implementation of Narmada Landscape Restoration Project (NLRP). IIFM Bhopal is an Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

10. India & USA signs MoU on Intellectual Property Cooperation

Note: The Government of India and the United States of America (USA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of Intellectual Property Cooperation. As a part of this MoU, the two sides will develop Biennial Work Plan to implement the MoU which will include the detailed planning for carrying out of the co-operation activities including the scope of action. The Union Cabinet had approved the signing the MoU for the same on 19 February 2020.



November 2020

1. India and Finland sign MOU on environmental protection

Note: India and Finland signed an MoU for developing cooperation in the field of Environment protection and biodiversity conservation. The MoU was signed by Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and his Finnish counterpart Krista Mikkonen through video-mode.

2. Mercedes-Benz joins hands with SBI to target HNI customers

Note: Mercedes-Benz has joined hands with State Bank of India (SBI) to offer financial benefits to the lender's High Net Worth Individual (HNI) customers. This collaboration will give the luxury automobile manufacturer access to State Bank of India's High Net Worth Individual (HNI) customer base, while the bank's customers will enjoy exclusive benefits at the time of booking a Mercedes-Benz car. The collaboration with SBI gives an exciting opportunity to expand our customer base and reach out to the potential HNI customers of the bank with products and services.

3. UNDP and Invest India tie-up to launch the SDG Investor Map for India

Note: The National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, Invest India has partnered with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India to develop the first-ever 'SDG Investor Map for India'. The map lays out 18 Investment Opportunities Areas (IOAs) in six critical SDG enabling sectors, that can help India to move forward on Sustainable Development path. This initiative is an instrumental stride in India's development trajectory.

4. DIPAM inks agreement with World Bank

Note: Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has signed an agreement with the World Bank, to provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization. DIPAM is mandated with facilitating monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of the value of 100 crore and above. DIPAM has a framework for monetizing non-core assets.

5. ICICI Lombard, FreePaycard to offer health insurance solutions

Note: ICICI Lombard in partnership with Freepaycard, an online pre-paid card trading

platform, has launched Group Safeguard Insurance. This strategic partnership will make the bite-sized health insurance solutions, designed specifically for Freepaycardmembers, available at its multi-category partner retail outlets. Freepaycard members can add these health solutions on the go while shopping for other essential goods or services.

6. IBM, Indian Oil Corporation collaborate for digital services

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

7. AAI Signs MoU With NTPC Subsidiary, NVVN

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

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

Note: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Research and Development Centre of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have signed an MoU to develop and demonstrate biomass gasification-based hydrogen generation technology. This technology will be used for producing fuel cell-grade hydrogen at an affordable price. The IISc and IndianOil will work jointly on the optimisation of both biomass gasification and hydrogen purification processes, The developed technology will be scaled up and demonstrated at Indian Oils R&D Centre at Faridabad, Haryana.



October

1. Bank of Baroda ties up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor

Note: Bank of Baroda (BoB) has entered into a tie-up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), whereby the bank will be one of the preferred financiers for the entire range of vehicles sold by the latter. India's third-largest public sector bank, in a statement, stated that under the tie-up, customers can avail customised solutions such as high on-road funding of 90 per cent, long repayment period of 84 months, no prepayment or foreclosure charges. On the other hand, TKM dealers will benefit from 'digitised supply chain finance' with competitive interest rates.

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

Note: Mastercard has entered into a partnership with Atlantis to expand the Digital First Program in India. The partnership aims to provide the users of Mastercard, a technology solution that enables them to enjoy a best-in-class digital banking experience. After the launch in India, the partnership will expand to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The partnership allows the users of the Mastercard to have immediate account access and convenient payments.

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Indian Posts & US Postal Service entered into an agreement for the electronic exchange of customs data related to postal shipments. It will enable to transmit & receive electronic data of international postal items prior to their physical arrival. The agreement will make it possible to transmit and receive electronic data of international postal items prior to their physical arrival at the destination and would enable customs clearance of postal items in advance in line with the evolving global postal framework.

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

Note: The SBI Card in association with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation launched a contactless multi-purpose card that can function as a credit card and as a metro smart card. The credit card Delhi Metro SBI Card is designed for regular commuters on Delhi Metro. It will enable its users to use it as a smart card with an auto-top up facility whenever the balance is below Rs 100. The credit card facility will automatically recharge a top-up value of Rs 200 from the user's linked card/bank account.

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

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

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

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



and sharing skills for restoration and protection of

historical monuments.

September

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

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

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

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

3. WhatsApp, CPF partner to drive cyber safety awareness

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

4. Infosys acquires product design firm Kaleidoscope Innovation

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

August

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

Note: The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has partnered with CSC (Common Service Center) e Governance Services India Limited. The partnership aims to enable delivery of UMANG services to citizens through the network of 3.75 lakh CSCs.

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

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

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

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

4. Uttar Pradesh partners Israel to resolve Bundelkhand Water Crisis

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



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

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

6. Ministry of Skill Development partners with Ministry of Shipping

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

7. Atal Innovation Mission signs SoI with Business Sweden

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

8. Flipkart establishes academic collaboration with IIT Patna

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Reliance Power and Japanese energy major JERA have signed an agreement with a group of banks for their new gas-fired thermal power generation project in Bangladesh. The signed agreement will provide full finance of about \$642 million (approx Rs 4,798 crore) for a new 745 MW natural gas combined-cycle power project in Meghnaghat in Bangladesh. This is one of the largest funding tie-ups for a project in Bangladesh's power sector.

Books & Author



- 1. K S Vijayanath** has authored the book titled “Sabarimala Vijnaanakosham” released by Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala.
Note: Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala released the book titled “**Sabarimala Vijnaanakosham**” authored by K S Vijayanath at Raj Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He presented the **first copy** of “Sabarimala Vijnaanakosham” to **S Sreejith**, Inspector General of Police (Crime Branch) Kerala. He also presented the Limca Book of World Records certificate to Swami Maheswarananda who erected a 111 feet Shiv Linga Sthoopa at Maheswaram Sri Siva parvathi Temple in Chenkal, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- 2. R Kaushik** has authored the book titled ‘India’s 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia.’
Note: The book, a Bradman Museum initiative, is authored by senior cricket scribe R. Kaushik, and it chronicles a rivalry that has given a fillip to Test cricket. In his foreword to the book, Shastri wrote: “Australians hate losing, and it’s a thought process entertained not just by the 11 on the field, but the whole nation, the fans and the media. When a team tours Australia, there is a combined assault like no other.”
- 3. K S Vijayanath** has authored the book titled “Sabarimala Vijnaanakosham” released by Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala.
Note: He presented the first copy of “Sabarimala Vijnaanakosham” to S Sreejith, Inspector General of Police (Crime Branch) Kerala. He also presented the Limca Book of World Records certificate to Swami Maheswarananda who erected a 111 feet Shiv Linga Sthoopa at Maheswaram Sri Siva parvathi Temple in Chenkal, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- 4. R Giridharan** has authored the book titled ‘Right Under Your Nose’.
Note: This is his debut Book. The book is published by Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd. The book portrays how Superintendent Vijay along with his trusted aide Dalvi, and Journalist Padmini spots the murderer who killed a woman and a team of scientists. Their skills are pitted by a genius who eliminates all possible lead, right under their nose. The story is set in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- 5. Kansom Himalay Singh** has authored the book titled ‘Making of a General – A Himalayan Echo’.
Note: The book was released by Dr Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur through a virtual mode at Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan, Imphal, Manipur. It is a memoir of Lt Gen (Dr) Kansom Himalay Singh who discovered his journey from a small village in Manipur to becoming the 1st Lieutenant general (Three Star General of the Indian Army) from North East India.
- 6. Romila Thapar** has authored the book titled ‘Gazing Eastwards: Of Buddhist Monks and Revolutionaries in China, 1957.’
Note: The book is published by Seagull Books London Ltd. She declined the Padma Bhushan award in 1992 and 2005. The book accounts a few months that Romila Thapar spent in China in 1957 along with Sri Lankan art historian Anil de Silva, where she worked at two cave sites, namely Maijishan in north China and Dunhuang on the edge of the Gobi desert in Northwest China
- 7. S Y Quraishi** has authored the book titled “The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India”.
Note: The book will hit the stands on February 15, 2021. It has been published by HarperCollins India. The book evaluates India’s demographics from a religious perspective and seeks to demolish two basic myths that ‘Islam is against family planning’ and “Muslim rate of growth” is linked to capture political power.
- 8. Vidhu Vinod Chopra** has authored the book titled ‘Unscripted: Conversations on Life and Cinema’.
Note: The book is scheduled to be released on January 25. The book gives a glance into the mind, method and madness of Vidhu Vinod Chopra, one of contemporary Hindi cinema’s best filmmakers. In this book, Vidhu Vinod Chopra speaks to his long-time collaborator and scriptwriter Abhijat Joshi about his journey.
- 9. Hardeep Singh Puri** has released the book titled Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Government’s Special Relationship with Sikhs on the occasion of 550th Gurupurab.
Note: The book was released in New Delhi in presence of Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar. The book, published by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, was released in English, Hindi and Punjabi languages.
- 10. Amrit Raj** has authored the book titled “Indian Icon: A Cult Called Royal Enfield”.



Note: This book maps the trail-blazing story of the brand, the company and most of all, the individuals who have made Royal Enfield what it is now — a premium homegrown consumer brand for the global markets.

11. **A. Sivathanu Pillai** has authored the book titled “40 Years with Abdul Kalam- Untold Stories”, a book on the life of the former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

Note: The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has released the book titled “40 Years with Abdul Kalam- Untold Stories”, a book on the life of the former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The book is published by Pentagon Press LLP and the foreword was written by Pranab Mukherjee, former president of India.

12. **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has authored the book titled “Pioneer of Humanity: Maharishi Arvind”.

Note: The book is in Hindi with the title ‘Manavta ke Praneta Maharishi Arvind’. Shri Arvind was a person fully devoted to Indian culture, Indian values, Indian nationalism and Indian philosophy.

13. The book titled ‘Romancing Targets’ has been authored by **Nidhi Vadhera**.

Note: In this book, Author Nidhi Vadhera shares with you a systematic approach to understand the sales process which will empower you to embrace sales targets and achieve results without getting burnt in the process.

14. The book titled “Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life” has been authored by **Amish Tripathi**.

Note: The book provides philosophical lessons extracted from the ancient Hindu Epics. The book is published by Westland Publications Pvt Ltd and set to release in December 2020. The book is presented in a form of conversation between the characters in modern day India, which offers various practical philosophical lessons from epics like “Maharabarat” and Amis’s books “the Shiva Trilogy” and “Ram Chandra Series”.

15. **Om Birla** released the book titled “The Shaurya Unbound-Tales of Valour of the CRPF” on the 19th anniversary of the attack on Indian Parliament.

Note: On the 19th Anniversary of the attack on Indian Parliament the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has released the book titled “The Shaurya Unbound-Tales of Valour of the Central Reserve Police Force”. It is a

collection of 13 most exemplary acts of valour of CRPF brave hearts who were awarded with Chakras.

16. Maharashtra government has unveiled a Braille version of the Indian Constitution.

Note: A valuable work of making available the Indian Constitution in Braille script for the visually impaired has been done. The Braille version of the Constitution has been prepared on behalf of Thane-based NGO Astitva Foundation.

17. **Prem Prakash** has authored the book titled “Reporting India” released by the External Affairs Minister S Jai Shankar.

Note: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has released a book titled “Reporting India” My Seventy-Year Journey as a Journalist’. The book is pretty much history of India from a foreign policy perspective for half-a-century and the domestic aspects of his journalistic work are no less interesting.

18. **P S Sreedharan Pillai** has authored the book titled ‘Oh Mizoram’ which was released by the vice president M Venkaiah Naidu.

Note: The book has been authored by Mizoram governor P S Sreedharan Pillai. It is his 125th book. OH, Mizoram’ is his first poetry collection in English. It was published by the Indus Scrolls Press.

19. **Jairam Ramesh** has authored the book titled “The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha.

Note: The book will showcase the story of the poem “The Lights of Asia” which shaped the people’s view of Buddha and his teachings. The book will be published by Viking imprint of Penguin India.

20. **Shakti Sinha** has authored the book titled “Vajpayee: The Years that changed India”.

Note: The new book on former PM was released on his 96th birth anniversary. **Shakti Sinha** has worked with Vajpayee as the secretary to the leader of the Opposition (1996-97) and as his private secretary (1998-99).

21. **Madhav Bhandari** has authored the book titled ‘Ayodhya’.

Note: Former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Devendra Fadnavis released the book ‘Ayodhya’ written by BJP’s State Vice President Madhav Bhandari in Mumbai. Fadnavis said that the fight to build a Ram temple is a fight to awaken the Hindu community and the book will be used as a reference book.

22. **Kailash Satyarthi** has authored the book titled ‘Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan’.



- Note:** The Hindi book, published by Prabhat Prakashan, discusses how the pandemic has influenced the education system, business, politics, public safety, foreign policy, law, medicine, economy and development of countries.
23. "In Pursuit of Justice: An Autobiography" is an autobiography of **Rajindar Sachar**.
Note: The family of Late Justice Rajindar Sachar in association with The Indian Society of International Law and The Indian Law Institute is organizing the book launch "In Pursuit Of Justice: An Autobiography" written by Late Justice Rajindar Sachar. The book has been posthumously published.
24. **Manav Kaul** has authored the book (Novel) titled "Antima".
Note: Manav Kaul on December 28 presented his first novel "Antima" to Ruskin Bond here and the iconic author said he hopes the book earns the actor "lots of royalties and readers". The "Ghoul" actor took to Instagram to share a short video in which Bond congratulated him on the release of the Hindi book. World's 1st scientoon book titled "Bye Bye Corona" is authored by **Pradeep Srivastava**.
Note: World's 1st scientoon book entitled "Bye Bye Corona", was released by Anandiben Patel, Governor, Uttar Pradesh. The book was written by 'scientoonist' Dr Pradeep Srivastava, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. It is further planned to make a 3D version of the book. The book has been published by Vigyan Prasar.
25. **Tamal Bandyopadhyay** authored the book titled "Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy".
Note: This book, published by Roli Books, provides an understanding of the challenges and economic potential of India. The book "Pandemonium" accounts how many promoters had swapped equity with debt while the managements of the banks were finding a way to protect their balance sheets until the intervention of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) against their bad loans.
26. **Ajay Kumar Parida** authored the book titled "The Age of Pandemic (1817-1920): How they Shaped India And the World".
Note: The book is published by HarperCollins India and is set to release in December 2020. It documents the scale of devastation, cause and consequences and the resilience of the people during the pandemics. It also portrays the continuing relevance of learning from the disaster that affected the nation and the ways to combat the challenges like COVID-19.
27. **Padampani Bora** has authored the book titled "Discovering the Heritage of Assam" released by union minister Dr Jitendra Singh.
Note: The book depicts the heritage, faith, beliefs and traditions of different ethnic tribes and subtribes living in Assam, the largest State of the North Eastern Region. The book by Padampani Bora will help to understand the grand splendour and glory of the undiscovered facets of Assam.
28. Anand Neelakantan has authored the kid's book titled "The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids".
Note: The book narrates the story of the asura twins Kundakka and Mandakka who hate to go to school, troublesome Bhasma and per pig Nakura, brothers Atapi and Vatapi and others. This book introduces the Indian Puranas to the kids who are indulged in electronic gadgets. The illustrations of the book are made by Subhadeep Roy and Shiladitya Bose.
29. Manish Sisodia has launched the coffee-table book titled "Babu - The Unforgettable".
Note: The book narrates the story of the asura twins Kundakka and Mandakka who hate to go to school, troublesome Bhasma and per pig Nakura, brothers Atapi and Vatapi and others. This book introduces the Indian Puranas to the kids who are indulged in electronic gadgets. The illustrations of the book are made by Subhadeep Roy and Shiladitya Bose.
30. The book titled 'Deh Vechwa Karani, is autobiography of former Union Minister Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.
Note: The autobiography of Dr Patil has been titled 'Deh Vechwa Karani,' means 'dedicating one's life for a noble cause.' Dr Patil served as Member of Lok Sabha for multiple terms. He died in 2016 at the age of 84.
31. GBS Sidhu has written the book titled "The Khalistan Conspiracy". _____ **GBS Sidhu**.
Note: The book published by HarperCollins will be released on October 24. The contents of this book revolve around a two-phased, top-secret operation, which he named "Operation Bhindranwale-Khalistan". It was initiated and managed by some senior and influential Congress leaders operating from the prime minister's residential office at 1 Akbar Road, New Delhi.
32. **Shashi Tharoor** has authored the book titled "The Battle of Belonging" set to be released in November 2020.



- Note:** The book is about nationalism, patriotism, citizenship, belonging and what they really mean. Tharoor has written many books, mostly nonfiction like the upcoming book, and a novel. His most recently published is 'Tharoorosaurus' a vocabulary book that released in September 2020.
- 33. Deepankar Aron** has authored the book titled "On the Trail of Buddha: A Journey to the East".
Note: On the Trail of Buddha—A Journey to the East is a unique sojourn in search of the spiritual, philosophical, and cultural linkages that bind India to the East Asian civilisations. From the wandering monks of Asia to the temples and monasteries they visited; from the statues and frescoes in grottoes to those in the museums; from the diverse ethnicities of the people to their common gods and goddesses—the book explores the 'ancient India', beautifully preserved in the traditions, art, and architecture of China, as also in Mongolia, Korea and Japan, to where it spread from China.
- 34.** The book titled "Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside" is an autobiography of Indian Economist **Nand Kishore Singh**.
Note: The book portrays the life of NK Singh who played an active role in the development of the Indian economy. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission. The book portrays NK Singh's stents from 1964 when he joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), serving in higher positions of the Indian Government before entering politics as a member of Rajya Sabha.
- 35. Pradeep Goorha** has authored the book titled "Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank the Dragon".
Note: The book, though fiction is inspired by reality revolving around the currently developing story on India's northern borders along with the perennially neglected Pakistan's illegal occupation of PoK, Gilgit-Baltistan, and how these could be solved at this opportune time.
- 36. A book titled "Voices of Dissent" authored by Romila Thapar**
Note: The book will be jointly published by Penguin Random House India and Seagull Books, set to publish in October 2020. The book is a historical essay that explores dissent, including its articulation and public response to its forms, with a focus on the recent protest in India against the citizenship law and the National Register of Citizens.
- 37. A book titled "Kitchens of Gratitude" authored by Chef Vikas Khanna**
Note: Feed India initiative is one of the largest food drives in the world, serving meals to the underprivileged. The book will be released in 2021. He will also be honoured with the 2020 Asia Game Changer Award in October.
- 38. Barack Obama announces his memoir 'A Promised Land'**
Note: Former US President, Barack Obama has announced his first presidential memoir titled "A Promised Land." The 768-page book will be published in November 2020 by Penguin Random House and is scheduled to be released on November 17, 2020, in 25 languages.
- 39. A new book titled "Azadi" authored by Arundhati Roy**
Note: Arundhati Roy's new book titled "Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction" is published by Penguin Books Limited. The nonfiction book is a collection of essays that shows the meaning of Freedom in the world of increasing authoritarianism. The essay collection includes meditations on language and roles of fiction and alternative imaginations amid global pandemic due to COVID-19.
- 40. Gauri Khan announces her debut book 'My Life in Design'**
Note: Interior designer, Gauri Khan has authored her first book titled "My Life In Design", which will be published by Penguin Random House India in 2021. It is a coffee-table book, in which Gauri has written about her journey as a designer.
- 41. UN Environment Programme launches "The Little Book of Green Nudges"**
Note: A new publication "The Little Book of Green Nudges" has been launched by the United Nations Environment Programme. The newly launched publication seeks to encourage around 200 million students around the world to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
- 42. A new book titled "Let Us Dream" by Pope Francis**
Note: Pope Francis is set to release the book "Let Us Dream" in December 2020. In the book, Pope Francis explains how a crisis can teach an individual to deal with problems they face in their lives. He cites three major crises from his own personal life.
- 43. A book title "The Big Thoughts of Little Luv" authored by Karan Johar**



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

44. A book title 'Cricket Drona' on renowned coach Vasoo Paranjape

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

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

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

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

Note: Union Minister, Jitendra Singh has released a book on cancer named "Gastric Cancer" edited by Dr Ashok K. Vaid. The book was launched during a special session organized during the 3-day virtual conference on Oncology. The book is published by Springer Healthcare Education. Ashok K. Vaid is a Noted Oncologist and was awarded Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding work in the field of medicine.

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

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

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

Note: Retired Air Vice Marshal, Arjun Subramaniam has authored a new book titled, "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020". It is the sequel to his 1st book, 'India's Wars: A Military History, 1947-1971'. The book portrays the comprehensive account of war and conflict in contemporary India over the

past five decades next month. It will be published by HarperCollins Publishers India Pvt. Ltd.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



54. A book titled “Siyasat Mein Sadasyata” authored by Vijay Kumar Choudhary

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

55. “Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India” authored by Viral V.Acharya

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

56. “The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World” authored by Dr. S Jaishankar

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

57. A book titled “Suraj Kade Marda Nahi” authored by Baldev Singh Sadaknama

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

58. A book titled “The Endgame” authored by Hussain Zaidi

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

59. A book titled “If It Bleeds” authored by Stephen King released

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

60. A book titled ‘A Song of India’ authored by Ruskin Bond to be released

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

61. A book on Dalai Lama’s biography to release in 2020

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

62. “Getting Competitive: A Practitioner’s Guide for India” authored by R C Bhargava

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

63. Former RBI governor U. Patel pens book ‘Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver’

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

64. A book titled “The Future of Higher Education” released by M Venkaiah Naidu

Note: Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has virtually released a book titled “Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends”. The book is authored by CA V Pattabhi Ram. The Virtual event was hosted by ICT Academy.

65. Amish Tripathi launches new book ‘Legend of Suheldev’

Note: Amish Tripathi has released his new fiction book ‘Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India’. The book is published by Westland Publications Pvt Ltd. The book is about the Indian King Suheldev who battles to protect his country, makes huge individual penances, shows radiant initiative and



joins everybody inside the nation paying little mind to their religion, rank, area, or status in the public eye.

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

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

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

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

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

Note: The first biopic on Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's life, titled 'Finding Freedom: Harry and

Meghan and the Making of A Modern Royal Family' would be published on August 11, 2020. The book is a biopic, written by royal reporters Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand.

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

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

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

Note: Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launched an e-book titled "Prof. B.B. Lal: India Rediscovered". E-book was launched on the occasion of centenary year of great archaeologist Professor B. B. Lal.

Art and Culture

Jan (1st to 14th) 2021

1. 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

Note:

- IFFI will be held at Goa from January 16 to 24, 2021.
- **Organiser:** Directorate of Film Festivals and Goa Govt.
- **Bangladesh** has been chosen as 'Country in Focus', this means it will be honoured with Special segment that recognizes the cinematic excellence and contributions of the country. It will showcase four films from Bangladesh.

- Chairman of 51st IFFI: Pablo Cesar of Argentina
- It will have 224 films will be screened under different sections.

2. West Bengal CM inaugurates 26th Kolkata International Film Festival

Note:

- It is organised annually to showcase regional films and talent.
- 'Apur Sansar' was screened as the inaugural film to show respect to the veteran Tollywood actor Soumitra Chatterjee.

December 2020

1. First ever SCO Online International Exhibition on Buddhist Heritage commenced

About exhibition:

- It is developed and curated by National Museum, New Delhi, in collaboration with Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries.

- It showcase art technologies like 3D scanning, web platform, virtual space utilization, innovative curation and narration methodology etc.



- Indian Buddhist treasures from the Gandhara and Mathura Schools, Nalanda, Amaravati, Sarnath etc. in a 3D virtual format was there.

2. Arjun Munda e-inaugurates First Virtual 'Aadi Mahotsav-Madhya Pradesh'

About Aadi Mahotsav

- It is a 10-day long festival, that started on December 1, 2020 From MP
- **Host: Tribes India website (www.tribesindia.com)**
- **Aim:** Showcasing and promoting tribal craft and culture of Madhya Pradesh.
- It will be launched in Gujarat from 11th December 2020), followed by West Bengal
- It was introduced in 2017 to familiarise the people with rich and diverse craft, culture of the tribal communities

3. International Sand Art Festival and Konark festival begins in Odisha

Note:

- Ninth edition of International Sand Art Festival and 31st edition of Konark Festival celebrated in Odisha.
- **International Sand Art Festival**
 - Held at Chandrabhaga Beach Odisha.
 - Chief Curator of festival: Sudarsan Pattnaik
 - It is a part of Konark Dance Festival and provide a platform for both national and international sand artists to showcase their talent.
- **Konark Festival**
 - Organised by Odisha Tourism to showcase India's traditional, classical dance forms and rich cultural heritage
 - Leading exponents and dance enthusiasts of almost all classical dance forms of India are participating.

4. Gwalior and Orchha included in World Heritage City list by UNESCO

Note:

- **Orchha:** It is located in Bundelkhand region and was 16th century capital of the erstwhile Bundela dynasty. It is famous for confluence of Rajput and Mughal architectural influences. Ex: Orchha Raj Mahal, Jahangir Mahal, Ramaraja Mandir, Laxminarayan Mandir, etc

- **Gwalior:** It was the capital of Gurjar Pratihara, Tomar, Baghel Kachhwahs and Scindia Rajvansh.
- **World Heritage City:** It is a place that is recognized by UNESCO for its distinctive cultural or physical importance.

5. Ladakh LG virtually inaugurates second Ladakh Literature Festival 2020

About the festival:

- It is 3-day long festival that hosted series of talks on importance of the region, ancient knowledge of Ladakh, Folk music, cultural Dance, geology and wildlife etc.

6. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is organising 'Bharat Darshan-Dakshin Bharat Yatra' from Dec 12 to 18

Note:

- It will cover Sri Ranganam (Ranganathaswamy temple), Brihadeswara temple at Thanjavur, Rameswaram, Madurai Meenakshi and Kanyakumari
- Theme: 'Show India to Indians'

7. PM Modi addresses International Bharati Festival 2020

About International Bharati Festival 2020:

- It was organized by **Vanavil Cultural Centre, Chennai** to commemorate 138th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi, who was an eminent writer, poet and journalist from Tamil Nadu.
- **2020 Bharathi Award** was also conferred to **Seeni Viswanathan**, who is credited with compiling the voluminous works of Bharathi in chronological order.

8. Singapore's 'Hawker' Culture inducted into UNESCO's 'Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'

About Singapore's 'Hawker' Culture:

- It is a popular street dining and culinary practices in a multicultural urban environment that are naturally-ventilated premises with stalls selling food from various cultures
- Hawkers of Singapore are known to master a variety of cuisines which they serve at the 'community dining rooms'

9. 6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) begins virtually

- IISF marks the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan.



- It is a 4-day program is held from 22 to 25 December
- **Organised by:** CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)
- **IISF Theme 2020: Science for Self-Reliant India and Global Welfare**
- It was first organised in 2015

10. MP Govt to organise 'Raag-Bhopali' exhibition to promote Zari-Zardozi crafts

- Madhya Pradesh Govt is organizing 'Raag-Bhopali' exhibition to promote Zari-Zardozi crafts of Bhopal.
- Zari: Embroidery done with metallic threads is called kalabattu and forms zari
- Main zari production centres: Bhopal, MP.
- Different zari work:
 - Zardozi: heavy and more elaborate embroidery work that threads, spangles, beads and gota.
 - Kamdani: lighter needlework on scarves, veils, and caps
 - Mina Work: embroidery is done in gold.

November

1. NMCG virtually inaugurates three-day long Ganga Utsav 2020

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

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

- Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism **Prahlad Singh Patel** has virtually inaugurated 'Tourist Facilitation Centre' facility at Guruvayur, Kerala
- It has been constructed under **Development of Guruvayur project** under PRASHAD Scheme of Ministry of Tourism with a cost of Rs. 11.57 Crores.
- **PRASHAD:** 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' was launched in 2014-15 to integrate development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations. It includes infrastructure development and basic tourism facilities

3. Vice President launches 'International Satavadhanam' event

- **Organiser:** Medasani Mohan under the auspices of Sri Krishnadevaraya Satsang in Tirupati.

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

4. Assam's Tezpur Litchi gets GI tag

- Litchi's from Tezpur region of Assam is known for its excellent quality, pleasant flavour, juicy pulp with attractive red colour.
- Its name is in the list of GI group since 2015. However, APEDA recently confirmed its GI granting.

5. Nagaland to celebrate Hornbill Festival virtually due to COVID-19

About Hornbill festival:

- Celebrated every year from December 1 to 10 to showcase the rich culture, heritage, food, and customs of Naga tribes at Kisama village.
- It comprises of 16 tribes with their traditions with colorful dance performances

6. Saffron Production in India being extended to North East Region

Note:

- Till now, saffron production was limited to **Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir**.
- Pampore is commonly known as Saffron bowl of Kashmir and is the main contributor to saffron production in India.



- **North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR)** conducted a pilot project to understand the soil and actual pH conditions of Sikkim, and found it comparable to Kashmir and hence the step is taken for it.

7. Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurates Hunar Haat in Delhi

About Hunar Haat:

- It is known for Empowerment Exchange of artisans and craftsmen from across the country providing employment to more than 5 lakh Indian artisans, craftsmen, culinary experts, etc.
- It is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the Minority communities.

8. Mysuru (Karnataka) to get India's First Sandalwood Museum

Note:

- It has been conceptualised to spread awareness about the history and cultivation of sandalwood products as well as behold their awe-inspiring variety in the display.
- It will be shifted to the luxurious Mysuru Palace.
- It has been established by **Mysuru Forest Division**.

9. PM Modi unveils 'Statue of Peace' on Jainacharya Vijay Vallabh's 151st birth anniversary

About Statue of Peace:

- It is 151-inch-tall statue and has been made from **Ashtadhatu** (8 metals with Copper being the major constituent)
- It is being installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra in **Pali, Rajasthan**.
- **Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj (1870-1954)**: He was a Jain Saint working selflessly and dedicatedly to spread the message of Lord Mahavira, education, eradication of social evils, etc.

10. Digital museum inaugurated at Maharaj Bada in Gwalior for the public.

About Digital museum:

- It is developed by Gwalior Smart City Corporation and entry for the public is being made free for few days.
- It is divided into 16 galleries, showcasing architectural styles, objects, costumes, lifestyle, musical instruments, jewellery, handicrafts, cultural tradition, painting and many genres of

paintings have been digitally displayed in a modern way.

11. India International Cherry Blossom Festival cancelled due to COVID-19

About the festival:

- Cherry Blossoms festival in India is hosted annually by Shillong (Capital of Meghalaya), attracting record number of tourists.
- Cherry blossoms the beautiful hill station of Shillong in Meghalaya into pink that can be spotted during November.
- Cherry blossom festival is also celebrated in Mao, Manipur at regional level.

12. Ministry of Tourism organises 'India's Hidden Gems' webinar under Dekho Apna Desh Webinar

Note:

- Webinar was presented by Ms. Bindu Menon
- It started from Amarambalam, Nilambur, which lies in the North of Kerala, which is known for 'Conally's Plot' or the oldest teak plantation in the world, and ended at Great Hornbill resorts
- **Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series**: It is presented in partnership with National e Governance Department, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

13. Tribes India launches New Socially Impactful, Immunity Boosting Products

Products:

- **Saheli**: It is an eco-friendly sanitary pad made by the **Vasavatribals** under Gram Sangathan Kambodiya in Gujarat has been introduced. It will fall under the Forest Fresh Naturals and organics range.
- Other excellent gifting and decoration options will also be available on Tribes India outlets, Tribes India mobile vans and Tribes India E-marketplace (tribesindia.com) and e-tailers.

14. Tenth edition of National Science Film Festival inaugurated virtually.

- **Orgnaiser**: VigyanPrasar, under Department of Science and Technology jointly with Tripura State Council of Science and Technology
- It is a **4-day long film festival** that offers a unique platform to showcase the science films made by professionals, amateur and student filmmakers under various themes.
- A total of **115 films** in different languages have been shortlisted for festival this year.



15. Films Division organizes folk art and painting film festival 'Lok Virasat'

About Lok Virasat:

- It is an exclusive bouquet of documentary films on folk art and paintings that will be showcased on FD website and You Tube channel.
- Films streamed:
 - Bastar - Rhythm of Progress
 - The Kingdom of God
 - Bhavai - Fading Memories (Gujarat Art)
 - Naman – Khele (ancient folk art of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra)
 - Sahi Jata
 - Therukoothu: Dancing For Life (old Tamil folk art)

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October

1. Culture Ministry virtually launches 'Life in Miniature' project

Note:

- It has been launched in collaboration with **National Museum, New Delhi** and **Google Arts & Culture**.
- The project will facilitate users to see famous miniature collections like Ramayana, Royal Saga, Pahari style paintings of National Museum in never before seen ways with extraordinary detail in just a few clicks

- The project uses technologies like machine learning, augmented reality and digitization with high-definition robotic cameras
- **5 universal themes of project:** nature, love, celebration, faith and power.
- **Culture Minister:** Prahlad Singh Patel

2. Ministry of Tourism organised Dekho Apna Desh Webinar on Bundi, Rajasthan

- **Title of webinar:** 'Bundi: Architectural Heritage of a Forgotten Rajput Capital'



- Bundi is a district in Hadoti region of south-eastern Rajasthan and is also known as City of stepwalls, blue city
- It is also known as **Chotti Kashi** due to presence of over hundred temples within and around the hada capital.
- **Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series:** It is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. It is presented in technical partnership with National e Governance Department, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

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

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

- It focuses on music and dance that can provide relief from the anxiety during COVID-19

August

1. Tamil Nadu celebrates Aadi Perukku

Note:

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

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

About Nagara style

- Nagara architectural style is found in northern India.
- Constructed on an upraised platform called jagati.
- It has boundary walls or gateways.

- **Organised by:** Natya Tarangini in partnership with United Nations.
- Natya Tarangini is organising 'Parampara Series' National festival continuously since past 23 years coinciding with the World Day for Audio-visual Heritage.

5. ICCR Global Art Competition

- Bangladeshi boy Anzar Mustaeen Ali (6 year) won \$1000 special prize for his artwork in the global art competition organised by Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- ICCR launched global painting competition titled as 'United Against CORONA- Express through Art' that attracted 8000 artwork entries from around the world.

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

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

- Garbhagriha, Mandapa, Shikhara and Vahana are the key features of this style

3. Warli paintings on National Fertilizers Limited, Noida

Note:

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

4. Onam celebrated across Kerala



Note:

- Onam is celebrated in the first month of solar Malayalam calendar (Kollavarsham-August or September) for 10 days and culminates with Thiruvonam
- Celebrated to welcome King Mahabali and as the festival of paddy harvest.
- Pookolam (rangoli made with fresh flowers), Vallam Kali (boat race), Pulikali (tiger dance), Kai Kottu Kali (Onam dance), Kummattikali (mask dance) are its key features

5. Facelift to 11th century Lingaraj Temple

Note:

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

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

Note:

- Strongest proponent of 'purna swaraj' or 'total self-rule', Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's 100th death anniversary observed on August 1st.

- He was known as 'father of Indian revolution' by JL Nehru
- He was also known as 'the maker of modern India' by Mahatma Gandhi
- His famous slogan: 'Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it'

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

Note:

- **National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi** organised virtual tour titled **"The Great Maestro | Abanindranath Tagore"** to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore on 7th August 2020.
- **Abanindranath Tagore** was a prominent artists of **Bengal school of art** and the founder of **'Indian Society of Oriental Art'**
- **His Famous paintings:** Bharat Mata, The Passing of Shah Jahan (1900), My Mother (1912-13), Fairyland illustration (1913), Journey's End (circa 1913).
- **Literary works:** 'BudoAngla', 'KhirerPutul', 'Rajkahini' and Arabian Nights

GI Tag

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

Commodity/ Art/ Culture awarded GI Tag	Belongs To	About
Kashmir Saffron	Karewas (highlands) of Jammu & Kashmir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer and thicker natural deep red colour • High aroma and bitter high flavour • Chemical free processing
Kovilpatti kadalai mittai	Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candy made of



		peanuts and jaggery with syrup, coconut dyed pink, green and yellow
Chak-Hao (Black rice)	Manipur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scented glutinous rice • Used as traditional medicine • Higher crude fibre content
Gorakhpur terracotta	Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art form used in making animal figures like, horses, elephants, etc. with hand-applied ornamentation • Done with bare hands and natural colours
Khaje	Goa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweet dish used in all temples and churches as prasad
Harmal Chilli	Goa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich spice with reddish-brownish colour, short length and longer shelf life
Myndoli Banana (Moirá Banana)	Goa	
Zardozi art (Zari Work)	Bhopal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embroidery with gold threads uses gold coils and beads • Came from Persia

Science & Defence

Jan (1st to 14th) 2021

1. ISRO to launch first satellite developed entirely by Brazil's space agency Amazonia-1 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre

- **Amazonia-1:** developed by National Institute for Space Research (INPE). It is a Sun synchronous (polar) orbiting satellite that will help to monitor the ecosystem of the Amazon rainforest
- Emirates SkyCargo has executed a cargo charter to transport Amazonia-1 from Brazil to Chennai.
- It is due to be sent to space in February 2021

2. IIT Hyderabad sets up 'TiHAN-IIT' testbed for autonomous navigation systems

Note:

- It is India's first Testbed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial).
- Dept of Science and Technology has sanctioned Rs.135 crore to IIT Hyderabad under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to set up Technology Innovation Hub



- TiHAN for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Remotely Operated Vehicles will focus on the R&D of interdisciplinary technologies

3. Govt launches Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia

- **Launched by:** Department of Biotechnology (DBT) along with MoH&FW, ICMR, and CSIR has launched Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG).
- **Aim:** To monitor the genomic variations in SARS-CoV-2 through multi-laboratory network. This vital research consortium will also assist in developing potential vaccines in the future.
- **INSACOG:** It will have a high level Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee which will provide guidance and oversight to the consortium specially for policy matters and it will have a Scientific Advisory Group for scientific and technical guidance.

4. India launches 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

About 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica:

- It will be flagged off from Goa with 43 members onboard.
- The journey will take place through chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasily Golovnin and will reach Antarctica in 30 days.
- The vessel will return to India in April and will also bring back the winter team of the preceding trip

5. India & Israel successfully test MRSAM air defence system

1. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) delivers biggest cryogenic propellant tank to ISRO

Note:

- It is named as 'C32-LH2' and is made up of aluminium alloy designed for improving the payload capability of GSLV MK-III launching vehicle of ISRO.

- **'Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM)' defence system:** It has been developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to deal with airstrikes by enemy countries.
- It is an air and missile defence system that can destroy enemy aircraft from a distance of 50 to 70 km.

6. Japan plans to launch world's first wood-based satellite by 2023

- **Developed by:** Japan's Sumitomo Forestry company and Kyoto University
- **Aims:** to launch world's first wood-based space satellite to combat the growing problem of space debris or junk.
- It is a wooden satellites that are considered good alternatives against the traditional satellites, as they can be easily burnt while re-entering the Earth's atmosphere, thus leaving no harmful junk behind.

7. Pakistan successfully tested Guided Multi Launch Rocket System 'Fatah-1'

- **Fatah-1 weapon system:** It is capable of precisely delivering conventional warheads deep into 'enemy territory'.
- It can hit targets up to a range of 140 km.
- It will give Pakistan Army capability of precision target engagement deep in enemy territory

December

- It can load 5755 kg propellant fuel in the 89 cubic meter volume
- **Cryogenic fuels:** Used in machinery that operates in space that require storage at extremely low temperatures constitute liquefied gases such as liquid hydrogen.

2. Bengaluru gets AI & Robotics Technologies Park (ARTPARK)



- **Aim:** Promotes technology innovations in AI (Artificial Intelligence) & Robotics leading to societal impact
- **Developed by:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru with support from AI Foundry in a public-private model.

3. 'Pixxel' to launch remote-sensing satellite on ISRO rocket in early 2021.

Note:

- It was about to be launched at the end of 2020 and on Russian Soyuz rocket.
- It is first-of-a-kind private earth-observation mission and one of the first since the setting up of IN-SPACe
- Pixxel aims to put a constellation of 30 earth observation micro-satellites into a sun-synchronous orbit by mid-2023.
- The data through these satellites will help in various sectors, ranging from agriculture to urban monitoring

4. BSNL ties-up with Skylotech India for satellite-based NB-IoT (Narrow Band-Internet of Things).

- It is indigenously developed by Skylo, and will connect with BSNLs satellite- ground infrastructure to provide PAN-India coverage, including Indian seas.
- This is the world's first satellite-based NB-IoT network, whose coverage speed will not leave any dark patch within the boundary of India

5. DRDO conducted successful trials of Joint Venture Protective Carbine (JVPC)

About JVPC:

- It is a Gas Operated Semi Bull-pup automatic weapon having more than 700 rpm rate of fire.
- Its effective range is more than 100 m and weighs about 3.0 kg with key features like high reliability, low recoil, retractable Butt, ergonomic design, single hand firing capability, and multiple Picatinny rails etc for Counter Insurgency

/Counter Terrorism operations by security agencies.

- It has been designed as per Indian Army's GSQR, by Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), of DRDO.

6. Indian Coast Guard Interceptor Boat got commissioned at Hazira in Gujarat.

Note:

- It is built indigenously by M/s L&T Jetty, Hazira.
- It is capable of a high speed of 45 knots having the capability to operate in shallow waters.
- The vessel is fitted with the latest state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment.

7. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship 'Sujeet' was commissioned at Goa.

About Sujeet:

- It is second in the series of five Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) built by Goa Shipyard Limited.

8. ISRO sets up Space Situational Awareness (SSA) control centre titled as 'NETRA'

About SSA:

- It is Science of tracking objects (man-made and natural) in orbit predicting what they would be at a given point in time. Only US, Russia and Europe have similar facility
- **NETRA:** NEtwork for space object TRacking and Analysis will monitor, track and protect India's space assets. It will function as a hub of all SSA activities within India as 'Directorate of Space Situational Awareness and Management (DSSAM)'
- It will have a radar, an optical telescope facility, and a control centre.

9. ISRO successfully launches new communication satellite 'CMS-01' into geo-synchronous transfer orbit

About CMS-01:



- It was launched by PSLV-C50 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
- It will take over the mantle from the ageing telecommunication satellite GSAT-12 that has outlived its planned operational period by rendering seamless service for 11 years.
- It is envisaged to provide services in the extended-C Band of the frequency spectrum that will cover the Indian mainland, the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands.

10. Indian American US Air Force Colonel Raja Chari selected as Commander of SpaceX Crew-3 mission to International Space Station (ISS)

- The mission is conducted by **NASA** and **European Space Agency**.
- Tom Marshburn will serve as pilot and Matthias Maurer as a mission specialist.
- He became one of the 11 astronauts to join NASA's ranks.

11. 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)

- It is conducted between Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy from 17-18 Dec.
- It is being conducted since 2002 to ensure the safety and security of shipping and international trade in the region.

12. Advance Hypersonic Wind Tunnel test facility inaugurated in Hyderabad

- It is a pressure vacuum driven enclosed free jet facility with nozzle exit of one-meter diameter.
- This will simulate Mach 5 to 12 (Mach represent the multiplication factor to the speed of sound), making India the 3rd country after the US and Russia to have such a facility.
- Two anti-drone technologies were also demonstrated by DRDO labs on the occasion.

13. Defence minister hands over 3 DRDO high-tech systems to armed forces

About Three systems:

- **Border Surveillance System (BOSS):** All weather electronic system for army
- **Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System (IMSAS):** It provides picture, marine planning tools and analytical capabilities for Indian Navy
- **ASTRA Mk-I Missile:** Indigenously developed beyond visual range (BVR) missile that can be launched from Sukhoi-30, LCA, Mig-29 and Mig-29K.

14. Indian Coast Guard Commissions Interceptor Boat C-454 Indigenously-built by L&T

About C-454:

- It has been built by Larsen and Toubro (L&T) at its Hazira plant.
- The vessel will operate from Gujarat and is the 54th such boat built by L&T for ICG.
- The vessel is a part of ongoing efforts of Indian Coast Guard to strengthen coastal security of Gujarat maritime borders.

15. DRDO successfully test-fires surface-to air missile 'MRSAM' off Odisha coast

About MRSAM:

- It hit the target named 'Banshee', which was an unmanned air vehicle (UAV) and was first flown into the air.
- **MRSAM missile:** It has been jointly developed by DRDO in collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries and has been manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd.
- It will significantly enhance the combat effectiveness of the defence forces.

16. Skyroot Aerospace successfully tested Kalam-5

Note:

- This is the first time that a private company has successfully designed, developed and tested a full solid propulsion rocket stage in India
- **About Kalam-5**



- built with advanced carbon composite structure
- uses 15 different advanced materials, 9 different manufacturing processes, and has zero moving parts.

17. India-Vietnamese Navy Conducts passage exercise PASSEX-2020 in South China Sea

Note:

- It is a two-day exercise that is conducted to boost maritime cooperation between two countries.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kiltan participated in the exercise.
- Mission of INS Kiltan is part of India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

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

Note:

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

2. IIT Bombay launches self- help website named Bandhu

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

(HADR) assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries during the ongoing pandemic

18. DRDO & Indian Navy conduct successful maiden test trial of SAHAYAK-NG

Note SAHAYAK-NG

- It is launched from IL 38SD aircraft of Indian Navy off the coast of Goa
- It is India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container that has the capability to carry 50 kg payload and can be dropped from heavy aircraft.
- It is developed by DRDO laboratories: NSTL, Visakhapatnam and ADRDE, Agra

November

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

Note:

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

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

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

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



About Malabar Exercise:

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

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

About EOS01:

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

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

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

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

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

About Enhanced Pinaka system

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

9. Andaman and Nicobar Command ANC conducted joint tri-services exercise code 'Bull Strike' at Teressa Island

Note:

- All the three Services components of ANC, including Army, Navy and Air Force participated in the exercise to enhance interoperability and test synergy among the three Services
- Major training activities: Combat free fall and para drop, action by MARCOS of Indian Navy and Special Heli Borne Operations (SHBO) by Indian Army Ghatak Platoons.
- ANC is India's first and only geographical operational tri-service theater command and was established in 2001

10. MeitY announces result for Gov-Tech-Thon 2020

- **Organised by:** IEEE, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and Oracle, under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- It was a 36 hours pan-India virtual hackathon in which 1300 aspirants participated forming 390 teams
- **Winners:**
 - First Winner: FitForFuture team from Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Private Limited
 - HackDemons of IIIT Vadodara
 - Orange team from PES University Bengaluru

11. DRDO develops Fire Detection and Suppression System (FDSS) technology for passenger buses



About FDSS

- It can detect fire in buses in less than 30 seconds and extinguish it in 60 seconds thereby reducing the risk to life and property to a significant extent.
- It has been developed **DRDO's Centre for Fire Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES), Delhi**

12. Raksha Mantri unveils Anti Satellite (A-SAT) Missile Model in DRDO Bhawan

Note:

- Its installation will inspire the DRDO fraternity to take up many more such challenging missions in future.
- India's first ever Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile Test titled as 'Mission Shakti' was successfully conducted from Dr AP J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, where a fast-moving Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) was neutralised with pinpoint accuracy.

13. Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) System

- The missile is propelled by a single-stage solid-propellant rocket motor and uses all indigenous subsystems.
- All QRSAM weapon system elements like Battery Multifunction Radar, Battery Surveillance Radar, Battery Command Post Vehicle and Mobile Launcher were deployed in the flight test.

14. China successfully launches world's first 6G communications test satellite into orbit

About satellites:

- Satellites were launched from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, Shanxi Province from Long March-6 carrier rocket
- With this, China has become the world's first country to test 6G technology.

- 6G technology is expected to be over 100 times faster than 5G.

15. Indian Navy Ship 'Vagir' launched at Mazgaon Dock in Mumbai.

- It is Indian Navy's fifth Kalvari-class Diesel Electric attack submarine
- Other vessels in the class are INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj, INS Vela and INS Vagsheer.
- Vagir has been named after a Sand Fish, a predatory marine species.
- Kalvari class of submarines design is based on Scorpene class of submarines of French defence major Naval Group and Spanish counterpart

16. CSIR-SERC develops indigenous Emergency Retrieval System (ERS) for Power Lines

Note:

- This new ERS facility will reduce the cost and will enhance Indian power sector.
- ERS is a lightweight modular system that is used as temporary support structure to restore power immediately after the collapse of transmission line towers during natural calamities such as cyclone/earthquake, or manmade disruptions.

17. Second phase of Malabar Exercise begins today in Northern Arabian Sea

About 2nd Malabar exercise:

- It involves coordinated operations of increasing complexity between Navies of Australia, India, Japan and United States
- It includes cross-deck flying operations and advanced air defence exercises by MIG 29K fighters of Vikramaditya and F-18 fighters and E2C Hawkeye from Nimitz.

18. India becomes 4th nation to get IMO nod for navigation satellite system

Note:



- **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)** has been recognised by **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** as a part of the Worldwide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS).
- Other three countries that have IMO recognised navigation system: **US, Russia and China.**
- **IRNSS:** Designed to provide accurate position information services to assist in the navigation of ships in Indian Ocean waters

19. 30th India-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) held

- It was held from 18 to 20 November 2020.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette and Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies participated in Indo-Thai CORPAT.
- It is conducted twice a year since 2005 to enhance bilateral ties and maritime cooperation.

20. NASA jointly with European Space Agency (ESA) launches Mission to Monitor Global Ocean

About the mission

- ‘Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite’ is used for the mission that will enhance weather forecasts and provide detailed information on large-scale ocean currents to support ship navigation near coastlines
- **Aim:** to monitor the rising global sea level by SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.
- Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite will be followed in 2025 by its twin, Sentinel-6B.

21. India, Thailand, Singapore Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20 concluded in Andaman Sea

About SITMEX 2020:

- It was hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

- Indian Navy (IN) Ships including indigenously built ASW corvette Kamorta and missile corvette Karmuk participated in the exercise.
- First edition of SITMEX was hosted by Indian Navy in 2019 off Port Blair.

22. Indian Navy Hosted 27th edition of Exercise SIMBEX-20 in Andaman Sea

About SIMBEX

- It is conducted between Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) since 1994 to enhance mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices from each other.
- 2020 edition of SIMBEX will witness participation by Indian Navy ships including destroyer Rana with integral Chetak helicopter and corvettes Kamorta and Karmuk.

23. Indian Navy gets 9th P-8I anti-submarine warfare aircraft from Boeing

- First contract with Boeing was signed by India in 2009 for eight P-8Is to replace Indian Navy's aging Tupolev Tu-142M maritime surveillance turboprops.
- The ninth aircraft has been received under \$1 billion deal signed by Indian Navy with Boeing for four additional planes in 2016.
- India had become the first international customer of Boeing for the P-8 aircraft

24. India test-fires land-attack version of BrahMos missile from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- About BrahMos supersonic cruise missile
 - It is the world's fastest operational system in its class
 - It is a long-range missile system, that can be launched from land, sea and air.
- DRDO has recently extended the range of BrahMos missile system from existing 298 km to around 450 km.
- Developed by: DRDO and NPOM, Russia



25. China launched historic 'Chang'e-5' mission to moon

About Chang'e-5:

- It aims to collect 'first lunar samples' from Long March-5 rocket from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on southern island province of Hainan province.
- The mission is China's first attempt to retrieve samples from an extra-terrestrial body.
- US and Soviet Union only have been able to collect lunar sample as of now
- China became only third nation to have collected lunar sample.

26. DRDO flags off first 'Varunastra' Heavy Weight Torpedo Unit for Indian Navy

About Varunastra:

- It has been designed and developed by Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of DRDO and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Vishakhapatnam
- It is a ship launched, heavyweight, electrically propelled anti-submarine torpedoes to engage quiet submarines in deep and shallow waters.

27. Russia Successfully Test-Fires 'Tsirkon' Hypersonic Missile from Admiral Gorshkov, Artic

November 2020

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

Note:

- Water molecules have been found at Clavius Crater, one of the largest craters visible from Earth on the lunar surface
- This discovery indicated that water may be distributed across moon's surface and not limited to cold and shadowed places

Note:

- This was third test of Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile in 2020, as the 1st test was held in January followed by 2nd test in October 2020.
- Tsirkon: Ground-and-sea-based hypersonic rocket that can fly at nine times than the speed of sound and hit underwater and ground targets more than 1,000 km away

28. Indian Navy has leased two unarmed drones MQ-9B from the USA for one year.

- The unmanned aerial vehicles can be deployed in the Ladakh region if the need arises.
- The hi-tech drones, manufactured by US firm General Atomics, arrived at the naval air station INS Rajali in Tamil Nadu earlier this month.

29. China developed first domestically developed nuclear reactor, the Hualong One.

About Hualong One:

- The reactor can generate 10 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year and cut carbon emissions by 8.16 million tons.

- SOFIA: Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, is a joint project of Nasa and the German Aerospace Center to maintain and construct an airborne observatory.

2. IIT Bombay launches self- help website named Bandhu

- It has been unveiled by Union Minister of State for Education Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre
- The website addresses challenges ranging from adjustment to college life, academic stress, and mental health.



- Project Bandhu was initiated by alumni of 1992 batch as a part of their silver jubilee reunion in 2017.

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

Note:

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

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

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

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

About Malabar Exercise:

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

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

About EOS01:

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

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

- Aim: To expand relationships and broaden maritime awareness
- Sea-phase of the exercise will take place in Bay of Bengal with ships from both countries.
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About Enhanced Pinaka system

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- It has been designed and developed by DRDO labs: Armament Research and Development Establishment and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory
- It will replace the existing Pinaka Mk-I rocket

October



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

About SANT:

- It is an air to surface missile and is an upgraded version of anti-tank missile, Helicopter Launched Nag (HeliNa).
- It is developed by DRDO for Indian air Force
- It has both lock-on before launch and lock-on after launch capability and can destroy targets 15 km to 20 km away.

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

Note:

- **Kavaratti:** indigenously designed by Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata
- It will be commissioned as a combat-ready platform as the ship has completed sea trials of all the systems fitted onboard.

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

About COVIRAP:

- It is easy to conduct and affordable test as well and can produce results within one hour without requiring manual interpretation.
- It is highly reliable and accurate molecular diagnostic procedure that can be conducted in an ultra-low-cost portable device unit.
- Cost: Rs 500

4. Union Minister for Science & Technology announced 6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020

About IISF:

- It will be held from 22nd to 25th December 2020 at virtual platform.

- It is jointly by science & technology-related Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha).
- IISF is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad.

5. Defence Minister releases new version DRDO Procurement Manual 2020

Note:

- Aim: To encourage more participation of Indian industry, including Start-ups and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Defence Research & Development (R&D) for achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- The manual was last modified in 2016.

6. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launches CuRED on Repurposed Drugs for Covid- 19

About CuRED:

- It stands CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs
- It is a website that gives comprehensive information about COVID-19 clinical trials, carried out by CSIR in partnership with industry, other government departments and ministries.
- It will also provide information about drugs, diagnostics and devices, etc for COVID-19

7. DRDO successfully tested final trial of Nag anti-tank guided missile at Pokhran, Rajasthan

Note:

- Nag anti-tank missile has completed 10 successful user trials
- It is an Indian 3rd-generation, all-weather, fire-and-forget, lock-on after launch, anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) with an operational range of 500 m to 20 km
- It is developed as a part of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP)



8. Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN gets nod for phase 3 clinical trials

About COVAXIN

- It is developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- It is a vaccine for COVID-19
- This vaccine will be tested on over 28 thousand people (across 10 states and 19 sites) aged 18 years and above.

9. IIT Kharagpur with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) develops novel Industry 4.0 technology

- It has been developed for remotely controlled factory operations and real-time quality correction during industrial production
- It has been developed by Prof. Surjya K Pal along with TCS and other fellows

10. Ministry of Science & Technology launches SERB-POWER scheme

About SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)

- It is designed exclusively for women scientists to mitigate gender disparity
- It will have 2 components: Fellowship and Research Grants
- **Age group:** 35-55 years
- **Components of support:** Fellowship of Rs. 15,000/- per month in addition to regular income;
- Duration: 3 years
- It will be regulated through terms of reference conforming to SERB-CRG (Science and Engineering Research Board-Core Research Grant) guidelines.

11. India to acquire Sprut Light Tanks to be used in high altitude areas of Line of Actual Control from Russia.
Note: They are being acquired to be used in high altitude areas of Line of Actual Control. The need to buy Sprut Light Tanks has come after border

hostilities with China increased in the Line of Actual Control. The new tank is under trial in Russia.

12. 1000 km is the strike range indigenously developed nuclear capable hypersonic missile 'Shaurya' test fired recently.

Note: The surface-to-surface tactical missile, which is the land variant of India's K-15 missile, has a strike range of 700 km to 1000 km and is capable of carrying payloads of 200 kg to 1000 kg. It is 10 metres long, 74 cm in diameter and weighs 6.2 tonnes. Its two stages use solid propellants.

13. The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test fired SMART Wheeler Islands in the coast of Odisha it is a Torpedo.

Note: The Torpedo was test fired from Wheeler Islands in the coast of Odisha. The launch is important for India to establish its anti-submarine warfare capabilities. SMART is an anti-submarine Torpedo system and is the fastest in the world. It has a range of 650 km.

14. Vighraha offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) that has been formally unveiled at the Kattupalli port, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Note: The vessel, built by Larsen and Toubro, is the last in the series of seven OPVs contracted to the company by the Ministry of Defence in 2015. It was the first time a private sector shipyard has undertaken the design and construction of offshore patrol vessel class of ships.

15. IIT Kharagpur has launched a telemedicine system 'iMediX' to help patients receive assistance from doctors without having to go to hospitals or clinics.

Note: 'iMediX' allows patients to request for consultation by choosing a department of a hospital, entering their complaints and uploading necessary medical records. The hospital then processes the request and assigns a doctor. The system iMediX which is accessible by any standard internet browser and also from a mobile device, has been developed by researchers at IIT Kharagpur's Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

16. ISRO is scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025.

Note: The VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker) instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency Roscosmos and the LATMOS atmospheres, environments and space observations laboratory attached to the French national scientific



- research centre CNRS has been selected by the ISRO after a request for proposals.
17. Armament Research and Development Establishment of the DRDO has developed the Laser-Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) which was successfully test-fired recently.
Note: The ATGM employs a tandem HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour protected armoured vehicles in ranges from 1.5 to 5 kilometres. This Laser Guided Missile has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune and IRDE, Dehradun.
 18. Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICGS 'Kanaklata Barua' of the Indian Coast Guard was commissioned at Kolkata.
Note: ICGS Kanaklata Barua is one of the five FPVs built by GRSE, the Defence Public Sector Undertaking, for the Indian Coast Guard. The entire design of the FPVs has been developed in-house by GRSE as per requirements specified by the Indian Coast Guard.
 19. Bilateral Naval Exercise 'Bongosagar' conducted recently between India and Bangladesh.
Note: The 2nd edition of Indian and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar is commenced in the Northern Bay of Bengal. Exercise is aimed at developing interoperability and joint operational skills through conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.
 20. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has signed an MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune to set up a Rs 17-crore supercomputing facility.
Note: The agreement is for a period of five years. The new supercomputer with "650 TFLOPS is more powerful and a technologically superior facility", which will play an important role in the field of scientific and engineering applications. IIT-G's Computer and Communication Centre is already equipped with 'Param Ishan', a '250 TF' supercomputer.
 21. Intel India in association with International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-H), has set up an artificial intelligence research centre in Hyderabad.
Note: It will apply AI solutions to population-scale problems in the Indian context, with focus on challenges in the healthcare and smart mobility segments. The center will solve India's population-scale challenges in sectors such as healthcare and smart mobility.
 22. Nirbhay missile has been test fired by the Defence Research and Development Organisation that was failed due to technical snag.
Note: The missile developed engine problems within 8 minutes of its launch. Nirbhay was the tenth missile to be fired by India in the last 35 days.
 23. Indigenous combat drone, Rustom-2 was successfully tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
Note: Rustom-2 is capable of carrying different combinations of payloads, which includes electronic intelligence systems, situational awareness systems and also synthetic aperture radar.
 24. In association with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur the "Tech for Tribals" initiative has been launched by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and Chhattisgarh Minor Forest Produce Federation.
Note: The initiative aims for holistic development of Tribals with focus on Entrepreneurship development, soft skills, Information Technology (IT) and Business Development. As part of this initiative, TRIFED has partnered with National Institutions such as IIT Kanpur, Art of Living, Bangalore, TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) Mumbai, KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences) Bhubaneswar, Vivekananda Kendra, Tamil Nadu and SRIJAN (Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action), Rajasthan to impart training to the beneficiaries.
 25. India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile Rudram 1 was successfully test fired from a Sukhoi-30 fighter jet.
Note: The supersonic-capable missile can be launched at speeds ranging from 0.6 mach to 2 mach, i.e., twice the speed of sound. IT can be launched from a height of 500m to 15 km. Rudram-1 is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile.
 26. Anti-terror exercise "Suraksha Kavach" was organized by **Maharashtra** state police organization with the Indian Army.
Note: The aim of the exercise was to harmonize the drills and procedures of both Army and Police for activating anti-terrorist Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) to counter any terrorist actions in Pune. The exercise involved the participation of Quick Reaction Teams, Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of



- Army as well as Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and Quick Reaction Team of Maharashtra Police.
27. The eighth edition of the bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 was conducted between India and **Sri Lanka**.
Note: It was conducted in non-contact at-sea only format. This strategy has been adopted due to COVID-19 pandemic. The drill included series of anti-air weapons firing, cross deck flying operations to fine tune high degree of inter-operability.
28. The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) test fired the naval version BRAHMOS missile from naval base **INS Chennai** successfully.
Note: The missile was test fired from an indigenously built stealth destroyer INS Chennai. The missile hit a target in Arabian Sea. BRAHMOS is a supersonic missile. It was jointly developed by India and Russia. The major classification of the missiles is Cruise Missiles and Ballistic Missiles.
29. India recently conducted the night version of indigenously developed nuclear capable missile **Prithvi II**.
Note: The test was successful. The test was conducted at the Integrated Test Range, Balasore, Odisha. Prithvi II is a surface-to-surface missile. The first trial of Prithvi II was conducted in September 2020.
30. **Australia** will not be a participant in the Malabar exercise that is to be conducted in November 2020.
Note: This means that all the four Quad countries are to participate in the exercise. The countries to participate in the exercise are Japan, India and US. In the process of seeking international cooperation in maritime security domain, India had sought Australia to participate in the exercise. The exercise is to be held in "non-contact at sea" format.
31. India successfully test fired **SANT** Anti-Tank Missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization.
Note: It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization for the Indian Air Force. The missile was test fired at the Chandipur test range. The missile has both lock-on before launch and lock-on after launch capabilities. SANT missile is a variant of Nag missile. The other variants of Nag missile are Helina (or Dhruvastra) and MP-ATGM. SANT is an upgraded version of HELINA.

September

1. **IIT Delhi incubated startup 'Chakr Innovation' launches Chakr DeCoV' to decontaminate N95 masks.**

About Chakr DeCoV:

- Designed in the shape of cabinet with an innovative decontamination mechanism using penetrability of Ozone gas for cleaning the pores of the N95 mask, ensuring complete decontamination of its intricate layers.
- Ozone is a strong oxidizing agent that can destroys viruses

2. **India successfully tested indigenous Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV)**

About HSTDV:

- HSTDV was tested from APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex, Odisha coast
- Developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)

- It is an unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft for hypersonic speed flight

3. **SCTIMST developed Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) prevention device**

Note:

- **DVT:** It is a serious condition that occurs when a blood clot forms in a vein of human body resulting in life threatening complications.
- The device is cost effective and will facilitate flow of blood from the veins in the legs preventing and giving relief from DVT

4. **CSIR-CMERI developed World's Largest Solar Tree to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power annually in Durgapur, West Bengal**

Note:

- It ensures maximum exposure of each Solar PV Panel to Sunlight.



- One solar tree comprises of 35 Solar PV Panels having a capacity of 330 wp each.
 - It can be used for agricultural activities like High Capacity Pumps, e-Tractors and e-Power Tillers.
5. Recently, a team of researchers found traces of phosphine gas in **Venus** planet is associated with the living organisms which on Earth.
Note: Phosphine gas is associated with the living organisms which on Earth. The team used telescopes in Hawaii and Chile's Atacama Desert in order to observe upper cloud deck of Venus which is around 60 km from the surface. They detected traces of phosphine, a flammable gas that on Earth occurs from the breakdown of organic matter.
6. India conducts 10th Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting virtually with **USA**.
Note: The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Raj Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, from the Indian Ministry of Defence and Ms. Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, from the U.S. Department of Defense. During the meeting, the co-chairs signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) that declared their intent "to strengthen our dialogue on defense technology cooperation by pursuing detailed planning and making measurable progress" on several specific DTTI projects.
7. Researchers at which university have developed the world's smallest ultrasound detector **Helmholtz Zentrum München and the Technical University of Munich (TUM)**.
Note: It is based on miniaturized photonic circuits on top of a silicon chip. With a size 100 times smaller than an average human hair, the new detector can visualize features that are much smaller than previously possible, leading to what is known as super-resolution imaging.
8. The Indian Navy (IN) conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the navy of **Australia**.
Note: The exercise involved participation of HMAS Hobart from the Australian side and Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Karmuk. The Passage Exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices from each other.
9. **DRDO** has conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS- High speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicle.
Note: ABHYAS-HEAT is an air vehicle. It uses twin underslung boosters. ABHYAS was designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment of DRDO. The missile is powered by a small gas turbine and has MEMS based Inertial Navigation System.
10. India's first Coast Guard academy will be established in **Mangaluru**.
Note: India's first Coast Guard academy will be established at Mangaluru. Around 158 acres Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) land has been taken over for setting up ICG Academy
11. Three-day-long maritime military exercise, JIMEX 2020 was conducted between the navies of **India and Japan**.
Note: This would be the first military exercise after the two countries signed a landmark agreement recently that will allow their militaries to access each other's bases for logistics support. The JIMEX is a series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with a special focus on maritime security cooperation. The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in October 2018 off Visakhapatnam coast.
12. **Shivangi Singh** has become the first woman fighter pilot of India to fly the Rafale combat aircraft that was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF).
Note: She is one of the 10 Indian women fighter pilots in IAF. Five Rafale Aircraft were formally inducted into the IAF's 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows' on September 10, 2020, at a function held at Air Force Station, Ambala (Haryana).
13. The Himalayan Chandra Telescope which completed 20 years successfully is located in which mountain range -- **Mt Saraswati**.
Note: The Himalayan Chandra Telescope is located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO). It has been scanning the night sky in search of comets, stellar explosions, exo-planets and asteroids. It is named after India-born Nobel laureate Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar.

August

1. **NASA launched its Mars 2020 Perseverance rover aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket**

Note:



- It was launched from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.
- The rover will land in Mars' Jezero Crater
- It is a part of America's Moon to Mars exploration and will explore geology and climate of Mars and seek signs of ancient life on the Red Planet.

2. DRDO-lab has developed an automated currency sanitization device titled as NOTESCLEAN

Note:

- It is a device where one has to just place the loose currency notes at the input slot of the device, and the device make the currency to pass through UVC lamps for complete disinfection

3. VSSUT, Odisha became 1st university to set up Space Innovation-cum-Incubation Centre with ISRO

Note:

- Under this, ISRO will offer technical consultancy support and financial assistance of Rs.50 lakhs for development of infrastructure at VSSUT.

4. China launches optical remote-sensing satellites named Gaofen-9 05

Note:

- It was launched from Jiuquan Launch Centre, Northwest China along with Tiantuo-5 satellite by Long March-2D carrier rocket

- They are civilian China High-resolution Earth Observation System (CHEOS).

5. DIAT launches 'Pavitrapati' & 'Aushada tara' in fight against COVID-19

Note:

- **Pavitrapati:** Ayurvedic based Biodegradable Face Mask which will act as a virus neutraliser and will be made available on Amazon, Flipkart etc.
- **Aushada tara:** Anti-microbial body suit which comprises of superhydrophobic, breathing, anti-microbial, comfort feeling properties.

6. IIT Kanpur develops indigenous seed balls titled 'BEEG'

About BEEG:

- BEEG (Bio-compost Enriched Eco-friendly Globule) is developed for the safety of people and farmers during Corona
- It comprises of indigenous variety of seeds, compost, and clay that don't need digging pits for planting saplings
- They are to be thrown at aimed places and will germinate after coming into water's contact

Summits & Conference

Jan (1st to 14th) 2021

1. PM inaugurates National Metrology Conclave 2021

- **Organised by:** Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi
- **Theme 2021: Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation.**
- He also inaugurated National Atomic Timescale (that generates Indian Standard Time with an accuracy of 2.8 nanosecond), Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya (manufacture quality products) and National Environmental Standards Laboratory.

2. Dept for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade organizes Udyog Manthan

- 'Udyog Manthan - a marathon of focused sector-specific webinars for promoting Quality and Productivity in Indian Industry' has been launched in association with Quality Council of India, National Productivity Council, and Industry bodies.
- It is to be held from January 4, 2021 to March 2, 2021.
- It will comprise 45 sessions covering various major sectors in manufacturing and services.

3. Union Education Minister inaugurates 'EDUCON-2020'



- It is a **two-day Virtual International Akhand Conference**
- **Organized by:** Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) in collaboration with Global Educational Research Association (GERA)
- Focal theme of EDUCON-2020: **Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Restore Global Peace**

4. France hosts 4th One Planet Summit in cooperation with UN and World Bank

- **Theme: Let's act together for nature!**

December

1. PM Narendra Modi chairs 33rd PRAGATI meet

- PRAGATI projects worth around Rs 1.41 lakh crore, related to 10 states and union territories including Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Dadra and Nagar Haveli were reviewed.
- **PRAGATI:** Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.
- These projects were related to the Ministry of Railways, MORTH, DPIIT and Power Ministry

2. Second Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) 2020 Conference inaugurated

- **Inaugurated by:** Minister of Science and Technology and Vice President of CSIR, Harsh Vardhan
- TCGA: Landmark cancer genomics program that molecularly characterized over 20,000 primary cancer and matched normal samples spanning 33 cancer types.
- It is a joint effort between US- National Cancer Institute and National Human Genome Research Institute
- It began in 2006

3. 7th WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) virtual Conclave held

- Summit was organised in cooperation with UN and World Bank.
- It was first held in 2017
- Summit focused on biodiversity preservation through:
 - protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems,
 - promotion of agroecology,
 - mobilization of funding for biodiversity, and
 - link between deforestation, species and human health

- **Organized by:** UNICEF and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

- **Theme of the conclave: Hygiene Matters**
- Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana participated in the conclave to discuss key issues with particular focus on hygiene and create an opportunity for strengthening collaborations

4. World Economic Forum 2021 to be held in Singapore from 13-16 May 2021

- It was earlier scheduled to take place in Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland
- This will be the 2nd time since its inception in 1971 that the forum will be held outside Switzerland
- It would return to Davos, Switzerland, in 2022

5. Raksha Mantri addresses ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus online

- The meet was hosted virtually by **Hanoi, Vietnam**
- **ADMM-Plus:** Only official framework of Defense Minister's meetings in Asia-Pacific Region. It is a platform for ASEAN and its eight Dialogue Partners to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.

6. 5th India Water Impact Summit held



- The summit is a 5-day programme and has been organised by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) that will take into consideration issues and measures related to rivers and water resources
- Focus: Comprehensive Analysis and Holistic Management of Rivers and Water Bodies.
- Theme 2020: **Arth Ganga : River Conservation Synchronised Development.**

7. Ninth edition of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit held in Dehradun

- It is a 4-day summit to deliberate on issues such as migration, water security, climate resilience and innovative solutions for the farm sector, and disaster risk reduction in the Indian Himalayas.
- It has been organized by Indian Mountain Initiative (IMI)
- Theme 2020: Emerging Pathways for Building a Resilient Post COVID-19 Mountain Economy, Adaptation, Innovation and Acceleration.
- Its first edition was organized in 2011 in Nainital.

8. PM delivers inaugural address at FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting

- Theme: 'Inspired India'.
- FICCI AGM: Annual high-powered flagship event where Cabinet Ministers, Secretaries to Govt, Global Industry, Diplomats, Political party, and leaders participate.

9. India-Uzbekistan held virtual summit to strengthen strategic partnership

- During the summit, India signs 9 MoU with Uzbekistan in the field of:
 - Solar Energy
 - Digital Technologies
 - High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP)
 - Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation
 - Defence and Security

- Civil Nuclear Energy
- Connectivity
- Culture, Education and People- to-People Contacts
- Terrorism

10. Climate Ambition Summit 2020 held virtually

- Host: United Nations, United Kingdom and France
- Summit is a major step to the next UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), which will be hosted by UK in 2021.
- It will hear from about 70 world leaders highlighting new announcements and steps they are taking to reach the goal of net-zero emissions, as well as from businesses, investors, local governments and civil society, including youth, indigenous and faith-based climate champions.

11. India-Bangladesh Virtual Summit observed 7 MoUs

- List of MoUs signed during the summit:
 - Framework of Understanding in the Hydrocarbon Sector
 - Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects through Local Bodies and Public Sector Institutions
 - Transboundary Elephant Conservation
 - Supply of Equipment & Improvement of Garbage/Solid Waste Disposal Ground
 - Cooperation in Agriculture
 - Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum, Dhaka and National Museum, Delhi
 - Terms of Reference of India-Bangladesh CEO's Forum.

12. S. Jaishankar addresses 5th Annual Global Technology Summit

- The summit was held from December 14 to 18, 2020, by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India in collaboration with Carnegie India (CI).



- Theme of 2020 GTS: **The Geopolitics of Technology**
- It had 5 comprehensive sub-themes:
 - Geopolitics of Technology,
 - Data: Linking the World,
 - Digital Payments: The Future of Global Financial Highways,
 - Digital Inclusion: Taking the Local to the Global, and
 - Transforming Healthcare for a Post-COVID World.

13. India-Vietnam Leaders' Virtual Summit held

- Key highlights of summit:
 - 'Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity and People' document was adopted.
 - Plan of Action for period 2021-2023 was also welcomed.
 - Implementation of the High Speed Guard Boat (HSGB) Manufacturing Project
 - Completion and handing over of seven Development Projects with Indian 'Grant-in-Aid' Assistance of US\$ 1.5 million
 - Enhancing the number of annual Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)
 - Heritage conservation project in Vietnam
 - Encyclopaedia on India - Vietnam Civilizational and Cultural Relations.

14. PM Narendra Modi addresses 6th Indo-Japan SAMVAD Conference

- During the summit, PM proposed to create a library of traditional Buddhist literature and scriptures in India.
- The library will collect digital copies of Buddhist literature from across the world and will then translate these works.

November

1. MoHUA organises 13th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference

- **Organiser:** Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Hardeep Singh Puri

- First India-Japan conference, Samvad-I in 2015 at Bodh Gaya.
- Aim: To encourage dialogue and debate on the need to build the future of Asia

15. UAE hosted 20th IORA Council of Ministers Meeting

- Theme: Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean
- UAE assumed the position of IORA Chair in November 2019 during 19th COM, for the period 2019-2021.
- Indian delegation was led by V. Muraleedharan, MoS, Ministry of External Affairs.
- During 2020 COM, France was inducted as 23rd member state of IORA.

16. Global Indian Scientists & Technocrats (GIST) meet begins at IISF 2020

- The meet will enable developing long term linkages for creating and effectively applying S&T tools for sustainable development particularly in the rural sector
- **Participating Nation:** USA, UK, Qatar, Angola, Anguilla, Australia, Switzerland and India
- **Focus:** Deliberations in the area of Agriculture, Water, AI applications, Healthcare, Education and Skilling for better employability

17. Health Minister organises 7th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices

- **Aim:** to recognize, showcase and document various best practices and innovations in public healthcare system
- It was first held in 2013 at Srinagar

- **Main theme of this year's event:** Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility
- Theme will address challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic to provide accessible and convenient transport to people



- Jan Gehl, renowned Danish Architect, Urbanist, Professor & founder of Modern Urban Planning delivered keynote address at the event
- The conference will showcase 12 different events

2. 8th edition of India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments

- **Co-chaired by:** Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of Abu Dhabi's Executive Council
- Joint Task Force was established in 2012 as a crucial forum for deepening the already strong economic ties between UAE and India.
- Both sides reviewed the existing UAE special desk ('UAE Plus') and Fast Track Mechanism created in 2018 to facilitate investments and resolve challenges experienced by UAE investors in India.

3. PM Narendra Modi chaired Virtual Global Investor Roundtable

- **Organized by:** Finance Ministry and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.
- It is an exclusive dialogue between leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders and highest decision makers of Govt and Financial Market Regulators.
- **Participants:** 20 world's largest pension and sovereign wealth funds from key regions like US, Europe, Canada, Korea, Japan, West Asia, Australia, and Singapore.

4. Shaktikanta Das chaired 40th SAARCFINANCE Governors' Meet

Note:

- **Participants:** The meeting was attended by all the Governors from SAARC nation central banks
- SAARCFINANCE is a network of central bank governors and finance secretaries of the SAARC region.
- **Current Chair of SAARCFINANCE:** Reserve Bank of India

- **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC):** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

5. 4th India-Philippines Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation held

Note:

- Focus: taking forward the cooperation in trade and investment, defence, education, information and communications technology and space.

6. 4th High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India Dialogue held virtually

- **Co-chaired by:** HE Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo (Secretary General of OPEC) and Dharmendra Pradhan (India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas)
- **Focus:** COVID-19 implications, discussing its repercussions and impact on world economy and energy markets, including oil.

7. 'AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0' launched

- **Organising body:** NITI Aayog's flagship initiative Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Russia's Sirius (Scientific International Research in Unique Terrestrial Station)
- It is a 14-day virtual programme (7 to 14 November) for Indian and Russian school children
- Under this, 48 students and 16 educators and mentors will create 8 virtual products and mobile applications to address global challenges across wide range of areas, in the wake of the covid-19 pandemic.

8. Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) announces 4th edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2020

- It is scheduled to be held virtually on 8th to 10th December



- **Organizer:** Dept of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)
- **IMC 2020 Theme:** Inclusive Innovation - Smart I Secure I Sustainable

9. MoHUA inaugurates 13th Urban Mobility India Conference 2020

- **Theme:** 'Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility'
- **Focus:** innovative measures taken at national and international level to address Covid-19 pandemic challenge providing accessible and convenient transport to the people.
- It is held every year as a part of issuance of National Urban Transport Policy since 2006

10. Nirmala Sitharaman attends 1st BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meet

Note:

- It was held under the Chairmanship of Russia.
- **Important agendas during the meet:** outcomes of the G20 Saudi Presidency in 2020, digital platform to encourage infrastructure investments (Russia's initiative) and expansion of the membership of the New Development Bank (NDB)

11. PM Modi Leads Indian delegation at 20th Summit of SCO Council Heads

- Summit was chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- India will host the next regular Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government on November 30, 2020 in virtual format

12. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) holds 33rd Annual General Meeting

- It is held at India International Centre in New Delhi.
- Annual accounts for financial year 2019-20 were adopted at the AGM.

- The meet discusses policy initiatives of Govt, such as PM-KUSUM scheme, Solar & Wind hybrid technologies, Biofuels such as Ethanol and Compressed Bio Gas (CBG), E-mobility and associated infrastructure, Off-shore Wind energy, Solar Roof-top programme etc.

13. External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit 2020.

- Summit was chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister, Nguyen Xuan Phuc.
- It comprises regional grouping of 18 countries i.e. 10 ASEAN countries besides Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

14. PM Modi attended 12th BRICS Summit

- It is being hosted by **Russia**
- Theme: **Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth.**
- India will host the 13th BRICS Summit next year.

15. Harsh Vardhan chairs 147th session of WHO Executive Board

- Main functions of WHO executive board are to give effect to the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly, to advise it and generally to facilitate its work.
- It consists of 34 technically qualified members elected for three-year terms.
- Harsh Vardhan will hand over the chairmanship of WHO executive board in May 2021

16. PM Modi virtually addresses 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum

- Other speakers of the forum:
 - Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (D-G of WHO)
 - Tony Blair (UK's PM)
 - Bill Clinton (Former US President)
 - Bill Gates
 - Antonio Guterres



- Focus: refuelling the economy and charting a course for the future as the global economy is grappling with COVID-19
- Established: 2018 by Michael Bloomberg in Singapore

17. PM inaugurates three-day Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020

- It is a three-day summit.
- Theme: **'Next is Now'**.
- It observes participation of 4000 delegates and 270 speakers in 75 panel discussions.

18. First India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit held

- Delegated by: Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Xavier Bettel
- During the Summit, both parties agreed for enhanced cooperation in areas of trade, finance, steel, space, ICT, innovation, manufacturing, automotive, sustainable development, including renewable energy, and climate change.
- Three MoUs were signed as a part of the Summit.

19. 15th G20 Leaders' Summit held virtually

- It was held under the leadership of **Saudi Arabia**
- Summit observes participation of respective Heads of State/ Government of 19 member countries, EU, other invited countries and international organizations
- **Theme: Realizing Opportunities of 21st Century for All**
- Saudi Arabia passed its presidency to Italy

20. Eightieth All India Presiding Officers' Conference held virtually

- It is a two day conference and was inaugurated by President **Ram Nath Kovind**
- Theme: **Harmonious Coordination of Legislative, Executive and Judiciary- Key to a Vibrant Democracy**

21. India to host G-20 Summit in 2023

- India will host the G20 Group Summit in 2023, instead of 2022.
- G20 summit for the year 2022 will be hosted by Indonesia now.
- G20 Summit will be hosted by Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, India in 2023 and Brazil in 2024.
- India and Indonesia have swapped their respective hosting year of G20 as Indonesia would also chair Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2023

22. Kiren Rijiju launches 2nd edition of 'Fit India School Week' program

- Schools have to register themselves on www.fitindia.gov.in/fit-india-school-week to participate in this program.
- **Aim:** To encourage kids to inculcate physical activity and sports in their daily routine.
- It was launched in November last year and saw participation from over 15 thousand schools across the country.

23. PM Modi inaugurates Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest) 2020

- It will be held from 26 – 28 November 2020 on a Virtual Platform
- **Organised by:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Theme: **'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'**
- Aim: Provides international forum for investment promotion in renewable energy.

24. India hosted the 19th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government in a virtual format.

- The Summit was chaired by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
- This is the first time that a Summit-level Meeting will be held under India's Chairmanship since it gained full membership of the organisation in 2017.



- The Prime Ministers from SCO Member States of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan attend the SCO meeting.

25. AIM–Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0 held for school students

October

1. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates 4th India Energy Forum

- **Organizer:** NITI Aayog and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- The forum was organised for interacting with CEOs of leading Global Oil & Gas Companies comprising participants from more than 30 nation
- **Host:** CERAWEEK, IHS Markit
- **Duration:** 3 days from 26th to 28th October 2020
- **Theme for 4th India Energy Forum:** India's Energy Future in a world of Change

2. 6th edition of BRICS Parliamentary Forum held in virtual format

- **Participants:** Speakers and members of Parliament of BRICS nation
- **Chairmanship:** Vyachaslav Volodin (Chairman of Russian Parliament)
- Indian Parliamentary Delegation has been led by Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla and consisted of Lok Sabha Member Kanimozhi Karunanidhi.
- **Theme:** 'BRICS partnership in the interest of global stability, general safety and innovative growth: Parliamentary dimension'
- **BRICS:** Brazil, Russian, India, China and South Africa

3. India and US hold 3rd bilateral 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi

1. Cycling Federation of India (CFI) to host first ever Cycling Summit in 2021 across Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru

- It was a 14-day-long event that saw the participation of several dignitaries from India and Russia and a special showcase by the students of both the countries.
- **Focus:** Developing technological solutions (web-based and mobile applications) to address the grassroots problems of the two countries.

- Main members: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark Esper.
- Two nations signed the landmark defence pact Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) that will allow India to use global geospatial maps of US for accuracy of stand-off weapons like cruise and ballistic missiles.
- MoU for Technical Cooperation in Earth Observations and Earth Sciences and Letter of Intent between Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and National Cancer Institute, USA has also signed

4. India hosted 19th SCO Ministers Meet of Foreign Economy & Foreign Trade

- **Host:** Minister of Commerce and Industry of India Piyush Goyal
- **Participants:** Secretary General of SCO and Ministers from Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- **Aim:** To leverage the economic strength and explore partnerships that enhance trade and investment in the region.
- It focused on greater cooperation for access to medicines and facilitation of trade and statement was signed on the Multilateral Trading System of Ministers of SCO Countries who are WTO Members.

September

About Cycling Summit 2021:

- It will begin with a cycle ride from the heart of the city to the event venue followed by curated



workshops, masterclasses, and open interactions with eminent athletes

- CFI signs MoU with new-age marketing exploration firm, Contarctica for the summit.

2. Ministry for Tribal Affairs inaugurates National Tribal Research Conclave

Note:

- It is 2-day conclave held on 3rd and 4th September 2020.
- It reviewed the progress on the outcome of various projects being implemented under different partnerships and the best practices to be followed by stakeholders along with road map of National Tribal Research Institutes

3. 35th Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) held

Note:

- It was held under the Chairmanship of **Bhutan**.
- APRC 35 focused on regional priorities and issues like COVID 19, state of agriculture, natural resources management, food security and nutrition.
- It was first organized in India in 1953 and is held biennial

4. International Solar Alliance (ISA) organized first World Solar Technology Summit

Note:

- **Aim:** Accelerate affordable and sustainable clean green with next generation technologies in solar power.

- **Tripartite agreement** between India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, World Bank and ISA inked during the summit
- The summit observed launching of ISA's technology journal, **Solar Compass 360**.

5. First Trilateral Dialogue held between India, France, and Australia to enhance cooperation in Indo-Pacific.

Note:

- It was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, France counterpart François Delattre, and Secretary of Australian Foreign Affairs Frances Adamson.
- The meeting observes discussion on Marine Global Commons, regional organisations like ASEAN, IORA and challenges & trends in regional and global multilateral institutions.

6. Ministry of Education to organise 2-day conclave under Shikshak Parv

Note:

- Title of conclave: '**School Education in the 21st Century**'
- **First day:** Addressed by PM Narendra Modi with focus on Principal and Teacher practitioners for implementation of NEP in creative ways.
- **Second Day:** Discussions by Expert Practitioners to demystify important themes of NEP for school education.

August

1. 8th East Asia Summit (Economic Ministers' Meeting) held virtually under chairmanship of Vietnam

Note:

- It will strengthen the regional supply chains, becoming resilient during Covid-19 with economic growth.
- Economic ministers from 10 ASEAN members and other nations including India, US, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Australia and New Zealand attended the meeting

2. NCPUL organizes 2 day long World Urdu Conference in New Delhi

Note:

- The conference is organized by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)
- Urdu writers and personalities will be honoured at the conference with awards in the name of Amir Khusrow, Mirza Ghalib, Agha Hashar, Ram Babu Saxena and Daya Shankar Naseem.

3. ARIES, Nainital to organise 3-day online International Conference

Note:

- Title of conference '**Aerosol Air Quality, Climate Change and Impact on Water Resources and Livelihoods in the Greater Himalayas**'
- It is organised in collaboration with Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University.



- The conference will focus on the topics like rapid increase in the air pollution associated with industrialisation, urbanisation, etc

4. Defence Minister addressed Naval Commanders' Conference 2020

Note:

- It is a 3-day biennial conference which was to be held in April.
- The agenda of the conference is Navy's Modernisation and Security in the Indian Ocean amidst the situation at the LAC in Ladakh
- It will focus on optimising joint planning structures, Tri-Service Synergy, and operational readiness, as well as functional reorganisation within the Indian Navy to improve efficiency.

5. Health Minister inaugurated CII Public Health Conference virtually

Note:

- It is a part of Inaugural of the Healthcare Week

- Theme of the conference: Strengthening Public health Delivery
- The conference observed the launch of virtual exhibition on Healthcare, CII TB Free Workplaces Campaign and CII Public Health Report.

6. PM addresses 'Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy'

Note:

- It has been organised by Ministry of Education (Former MHRD) and University Grants Commission.
- The conclave comprised of several sessions dedicated to important aspects of education covered under National Education Policy, 2020 like Holistic, Multidisciplinary and futuristic education, Quality Research, and Equitable use of technology for better reach in Education.

Government Schemes

January (1 to 14th) 2021

1. Govt extends benefit of RoDTEP scheme to all export goods to boost export

- RoDTEP: Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)
- It will refund embedded Central, State and local taxes to exporters that were so far not being given rebate or refunded.
- The refund will be credited in exporter's ledger account with Customs and used to pay Basic Customs duty on imported goods.

2. MP Govt launches 'Launch Pad Scheme' to make youth self-reliant

- **Beneficiaries:** Youth coming out of child-care institutions and having completed 18 years of age.
- Under this, District Administration will provide space to these youths for opening of

coffee shops, stationery, photocopying, computer typing and DTP work

- It has been launched by the Women and Child Development Department of the state.

3. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to introduce its flagship Liberalised MSME AEO Package

- This allow MSMEs who have filed minimum 10 Customs clearance documents in 1 year having clean compliance record over 2 years to apply for the scheme.
- Grant of AEO status will be given in 15 days from electronic submission of complete documents for AEO Tier T1.
- It is a voluntary compliance programme for swifter Customs clearance.



December

1. Centre Launches QRMP scheme for small taxpayers under GST system.

- **QRMP:** 'Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment of Taxes (QRMP)' scheme for small taxpayers under GST system.
- **Eligibility:** Taxpayers with Rs 5 crore annual turnover in the preceding financial year and who have filed their October GSTR-3B (sales) return by Nov 30, 2020.
- Under the scheme, eligible taxpayer will be allowed to furnish their GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B returns on quarterly basis (January-March quarter of 2020-21)

2. UP Govt launches scheme for Tharu tribe

- **Tharu tribe:** They belongs to Terai lowlands, Shivaliks or lower Himalayas. Most of them are forest dwellers and some practice agriculture.
- Tharus live in both India (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar) and Nepal.
- UP government is working to connect Tharu villages of Balrampur, Bahraich, Lakhimpur and Pilibhit bordering Nepal, with home stay scheme of UP Forest Department to offer tourists with experience of living in the natural Tharu habitat

3. Education Ministry releases 'Policy On School Bag 2020'

- As per the policy, School bags should not be more than 10% of the body weight of students across classes I to X and there should be no homework till class II.
- It has been released by NCERT
- Weight of the school bags:
 - 1.6 to 2.2 kg for Classes I and II
 - 1.7 to 2.5 kg for Classes III, IV and V
 - 2 to 3 kg for VI and VII
 - 2.5 to 4 kg for VIII
 - 2.5 to 4.5 kg for Classes IX and X
 - 3.5 to 5 kg for Classes XI and XII.

4. 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure' scheme

- Announced as a part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat package.
- Included states: All the states except Tamil Nadu
- Aim: boost capital expenditure by State Governments who are facing difficult financial environment due to the shortfall in tax revenue arising from COVID 19
- Capital Expenditure has a higher multiplier effect, enhancing the future productive capacity of the economy, and results in a higher rate of economic growth.

5. Programme of socio-economic profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries launched

- PM SVANidhi: Prime Minister Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi,
- Under this, complete profile of each PM SVANidhi beneficiary and their family members will be prepared to include them under various central schemes
- 125 cities have been selected in 1st phase for the programme.
- It will identify potential eligibility of beneficiaries and their family members for select Central Government schemes and facilitate linkages.

6. Andhra Pradesh govt launches 'YSR Free Crop Insurance' scheme.

- Under the scheme, ₹1,252 crores has been credited into the bank accounts of 9.48 lakh farmers in insurance claims for the agricultural season 2019.
- The previous government spent an average Rs 393 crore per annum for three years towards payment of insurance premium.
- Compensation for the crop losses during 2020 will be paid in April next.



7. Recognition scheme for hygiene rating audit agencies approved

- It has been launched by Quality Council of India (QCI) on behest of FSSAI.
- Recognised agencies will have to follow food hygiene and safety procedures laid down by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Food Hygiene Rating Scheme initiative
- Hygiene rating will be in the form of smileys (1 to 5) and the certificate should be displayed in the consumer facing area.
- It will allow consumers to make informed choices/decisions pertaining to the food outlets.

8. UP govt to launch 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' to double the income of farmers

About Kisan Kalyan Mission:

1. Govt extended Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

Note:

- Central Govt has extended ECLGS till 30th November or till Rs 3 lakh crores is sanctioned under the scheme, whichever is earlier.
- The extension is done in view of increasing demand and opening up of various sectors in the economy
- **ECLGS:** It is a fully guaranteed and collateral free additional credit to MSMEs, business enterprises, individual loans for business purposes and MUDRA borrowers.

2. Kerala launches 'Parivarthanam' scheme for Fishing Community

About 'Parivarthanam' scheme:

- It will be headed by **Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC)** and will

- Various programs will be organised across the state including exhibitions of agriculture and associate sectors for explaining scientific farming, providing information about the schemes of government.
- It will also include the products of MSME sector units and livelihood missions.

9. PM Narendra Modi launched AB-PMJAY SEHAT scheme

- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme** has been launched for the residents of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Under this scheme, people of J&K will be able to avail free medical facilities up to Rs 5 lakh.
- All 21 lakh families will be benefited under the scheme

November

be monitored by **Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT)**

- It will improve the livelihood skills of youngsters along the coastline enhancing socio-economic upliftment of the fishermen community with providing income and employment to people.

3. Union Finance Minister rolls out Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana

- **Objective:** To incentivize job creation during COVID-19 recovery
- **Beneficiaries:** Any new employee joining employment in EPFO registered establishments on monthly wages less than Rs.15,000
- Central Govt. will provide subsidy for 2 years in respect of new eligible employees engaged on or after 1st Oct 2020
- It will be effective from October 1, 2020 and will be operational till 30th June 2021.
- Government will also pay 12% employees' contribution and 12% employers' contribution in



respect of new employees in establishments employing upto 1,000 employees.

4. Capacity building component of PM-FME Scheme inaugurated

- PM-FME Scheme: **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme.**
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme, launched under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- Along with new component, **GIS One District One Product (ODOP) digital map of India** has also been launched.
- Ministry concerned: **Minister for Food Processing Industries**

5. Mastercard ties-up with USAID to launch Project Kirana to empower women

About Project Kirana:

- It is a 2-year programme, launched under Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP)
- It will be initially rolled out in select cities of Uttar Pradesh, including Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi.
- It will build financial and digital literacy skills, improving basic business management skills

6. Himachal Pradesh govt launches 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan'

- **Aim:** to sensitize people about Covid-19, along with collecting information regarding symptoms of diseases like TB, Leprosy, sugar and blood pressure by door to door campaign
- 8000 teams comprising of Health, Ayurveda, Women and Child Development, Panchayati Raj Departments, District Administration and NGOs would be involved in this campaign.

7. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar rolls out training programme 'Sahakar Pragya'

- **Aim:** To impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas.
- It is a part of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
- It will impart training in rural areas along with Lakshmanrao Inamdar National Cooperative Research and Development Academy (LINAC).

8. India Post Payments Bank along with PNB MetLife India Insurance Company launches PMJJBY

About PMJJBY:

- **PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** will bring large sections of the underserved and unserved population into financial mainstream.
- **Beneficiary:** Person with savings account with IPPB.
- **Age limit:** 18 to 50 years
- **Sum assured:** Rs 2,00,000 per life
- **Premium:** Rs 330 annually
- **Maximum maturity age:** Completion of 55 years (Age near Birthday)

9. Agriculture Minister launches NAFED's Honey FPO Programme in 5 states

- **Aim:** To address the issues faced by beekeeping industry and also promote honey production in the country increasing farmer's income.
- Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will be set up by **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED)**
- It will be set up at East Champaran (Bihar), Morena (Madhya Pradesh), Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) and Sunderbans (West Bengal).

October



1. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launches Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)

- The mission has been launched under the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in order to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.
- Under this, 117 companies promoted by SC entrepreneurs will be given financial assistance to set up business ventures.

2. South Eastern Railways (SER) has launched the project, 'Operation my Saheli'

- Aim: To enhance the security of women passengers in the train.
- It is executed under the Framework of "Nirbhaya Fund" and no additional expenditure is provided by the Head of Railways.

3. West Bengal Govt launches "Pathashree Abhijan" scheme for road repair

- It is a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometres across the state will be repaired.

4. Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda launches Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme

- This initiative will run for 3 year optimizing the contribution of tribal population in the growing economy
- The programmes Centre of Excellence (CoE) has been set up by apex industry body Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)

5. Union Health Minister launches 2nd phase of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna

- It is launched for the underprivileged Thalassemic patients.
- It is a Coal India CSR funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) program

- **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna:** Launched in 2017 to provide 1-time cure opportunity for Haemoglobinopathies like Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease for patients who have a matched family donor
- **Haemoglobinopathies:** inherited disorders of red blood cells and are preventable.

6. Odisha launches 'Sujal' Mission to Provide Tap Water Fit for Drinking in Urban Areas

- 'Sujal'- 'Drink from Tap Mission' scheme will provide round the clock supply of quality tap drinking water in all urban areas of Odisha by March 2022 benefitting over 15 lakh people in 15 towns in a phased manner.
- Once fully implemented, Odisha will become the first state in the country to provide quality drinking water, fit for direct consumption, in urban areas

7. Finance Minister launches Leave Travel Concession (LTC) voucher and festival advance scheme

- Govt has announced twin set of measures to boost consumption demand and capital expenditure (Capex) known as Leave Travel Concession (LTC) voucher scheme and a festival advance scheme.
- LTC scheme: Central Govt employees can avail cash payment and leave encashment in lieu of one LTC during 2018-21 according to entitlement
- Special Festival Advance Scheme has also been revived as a one-time measure for both Gazetted and non-Gazetted employees
- Additional budget of Rs. 25,000 crore is being provided for Capital Expenditure

8. Delhi Cabinet approve 'Tree Transplantation Policy' for the conservation of trees

- Delhi becomes the first State in India to pass this policy.
- Under this, Concerned agencies will have to transplant 80% of the trees affected by their projects to a new location.



- Dedicated panel of govt agencies is being formed under the policy.

9. Uttarakhand Govt launches 'Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana'

- **Aim:** to generate self-employment for youth & migrants through green energy sector
- State will allocate solar plants of 25 kw each to the targeted beneficiaries and loans will be granted by cooperative banks for these plants at 8% interest rate for 15%

10. PM launches Property Cards under SVAMITVA scheme

- **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas)** is a Central Sector Scheme launched in April 2020 to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties and issue Property Cards.
- **Benefit:** Allow the villagers to use the property as a financial asset for taking loans and other economic and financial benefits.
- The scheme is being implemented in a phased manner for 4 years covering 6.62 lakh villages

11. Andhra Pradesh CM launches Jagananna Vidya Kanuka' scheme

- **Aim:** To distribute school kits among the poor children of the state.
- **Total outlay:** Rs 650 crore
- Under this, government school students from classes 1 to 10 across the state will set the school kits or Vidya Kanuka, which will contain three pairs of uniform, one pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, a belt, one set of textbooks and notebooks and one school bag.

12. Gujarat launches 'Digital Seva Setu' for online public welfare services in rural areas

- Under this, public welfare services will be made available in 14,000-gram panchayats in Gujarat

by connecting village panchayats through optical fiber network, e-gram office and data centre

- It will be initiated under Centre's BharatNet Project

13. Approval of 16 eligible applicants under PLI Scheme

- Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology (MeitY) has approved 16 eligible applicants under PLI Scheme extending an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales of goods 5 years subsequent to FY2019-20 as base year
- **PLI scheme:** It was focused to provide financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the electronics value chain

14. Agriculture Minister launches NCDC Ayushman Sahakar scheme

- **Formulated by:** National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
- NCDC will extend Rs.10,000 crore loans to prospective cooperatives to set up healthcare facilities under this.
- It will also provide 1% interest subvention to women majority cooperatives.
- **Aim:** To bring transformation in rural areas, to revolutionize comprehensive health care services, through co-operatives, due to their strong presence in rural areas.

15. Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launches 'YSR BIMA' scheme for BPL families

About YSR Bima Scheme

- It is an insurance cover provided in case of death, and disability due to accident of their family's members that will cover 1.41 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families
- **Eligibility:** All families with white ration cards
- **Funding:** 100% by Andhra Pradesh Government



16. Tamil Nadu Govt launches Smart Black Board Scheme in 80,000 Government schools

About the scheme

- It will facilitate usage of audio-visual teaching material that can be fed into the computer screens in classes using pen drives.
- It is launched in line of Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

17. Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme extended to Arunachal Pradesh for the first time

Note:

- **Applicability:** The scheme will be applicable to all factories located in the district of Papum Pare, Arunachal Pradesh employing 10 or more persons under **ESI Act 1948**, along with other benefits
- **ESI Corporation:** It is a **Social Security organization** providing comprehensive social security benefits like reasonable Medical Care and a range of Cash Benefits during employment injury, sickness, death etc.
- ESI Scheme is being implemented in 568 districts in all the States and Union Territories, except Lakshdweep.

18. Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme

- Uttarakhand CM **Trivendra Singh Rawat** has inaugurated **Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme (Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana)** to strengthen the economy of farmers by doubling their income.
- The scheme has been launched in partnership with **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**.
- NABARD will lend a helping hand to farmers to switch over to mechanised and scientific farming boosting productivity.

19. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) implementation list released

Note

- Himachal Pradesh's **Mandi district** has bagged top position in the list of PMGSY programme implementation
- The list was declared by **Union Ministry of Rural Development**
- Chamba, Shimla, Kangra, Una, Sirmour, Hamirpur and Solan from Himachal Pradesh have secured top position in the list
- PMGSY: It was launched by Union govt to provide all weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations, having population of more than 250 in the state, as part of a poverty reduction strategy

20. Kisan Suryodaya Yojana

- PM Narendra Modi has launched '**Kisan Suryodaya Yojana**' to provide day-time power supply to farmers for irrigation of Gujarat
- **Total outlay:** Rs. 3,500 crores
- About 3,500 circuit kilometers (CKM) of new transmission lines will be laid.
- **Implementation:** 10 districts including Dahod, Gir-Somnath and Tapi have been selected under the Scheme for **2020-21**. The remaining districts will be covered in a phase-wise manner **by 2022-23**.

21. Extension of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

Note:

- Union Cabinet has approved MIS extension for apple procurement to Jammu & Kashmir in 2020-21
- Procurement of apple will be done by Central Procuring Agency (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation, NAFED) through State Designated Agencies
- The payment will be made through DBT

22. Indian Railways launches Meri Saheli initiative for women security

Note:



- The initiative is launched for focused action on security of women across all zones to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains till the destination station.
- It was initiated by **Railway Protection Force (RPF)**
- Under this, lady passengers are briefed about all precautions to be taken during the journey and told to dial 182 in case they face or see any problem in the coach.
- This initiative was started as a pilot project in South Eastern Railway in September 2020

23. Govt revises PLI Schemes for bulk drugs & medical devices manufacturing

- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has revised Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for promoting domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs and medical devices.
- As per revised guidelines, 'Minimum Threshold' investment requirement has been replaced by 'committed investment' taking into account

1. Govt approves 'Mission Karmayogi' Programme

Note:

- It is a **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)**.
- **Aim:** To build future-ready civil servants with right attitude, skills & knowledge, with focus on competency led capacity building.
- It will focus on setting-up PM's Public Human Resources (HR) Council, Capacity Building Commission, Special Purpose Vehicle for digital assets, technological platform for online training, and Coordination Unit

2. Assam Govt re-launches SVAYEM scheme to provide self-employment

Note:

- **SVAYEM:** Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment
- It will provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths who are a part of any self-help groups or joint liability groups.
- Rs 50 thousand as seed money will be provided to selected youths to start business ventures.

availability of technology choices which varies from product to product.

- It has been released to encourage efficient use of productive capital.

24. LTC tax voucher scheme extended to all employees

- Govt extended the income-tax exemption available under **LTC cash voucher scheme to non-central government employees** that include employees of state governments, state-owned enterprises and private sector.
- LTC tax voucher scheme: Cash payment to employees in lieu of one LTC during 2018-21, in which full payment on Leave encashment and tax-free payment of LTC fare in 3 flat-rate slabs depending on class of entitlement will be given. An employee, opting for this scheme, will be required to buy goods / services worth 3 times the fare and 1 time the leave encashment before 31st March 2021.

September

3. Karnataka approves project 'REWARD' with World Bank assistance

About REWARD:

- It stands for Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agriculture Resilience through Innovative Development
- It is designed to ensure soil and water conservation in 20 taluks with low groundwater levels in Karnataka covering 50,000 hectares of parched land
- 70% of the fund will be provided by World Bank

4. PM to launch Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

Note:

- PMMSY is a **flagship fishery sector scheme** with an investment of Rs. 20,050 crore for 5 years
- '**e-Gopala App**' was also launched, which is a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.
- **Other initiatives:** Establishment of fish brood bank at Sitamarhi, aquatic disease referral lab at Kishanganj, fish feed mill at Madhepura and 'Fish



on Wheels' at Patna, Fish production technology centre at Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University

5. Odisha rolls out 'GARIMA' Scheme For Sanitation Workers

Note:

- It will ensure economic safety and social dignity of core sanitation workers in the state.
- **Implementing agency:** Odisha Housing and Urban Development in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha.

- The scheme will benefit around 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families

6. Meghalaya launches Piggery Mission

Note:

- It is being launched under **Meghalaya Livestock Enterprises Advancement Society** and funded by **National Cooperative Development Corporation**
- **Aim:** To reduce the annual import of Pork worth Rs 150 Crore and make Meghalaya self-sufficient ("Aatma Nirbhar") in pork production over the next 3 years.

August

1. Defence Minister launches 'Chhavni COVID: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana.'

Note:

- It is a group life insurance scheme through LIC that will cover more than 10,000 employees in all 62 Cantonment Boards
- The insurance will cover event of unfortunate fatal calamity with an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakhs each benefiting permanent and contractual employees

2. NABARD launches credit guarantee programme for NBFC-MFIs

Note:

- It is titled as 'Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Programme'
- It will ensure unhindered flow of credit in rural areas hit by COVID-19 by providing partial guarantee on pooled loans extended to small and mid-sized microfinance institutions (MFIs)
- For this, NABARD has tied-up with Vivriti Capital and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.

3. Odisha bags 1st position in implementation of AMRUT scheme

Note:

- AMRUT stands for **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation**

- The second position is bagged by Chandigarh (75.08%) followed by Telangana (74.04%), Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh.
- **AMRUT:** It is launched in 2015 to ensure that every household has access to basic services and build amenities in cities to improve the quality of life for all

4. NITI Aayog's AIM collaborated with Dell to launch Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0)

Note:

- It has been launched for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) to get mentor support, prototyping and testing support, end-user feedback, intellectual property registration along with patenting of ideas, processes, and products.

5. SIDBI in association with TransUnion CIBIL Limited launched 'MSMESaksham'

Note:

- It is a comprehensive financial education and one-stop knowledge platform for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- It is focused on financial knowledge and access to credit.

Obituaries

January (1st -14th) 2021

1. John Fulton Reid passed away recently, he was former cricketer of **New Zealand**.

Note: The Left-handed batsman was born on March 3, 1956 in Auckland, City in the North Island, New Zealand. He served as the New Zealand Test captain.



- He played 25 ODIs, 19 tests from 1979 to 1986, where he scored 633 runs in ODIs and 1296 runs in Tests. The test runs of him came at an average of 46.28, along with 6 centuries and 2 half centuries.
2. Renowned personality Brian Urquhart, who played a central role in developing the U.N. practice of peacekeeping, passed away recently, he was a diplomat of **UK**.
Note: He was an early leader of the United Nations who played a central role in developing the U.N. practice of peacekeeping. Mr Urquhart, born in Bridport, England in 1919, served in British military and intelligence during World War II before becoming the second official hired by the U.N. after its formation in 1945.
 3. Olympic Medalist Michael Kindo Passed Away recently, he was associated with **Hockey** sports.
Note: He was born on 20th June 1947 in Odisha. Michael Kindo was a part of the Indian Hockey Team which won the Olympic bronze medal in the Munich Olympic 1972. He was also a part of the Indian team that won the 1975 Hockey World Cup held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
 4. Padma Shri awardee, Colonel Narendra 'Bull' Kumar passed away recently, he was an iconic **Mountaineer**.
Note: He was born on 8th December 1933 in Rawalpindi, now in Pakistan. In 1964, he was the first Indian to climb Mount Nanda Devi. He climbed Mount Everest in 1965, Mount Blanc (highest peak in the Alps), and later Mount Kangchenchanga.
 5. Renowned personality Anil Panachooran passed away recently, he was a poet and lyricist of **Malayalam** language.
Note: He is a lawyer by profession. He was born on November 20, 1969 at Kayamkulam, Alappuzha, Kerala. His last lyrics were penned for the movie Within Seconds (2021). He made his debut in Malayalam industry through the film Makalkku(2005).
 6. Renowned personality Vilas Patil Undalkar passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: He was born on 15th July 1938. He was elected as the MLA for 7 times from the Karad South Assembly constituency for a record 35 consecutive years, i.e., from 1980 to 2014
 7. Renowned personality Satya Paul passed away recently, he was a veteran **Fashion Designer**.
Note: Paul started his journey in the field of retail in the late 60's and expanded to exports of Indian handloom products to high-end retail stores in Europe and America. In 1980, he launched the first 'saree boutique' in India, L'Affaire, and founded the eponymous fashion clothing brand with his son in 1986. The brand soon became synonymous for its sleek sarees.
 8. Turlapati Kutumba Rao passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.
Note: Mr. Rao had the distinction of being a personal secretary to Tanguturi Prakasam, the first Chief Minister of Andhra State. A native of Vijayawada, Mr. Rao had worked as editor and editorial writer of Telugu newspaper Andhra Jyothi for close to three-and-a-half decades. He won laurels for translating into Telugu the speeches of many national leaders and stalwarts.
 9. Renowned journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Neil Sheehan passed away recently was a citizen of **USA**.
Note: His account of the Vietnam War, A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam, took him 15 years to write. The 1988 book won the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction. Sheehan served as a war correspondent for United Press International and then the Times in the early days of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War in the 1960s.
 10. Veteran politician and former chief minister of **Gujarat** Madhavsinh Solanki passed away recently.
Note: Born on July 30, 1927, the nonagenarian leader was the chief minister of Gujarat four times and also Union external affairs minister. Under his leadership, the Congress rode to power in the Gujarat assembly in 1985, winning 149 of the 182 seats -- an electoral feat that has not been matched so far. Solanki, Congress stalwart had left active politics since last two decades as he was pursuing his passion for reading and writing.
 11. Famous Indian-American Ved Prakash Mehta passed away recently, he was a veteran **Novelist**.
Note: The New Yorker magazine, where he had been a staff writer for 33 years, reported that he had died on Saturday. Mehta provided the first introduction to India for many contemporary Americans through his popular books and articles that ranged from the autobiographical to the political and historic.
 12. Renowned personality Prof Shashikumar Madhusudan (M.) Chitre, passed away, he was a famous **Astrophysicist**.
Note: He is the recipient of Padma Bhushan. He was born on May 7, 1936 in India. He retired as a senior professor from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, in 2001. He served as the visiting professor of many universities across the world namely, University of Columbia, University of Virginia among others.



13. Renowned personality Sheldon Adelson passed away recently, he was associated with **Casino**.
Note: Adelson, whose net worth was estimated by Forbes to be around \$33 billion, had been among the most-watched donors supporting President Trump's 2020 reelection effort. He was a staunch supporter of Israel.
14. Renowned personality D Prakash Rao passed away recently, he was a veteran **Social Activist**.

Note: He was basically a tea seller based in Cuttack, who spent his entire earning to educate slum children, through the school 'Asha O Ashwasana', which he started in 2000. He was conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2019 for his contribution towards boosting the value of education among slum kids in Cuttack. Apart from this, Rao was also a well-known blood donor.

December

1. Renowned personality S Ramakrishnan passed away recently, he was former director of **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.
Note: Mr. Ramakrishnan joined the VSSC, a lead centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in August 1972 after graduating from the College of Engineering, Guindy, and acquiring his MTech in Aeronautics from IIT, Madras. He joined as a member of the SLV-3 project team responsible for the development of India's first satellite launch vehicle under the leadership of A.P. J. Abdul Kalam.
2. Renowned personality Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali passed away recently, he was former prime minister of **Pakistan**.
Note: Jamali, the country's first and only elected prime minister from Balochistan, had served during the military regime of Gen Pervez Musharraf. However, Gen Musharraf sought his resignation in 2004 and he was replaced by Shaukat Aziz. He won the 2013 general elections as an independent, but later joined the PML-N and used to sit on the treasury benches in the previous assembly.
3. Renowned personality Manu Mukherjee passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: The actor is best remembered for his roles in Satyajit Ray's Joy Baba Felunath and Ganashatru. He had also been part of children's fantasy film Patalghar'.
4. Former chief of Intelligence Bureau chief Dineshwar Sharma passed away recently, he was Administrator of Union territory of **Lakshwadweep**.
Note: Mr. Sharma, a 1979-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, hailed from Bihar. He served as IB Director from 2014 to 2016. He headed the bureau when the government announced demonetisation on November 8, 2016. In 2017, he was appointed as the union government's representative for peace talks with various groups in North Eastern states on May 30, 2017.
5. Renowned personality Valery Giscard d'Estaing passed away recently he was former President of **France**.

- Note:** Giscard was elected president in 1974 at the age of 48 to become France's youngest postwar leader. He was also an ardent Anglophile, and took office a year after Britain joined the European Economic Community.
6. Renowned personality Dharampal Gulati, passed away recently he was owner of **MDH**.
Note: Popularly called 'King of Spices,' was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the country's third-highest civilian award, in 2019. MDH exports spices to countries across the world such as Switzerland, Japan, the US, and Canada. It is one of the biggest brands of spices, and manufactures almost 50 different types of spices.
7. Senegal's Legendary footballer Papa Bouba Diop passed away recently.
Note: He was of the age of 42. His goal helped Senegal secure historic 1-0 win over the then-world champions France in the opening match of the 2002 FIFA World Cup, and Senegal's first-ever match at the FIFA World Cup. Diop has won 63 caps for Senegal.
8. Renowned personality Madhukar Gangadhar passed away recently he was a veteran **Hindi writer**.
Note: Mr. Gangadhar was born in Bihar's Purnia district on 7th January 1932. His last rites will be performed at his native place today. Mr. Gangadhar studied in Purnia Inter College and Patna University and had worked at Patna Akashwani and later also served as the director, AIR Allahabad. He also worked in the capacity of Deputy Director General (DDG), AIR at New Delhi.
9. Often known as the father of fibre optics, Narinder Singh Kapany passed away recently was a citizen of **USA**.
Note: Kapany was the first to transmit images through fibre optics back in 1954 and laid the foundation for high-speed internet technology. He not only founded fibre optics but also used his own invention for the business. He founded the Optics Technology Incorporation and Kaptron Incorporation in 1960 and 1973 respectively.



- 10.** Renowned personality Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya passed away recently, he was a scholar of **Sanskrit and Kannada**.
Note: He had done extensive research on Madhwa philosophy, besides authoring over 100 books and 4,000 pages in Sanskrit on the subject. He had written commentaries on Vedas, Upanishad, Mahabharata, Ramayana, Bhagavata and Puranas. He was awarded Padma Shri in 2009. He had written screenplay for films 'Bhagavad Gita', 'Adi Shankaracharya' and 'Madhvacharya'.
- 11.** Renowned personality John le Carre passed away recently, he was a veteran **Novelist**.
Note: The author, whose real name was David John Moore Cornwell, wrote 25 novels and one memoir in a career spanning 60 years, selling some 60 million books worldwide. By exploring treachery at the heart of British intelligence in spy novels, le Carre challenged Western assumptions about the Cold War by defining for millions the moral ambiguities of the battle between the Soviet Union and the West.
- 12.** Renowned personality Manglesh Dabral passed away recently, he was a veteran poet of **Hindi**.
Note: As a critic of government policies, he returned his Sahitya Akademi award in 2015 in protest against the growing climate of intolerance in the country. He worked as the Editor of Jansatta's Sunday Magazine, Ravivari. Through his writings in the four-page literary magazine, Jansatta, he mentored a generation of Hindi writers.
- 13.** Renowned **Malayalam** personality UA Khader passed away.
Note: He published more than 70 novels, short stories and travelogues that are considered among the finest works in Malayalam. Khader was known for a progressive and secular outlook to his life and his literature. His most acclaimed work of fiction, Thrikkottoor Peruma (Thrikkottoor Lore), won him the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1984
- 14.** Renowned personality Manglesh Dabral passed away recently, he was a veteran poet of **Hindi** language.
Note: As a critic of government policies, he returned his Sahitya Akademi award in 2015 in protest against the growing climate of intolerance in the country. He worked as the Editor of Jansatta's Sunday Magazine, Ravivari. Through his writings in the four-page literary magazine, Jansatta, he mentored a generation of Hindi writers.
- 15.** Renowned personality Padma Vibhushan recipient, Roddam Narasimha, passed away recently, he was a veteran **Aerospace Scientist**.
Note: Prof Narasimha made a mark in the field of aerospace and as a fluid dynamicist. He taught Aerospace Engineering at the IISc from 1962 to 1999. He also served as the director of the National Aerospace Laboratories from 1984 to 1993. Considering his contribution, the Central government bestowed on him Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award of India, in 2013. Dr Kalam and Prof Narasimha had together authored a book – Developments in Fluid Mechanics and Space Technology.
- 16.** Renowned **Football** D Ethiraj passed away recently.
Note: Ethiraj was a part of the Indian football team that finished on top of the podium at the 1962 Asian Games. The Indian team led by the legendary Chuni Goswami defeated South Korea 2-1 in the Games final to clinch the gold medal. He was a part of the national team during the '50s and '60s, which are widely regarded as the golden era of Indian football.
- 17.** Renowned sportsperson Shripati Khanchnale passed away recently, he was associated with **Wrestling**.
Note: He was a recipient of the Shiv Chhatrapati award, which is given by the Maharashtra government.
- 18.** Renowned personality Eric Freeman passed away recently, he was a veteran **Cricketer**.
Note: Freeman became Australia's 244th men's Test cricketer when he made his debut against India at the Gabba in 1968, removing both openers in the tourist's first innings with his right-arm fast-mediums. Freeman received the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2002 for his services to sport.
- 19.** Renowned **Politician** Motilal Vora passed away recently.
Note: He passed away recently passed away after a prolonged illness. A former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, Motialal Vora was also a Rajya Sabha member from Chhattisgarh till April this year. He was also the AICC general secretary (administration) before the recent party reshuffle by Congress president Sonia Gandhi.
- 20.** Renowned environmental activist personality Sugathakumari passed away recently, she was also a poet of **Malayalam** language.
Note: Sugathakumari was an influential voice in the field of Malayalam literature with her works garnering all the major accolades on offer in the country. She was a recipient of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award, Kendra Sahitya Akademi award, Odakkuzhal award, Ezhuthachan award among others.
- 21.** Shamsur Rahman Faruqi passed away recently, he was an accomplished **Urdu Poet**.



- Note:** Faruqi's book 'Kai Chaand The Sar-e-Asmaan', written in 2006, has been hailed as a masterpiece of Urdu fiction. An English version of this book 'Mirror of Beauty' was published in 2013. He has also translated his stories into English which are included in a book titled 'The Sun That Rose from the Earth' in 2014. He has also been credited with spearheading the revival of the Dastangoi – an urdu oral storytelling art form.
- 22.** Famous **Cricketer** John Edrich passed away recently.
Note: Former England opening batsman John Edrich passed away at the age of 83. John Edrich had a prolific career for England and scored more than 5,000 runs during a 77-match Test career, including 12 centuries. The batsman was also the captain of Surrey and hit 103 hundreds and more than 39,000 runs in first-class cricket
- 23.** Renowned **cricketer** Robin Jackman passed away recently.
Note: Jackman played in four Tests and 15 one-day internationals for his country, while he took 1,402 wickets in a 399-game first-class career between 1966 and 1982. Following his retirement he became a successful commentator in South Africa.
- 24.** Renowned personality Ishwar Bidri passed away recently, he was a veteran **cinematographer**.
Note: He was best known for his work in popular 1990s films like Andaz Apna Apna and Border. Ishwar Bidri is

best known for his longstanding collaboration with filmmaker JP Dutta for whom he shot action dramas like Yateem, Hathyar, Batwara in the late 1980s and the 1998 war epic Border.

- 25.** Renowned personality Sunil Kothari passed away recently, he was an eminent **dance scholar**.
Note: A Sangeet Natak Akademi fellow, Kothari blazed a new trail in documenting Indian classical dance forms. Kothari received numerous titles and awards for his contribution to Indian dance forms including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1995); the Gaurav Puraskar conferred by the Gujarat Sangeet Natak Akademi (2000); the Padma Shri bestowed by the Government of India (2001); and the Life Time Achievement Award of the Dance Critics Association, New York, USA (2011). He was also an elected Fellow of **Sangeet Natak Akademi** for his contribution to Indian dance as a scholar.
- 26.** Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan passed away following a cardiac arrest, was an exponent of Music -- **Delhi Gharana**.
Note: Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan was best known for his versatile renditions in various genres of Indian classical music, including 'thumri', dadra', as well as bhajans' and ghazals. Iqbal Ahmed Khan had several accolades to his credit, including the Priyadarshini Award (2001), and the Rajiv Rattan Sadbhavna Samman (2003).

November

- 1.** Renowned personality R Doraikkannu passed away recently due to COVID-19 complications, he was Agriculture Minister of **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: Doraikkannu was undergoing treatment here, after being shifted from a government medical college hospital in Villupuram on October 13, where he was admitted to after he complained of uneasiness. Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit condoled the death of Daoraikkannu and said he was saddened to know about the demise of the Minister.
- 2.** Mesut Yilmaz passed away recently, he was veteran politician and former prime minister of **Turkey**.
Note: He was the Chief of the now-defunctional centre-right Motherland Party or ANAP from 1991 to 2002. He served as prime minister of Turkey three times in the 1990s. His first two prime-ministerial terms lasted for just one month, in 1991 and then in 1996, while the third term was from June 1997 to January 1999.
- 3.** Renowned personality Satish Prasad Singh passed away recently, he was former chief minister of **Bihar**.
Note: Satish Prasad Singh, the leader of Soshit Samaj Dal became the 6th and the shortest- served CM of Bihar for 5 days (28 January to February 1, 1968) with the support of Indian National Congress (INC). He was born on January 1, 1936 in Korchakka (now known as Satish Nagar) Village, Khagaria district, Bihar.
- 4.** Renowned personality Tripunithura Narayanaiyer Krishnan (T N Krishnan) passed away, he was a veteran **Violinist**.
Note: T N Krishnan was a child prodigy who made his first solo violin concert in Triruvantahpuram in 1939. He was mentored by Alleppy K. Parthasarathy and had accompanied numerous musicians like Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Musiri Subramania Iyer, Alathur Brothers, Madurai Mani Iyer, Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavata among others.
- 5.** Renowned personality Faraaz Khan passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.



- Note:** He had acted in several popular Bollywood films in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Some of them include Mehndi (1998), Fareb (1996), Dulhan Banoo Main Teri (1999) and Chand Bujh Gaya (2005) among others.
6. Veteran Actor Faraaz Khan passed away recently.
Note: Noted actor, filmmaker and voiceover artiste, Ashish Kakkad, has passed away. He was one of the most prominent artists from the Gujarati film industry. As a filmmaker, Ashish was known for his Gujarati projects namely Better Half (2010) and Mission Mummy (2016).
 7. Renowned Hollywood Actor Sean Connery passes away recently.
Note: Scottish movie legend Connery, who shot to international stardom as the suave and sophisticated British agent James Bond and went on to grace the silver screen for four decades. Connery will be remembered first as British agent 007. He was admired by generations of film fans as the original and best 007 and went on to create a distinguished body of work in films such as The Man Who Would Be King, The Name of the Rose and The Untouchables.
 8. Veteran **filmmaker** Sudarshan Rattan passed away due to COVID-19.
Note: He was known for his 1986 film Manav Hatya, starring Madhuri Dixit and Shekhar Suman. Apart from this, the late filmmaker had also written, directed and produced the 1996 action drama film Hahakaar, starring Sudhir Pandey, Shafi Inamdar, Neelima Azeem and Johnny Lever among others.
 9. Renowned personality Sanchaman Limboo passed away recently, he was former chief minister of **Sikkim**.
Note: He was born on January 15, 1947 in West Sikkim district, Sikkim. Sanchaman Limboo, a member of Sikkim Sangram Parishad Party was the fourth Chief Minister of Sikkim who served from 17th June 1994 to 12th December 1994. He formed the congress government in 1994, following the merger of Sikkim Sangram Parishad Party with Indian National Congress.
 10. Famous Footballer Satyajit Ghosh passed away recently.
Note: Satyajit Ghosh started his career with Railway FC in 1980. He later switched on to Mohun Bagan Athletic Club, an Indian professional multi-sport club, where he formed the core of their backline alongwith star Indian defender Subrata Bhattacharya. He played for Mohun Bagan from 1982 till 1986 and in 1988 till 1993.
 11. Spaniard Father and priest Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ, passed away recently, he was a veteran author and columnist of **Gujrati** language.
Note: Father Valles, Jesuit priest and mathematician came to India in 1949 and settled in Gujarati. He taught mathematics in St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, Gujarati from 1960 to 1982. India honoured him with Indian citizenship. He wrote a weekly column in the Gujarat Samachar's Sunday supplement.
 12. World's longest serving prime minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa passed away recently, he was prime minister of **Bahrain**.
Note: He is the World's Longest Serving PM. He has been serving as PM since 1971. He was born on November 24, 1935 in Jasra, Bahrain. He has played a vital role in the political and economic affairs of Bahrain for over 3 decades. He is the son of Bahrain's former ruler, Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who ruled from 1942 to 1961
 13. American Television editor, writer, and producer Ken Spears passed away recently.
Note: He co-created the beloved animated series 'Scooby-Doo'. He was also the co-founder of television animation production company, Ruby-Spears Productions, along with the late Joe Ruby. Spears and Ruby together created Scooby-Doo, Dynomutt, Dog Wonder, and Jabberjaw, among other programs.
 14. Nobel laureate Masatoshi Koshiha passed away recently, he received Nobel prize in **Physics**.
Note: He was co-winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in physics for confirming the existence of elementary particles called neutrinos. He devised the construction of giant underground chambers to detect neutrinos that stream from the sun. Takaaki Kajita, won the Nobel Prize in physics in 2015 for research at the Super-Kamiokande facility that found neutrinos have mass.
 15. Former President of Ghana Jerry John Rawlings, passed away recently.
Note: He is the 1st president of the 4th republic of Ghana. He is the founder of National Democratic Congress (NDC). The former air force officer and military leader was born on June 22, 1947 at Accra, Ghana. He led 2 military coups, one in 1979 and another in 1981.
 16. Padma shri awardee and **Sculptor** Arjun Prajapati passed away recently.
Note: He passed away due to COVID-19. He was born on 9th April 1956 and hails from Rajasthan. He was popularly known as the "Maharathi of Cloning" -



master of cloning, since he has cloned celebrities like Prince Charles of Britain, former US President Bill Clinton, Padmashree Pandit Vishwamohan Bhatt.

17. Renowned politician Mridula Sinha passed away recently, she was former governor of **Goa state**.
Note: Former Governor of Goa and veteran BJP leader, Mridula Sinha passed away. She was the first woman Governor of Goa. She was also a proficient writer, making extensive contributions to the world of literature as well as culture. She has served as the head of the BJP's women's wing and Chairperson of Central Social Welfare Board in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
18. Renowned personality R N Chibber passed away recently, he was a veteran **Army Personnel**.
Note: Born on September 23, 1934, Gen chibber was commissioned into the Army on June 2, 1995, and was posted in Afghanistan from 1972 to 1975 as a military attache. He was an outstanding officer, who also commanded the 8 Jat Regiment. His expertise and exceptional strategy put him in the forefront as a brilliant officer.
19. Renowned **Journalist** Ravi Belagere passed away recently.
Note: Belagere was famous for writings on the crime world and his column 'Paapigala Lokadalli' was very

popular. Known for his writing style, Belagere was honoured with many awards including the Karnataka Sahitya Academy award, Kannada Rajyotsava award, Karnataka Media Academy award and many more.

20. Renowned personality Soumitra Chatterjee passed away recently,
Note: Chatterjee began his film acting career with Satyajit Ray's Apur Sansar, the third film of the internationally acclaimed Apu trilogy. The partnership between the two grew over the course of 14 films. Chatterjee was also famed for his poetry, the written word only eclipsed by his impeccable diction, which still acts as the golden standard for actors starting out in Bengali theatre and cinema.
21. Renowned banker **P G Kakodkar** passed away following a cardiac arrest, he was Chairman of **State Bank of India**.
Note: Kakodkar joined SBI as a probationary assistant in the year 1957 and retired as chairman of the bank on March 31, 1997. During his tenure as chairman of the SBI, he was instrumental in the bank achieving several milestones. He was also on the Managing Committee of Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCCI).

October

- Famous writer Dr G S Amur passed away recently.
Note: Veteran writer and critic Dr G S Amur passed away. He was proficient in Kannada and English languages. He had won many awards including Sahitya Akademi Award, Rajyotsava Award and Bharatiya Bhasha Award
- Renowned **Social Activist** Pushpa Bhave passed away in Mumbai following a prolonged illness.
Note: She has been associated with the Rashtra Seva Dal and democratic movements since her student days. She was also an academician and an intellectual, who fought for the rights of common citizens. During the Emergency, she had offered her home as shelter to underground political workers.
- Renowned politician and former minister of Odisha Pradeep Maharathy passed away
Note: He was elected to the Assembly from the Pipili constituency consecutively seven times from 1985 till last Assembly elections in 2019. Before joining the ruling Biju Janata Dal in 2000, he was in Janata Dal and a staunch follower of former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik.
- Justice Anantkumar Surendraray Dave passed away recently, he was former acting Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court.
Note: Justice Dave was appointed as a Gujarat High Court Judge in 2004 and was made permanent in 2006. He was appointed as an Acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court on November 14, 2018 and served until the present Chief Justice Vikram Nath took over the helm in September 2019.
- Renowned Actress Mishti Mukherjee passed away recently
Note: Actress Mishti Mukherjee who has featured in many Hindi, Bengali and Telugu films, and music videos has passed away due to renal failure. She was 27. Mukherjee made her Bollywood debut with the 2012 Ranvir Shorey-starrer "Life Ki Toh Lag Gayi" in a guest appearance.
- Renowned Banker M. Gopalakrishnan passed recently.
Note: Former chairman-cum-managing director of Indian Bank M. Gopalakrishnan died owing to ill-health at a private hospital. He was 86. Mr. Gopalakrishnan joined Indian Bank as an unpaid officer in 1958. He



went on to become its CMD in 1988 and continued in the post till December 1995. In the 1990s, he was a popular figure and was in the news often.

7. Renowned cardiologist AV Shetty passed away recently

Note: AV Shetty was acknowledged as the first cardiologist of Dakshina Kannada district. The first open heart surgery in Karnataka, which took place at the government Wenlock Hospital here, was performed under his watch. It was conducted by Dr SR Ullal.

8. Former CBI Director Ashwani Kumar passed away recently.

Note: He was born at Nahan in Sirmaur district and joined the Indian Police Force in 1973. He was allotted the Himachal Pradesh cadre and while working as the District Superintendent of Police at Shimla in 1985, he was inducted in the newly created Special Protection Group (SPG), where he worked till 1990.

9. Renowned Film Actor Vishal Anand has passed away recently, he was a veteran.

Note: His real name was Bhishmam Kohli. He has appeared in 11 Hindi films during his acting careers like Hindustan Ki Kasam and Taxi Driver. Apart from acting, Anand had also directed and produced a few films, including Chalte Chalte.

10. Afghanistan 's Cricketer Najeeb Tarakai passed away recently

Note: He played 12 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) for Afghanistan, after making his international debut in the 2014 T20 World Cup. He played his only one-day international against Ireland in 2017

11. Union minister and President of Lok Janshakti Party Ram Vilas Paswan passed away recently

Note: He was also the president of the Lok Janshakti Party, eight-time Lok Sabha member and current Rajya Sabha MP. Ram Vilas Paswan started his political career as a member of Samyukta Socialist Party and was elected to the Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1969.

12. Renowned **Businessman** CK Rajkumar passed away recently

Note: CK Rajkumar, the Founder of Sujatha Bio Tech and the owner of brands like Nivaran 90 and Veltette shampoo, passed away at a private hospital in Chennai. Rajkumar was recently in the news after one of their experiments to find a cure for Covid-19 went wrong in their lab in Chennai.

13. Renowned **Music Composer** Rajan passed away recently

Note: Hailing from Mysuru, brothers Rajan and Nagendra debuted as music directors in 1952 with the

Kannada film Soubhagya Lakshmi, and went on to have a very successful career for nearly four decades. They composed music for over 375 films, over 200 in Kannada and the rest in Telugu, Tamil, Tulu and Sinhala.

14. Justice KK Usha, passed away, she was first women chief justice of Kerala High Court

Note: And when she was appointed Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court from 2000 to 2001, Justice Usha became the first woman to join the High Court Judiciary from the Bar and became a Chief Justice. Justice Usha, who had a distinguished career as a judge and later as chief justice, began her career when she enrolled as an advocate in 1961.

15. Indian sportsman Carlton Chapman passed away recently he was associated with Football

Note: Chapman was hospitalised at a hospital in Bengaluru, A product of the Tata Football Academy in early 1990s, Chapman joined East Bengal in 1993 and scored a hat-trick in his team's 6-2 win against Iraq club Al Zawra in a first round match at the Asian Cup Winners Cup that year.

16. Renowned politician of C M Chang passed away due to COVID-19, he was environment minister of Nagaland

Note: Nagaland's environment minister, C M Chang passed away due to COVID-19. He was a retired IAS officer and former Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (2009-13). He was elected to the Nagaland Legislative Assembly from 51 Noksen constituencies under Tuensang district in 2013 and later retained the same seat in 2018 on Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) ticket.

17. Renowned Indian-origin human rights lawyer Priscilla Jana passed away, he was a national of South Africa.

Note: Jana, who had played a significant role against apartheid, was the Deputy Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). Jana was also a member of the South African Law Commission and served as a member of the Advisory Committee to the President.

18. Renowned politician Vinod Kumar Singh passed away due to COVID-19, he was a minister of Bihar

Note: He was a BJP MLA from Pranpur Assembly constituency of Katihar district in northeast Bihar and has been elected MLA thrice from the constituency.

19. Noted poet and 55th Jnanpith awardee Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passed away recently, he was a poet of **Malayalam** language.

Note: Akkitham also won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1973. He became a household name in the 1950s when his work Irupatham Noottandinte Ithihasam, a



- khandakavya, which is one of the first modernist poems of Malayalam literature, gained popularity. It even won the Sanjayan Award in 1952.
- 20. Veteran Test cricketer of New Zealand John Reid** passed away recently.
Note: Reid, regarded as one of the world's best all-rounders during his heyday in the fifties and early sixties, captained New Zealand in 34 Tests including, most notably, the country's first three victories. A hard-hitting right batsman and a seam bowler, he played 58 Tests after making his debut as a 19-year-old in 1949, scoring 3428 runs at 33.28, while taking 85 wickets at 33.35.
- 21. Renowned Classical Dancer Shobha Naidu** passed away recently,
Note: Her major achievements include choreography and presentation of Ballets Vipranarayana, Kalyana Srinivasam and many others, in which she was the main protagonist and portrayed various roles like Satyabhama, Devadevaki, Padmavathi, Mohini, Sai Baba, and Goddess Parvati which won her great appreciation. Some of the famous awards won by her includes Padma Shri in 2001, Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1991.
- 22. Renowned personality Bhanu Athaiya** passed away recently, she was a veteran **Costume Designer**.
Note: She won the Best Costume Design Oscar for her work in the 1982 film Gandhi, directed by Richard Attenborough. In 2012, Athaiya returned her Oscar to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for safekeeping. Bhanu Athaiya had also designed costumes for over 100 Bollywood movies.
- 23. Renowned Journalist. Kishore Bhimani** passed away recently,
Note: He was a leading cricket commentator in the Eighties and Nineties and is best remembered for being on the air during the tied Test of 1986 between India and Australia in Chepauk, Chennai. He had received a lifetime achievement award for his decades-long contribution in the fields of media and commentary in 2013.
- 24. Legendary singer Kaumudi Munshi** passed away due to COVID 19, she is also known as 'Nightingale' of **Gujarat**.
Note: During the early stage of her career, Munshi sang mostly in Gujarati, gaining fame with songs like 'Sachi re maari satre bhavani maa'. The singer also sang Bhojpuri songs, for the 1963 movie Bidesiya she sang 'Neek Saiyan bin' with renowned singer Geeta Dutt.
- 25. Renowned Economist Dr Jayanta Madhab** passed away recently.
Note: The renowned economist from Assam, Dr Jayanta Madhab passed away. He worked as financial adviser to Calcutta Metropolitan Development Corp and has served as a director at the ADB. He was the founder chairman of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.
- 26. Renowned personality Mahesh Kanodia** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Singer**.
Note: Former BJP MP from Patan Loksabha constituency and legendary Gujarati singer-musician Mahesh Kanodia died following prolonged illness. Mahesh, 83, is the elder brother of legendary Gujarati film star and former MLA Naresh Kanodia and the two are known as the Mahesh-Naresh duo in Gujarati film industry.
- 27. Renowned personality Daniel Menaker** passed away recently; he was a veteran **Author**.
Note: Daniel Menaker was the author of several books, including the memoir My Mistake and the comic psychological novel The Treatment, adapted into a 2007 movie starring Chris Eigeman and Ian Holm. He was also known for the O Henry Award-winning title story of his collection The Old Left.
- 28. Renowned personality Dr Vijaylakshmi Ramanan** passed away, she was **Indian Air Force 1st woman officer**.
Note: She was born in February 1924, she did her MBBS and later was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps on **August 22, 1955**. Besides having served as a gynaecologist at various Air Force Hospitals, including here, she had also attended to the troops wounded during wars and performed administrative duties.
- 29. K J Mohammed Babu**, popularly known as 'Zero' Babu passed away, he was a veteran **Playback singer**.
Note: He was a recipient of the **Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award**. He has sung in nearly 90 films and various plays. His first movie was the 1964 film 'Kudumbini'.
- 30. Renowned personality Lee Kun-hee** has passed away, recently he was a veteran **Business Tycoon**.
Note: Lee helped to transform Samsung from a small trading business to become the world's largest producer of smartphones and memory chips. The firm's overall turnover today is equivalent to a fifth of South Korea's GDP.
- 31. Renowned personality Naresh Kanodia** passed away, he was a veteran **film star-turned-politician**.
Note: He was the younger brother of Gujarati singer **Mahesh Kanodia** who died on 25 October 2020 in Gandhinagar after a prolonged illness.



32. Renowned personality Keshubhai Savdasbhai Patel passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: Former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Keshubhai Savdasbhai Patel passed away. He had served as the

Chief Minister of the state for a few months in 1995 and then from March 1998 to October of 2001.

September

1. Veteran politician and former President of India, **Pranab Mukherjee** passed away recently.
Note: He hold post finance minister and External Affairs Minister Twice. Finance minister from 1982-84 and 2004-2012. External Affair Minister from 1995-96 and 2006-2009. He also hold the post of Defence Minister from 2004-2006.
2. Renowned **Animation Creator** Joe Ruby passed away recently.
Note: He was the founder of **television animation** production company Ruby-Spears Productions, together with Ken Spears.
3. Noted **Cardiologist** Dr S Padmavati passed away at the age of 103 years due to COVID-19.
Note: She was the first female cardiologist of India and was popularly known as "God Mother of Cardiology". She was the founder of the National Heart Institute. She was born in Burma (now Myanmar) in 1917, a year before the world was hit by the Spanish Flu pandemic.
4. Famous cricketer David Capel held from **England** passed away recently.
Note: He made his Test debut against Pakistan in 1987. Capel made 270 first-class appearances for Northamptonshire from 1981-1998. He became the first cricketer born in the county to play a Test for England in 77 years when he made his debut against Pakistan in July 1987.
5. The petitioner of a historic case, **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala**, Kesavananda Bharati passed away recently, he was chief pontiff of Mutt/temple **Edneer Mutt, Kasaragod**.
Note: Shri Kesavananda Bharati was the chief pontiff of Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district, Kerala, India. He was a follower of Smartha Bhagawatha tradition and the Advaita Vedanta school of Hindu philosophy. He took Sanyasa at the age of 19 and headed the Edneer Mutt as the Peetadhipathi until his death.
6. Renowned **Baseball player** Tom Seaver passed away recently.
Note: He became a constant on magazine covers and a media presence, calling postseason games on NBC and

- ABC even while still an active player. Seaver was elected to the **Hall of Fame in 1992** when he appeared on 425 of 430 ballots for a then-record 98.84%.
7. Famous **Film Director** Jiri Menzel passed away recently.
Note: His 1st feature film, 'Closely Watched Trains' won an **Academy Award (Oscars)** for Best Foreign Language film in 1968. Menzel won the Czech Lion for lifetime artistic contribution and was honoured by the Karlovy Vary festival.
 8. Renowned **Astronomer** Govind Swarup passed away.
Note: He was the founding director of National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
 9. Renowned **Film maker** Johnny Bakshi passed away recently.
Note: Veteran producer-director, Johnny Bakshi passed away. He mostly worked as a producer, backing films such as Manzilein Aur Bhi Hain, (1974), Raavan, (1984) and Phir Teri Kahani Yaad Aayee (1993). He has also directed two films Daku Aur Police (1992) and Khudai (1994).
 10. Renowned personality **Jaya Prakash Reddy** passed away.
Note: He was working as a sub-inspector of police when he got an opportunity to act in Venkatesh's 1988 film Brahma Puthrudu. He was last seen in Mahesh Babu starrer Sarileru Neekevvaru (2020).
 11. Famous **Actor** Diana Rigg passed away recently.
Note: British actress **Diana Rigg**, whose commanding career stretched from iconic 1960s spy series The Avengers to fantasy juggernaut Game of Thrones passed away. Ms. Rigg also starred in 1967 James Bond thriller On Her Majesty's Secret Service as the only woman ever to marry Agent 007.
 12. Renowned **Politician** Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away.
Note: He was a member of the 15th Lok Sabha of India and represented the Vaishali constituency of Bihar. Singh had served as the Union Minister for Rural Development in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's cabinet.

August



1. Renowned personality Sonam Tshering Lepcha passed away recently, he was a veteran **Folk Musician**.
Note: He played a major role in reviving and promoting the Lepcha Culture which is one of the indigenous culture of Sikkim. Sonam Tshering Lepcha started his career as a soldier. He composed songs with traditional musical instruments collected from various parts of Sikkim and became the first Lepcha to feature on the All India Radio (AIR) in 1960.
2. Lee Teng-hui dubbed as “Mr. Democracy” passed away recently. He was former president of **Taiwan**.
Note: He was popularly known as “Mr. Democracy” for eradicating the dictatorial rule in favour of unbiased pluralism in Taiwan. He was educated under Japanese colonial rule in 1945 in Japan’s culture. He was a fluent Japanese speaker. He served in the Japanese army and the surrender of the army after World War II put him in Kyoto University in Japan.
3. Famous personality Anil Murali passed away recently. He was a veteran **Malayalam Actor**.
Note: Anil Murali started his acting career as a part of the Malayalam tele serials. He first starred in the film Kanyakumariyil Oru Kavitha in 1993. His most known works in Malayalam include Ivar, Lion, Babakalyani, Nasrani, Puthiya Mukham, Pokkiri Raja, City of God and his Tamil and Telugu films include Nimirndhu Nil, Thani Oruvan, Ragile Kasi and Janda Pai Kaporaju.
4. Former **Uttar Pradesh** education minister of Kamal Rani Varun passed away due to coronavirus.
Note: Uttar Pradesh’s Technical Education Minister Kamal Rani Varun, has passed away due to a novel coronavirus. Kamal Rani Varun, who served as Minister of Technical Education, is the first minister in Uttar Pradesh to die after contracting coronavirus.
5. **Writer and Singer** Vangapandu Prasada Rao passed away recently.
Note: Prasada Rao who has been associated with Jana Natya Mandali since 1972 enthralled audience with his thought provoking songs and speeches. His famous song 'Emi pillado Eldamostava' brought laurels.
6. Renowned personality Sunnam Rajaiah passed away recently.
Note: A native of Sunnamvaari Gudem village, V.R. Puram mandal, in East Godavari district, Mr. Rajaiah served as Bhadrachalam MLA for three times. He participated in many tribal agitations, protecting tribal lands and their rights in the Agency areas in Bhadrachalam, East and West Godavari districts.
7. **Politician** Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar passed away recently.
Note: The 88-year-old minister who had been suffering from several co-morbidities including diabetes and high blood pressure, and had been tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Pune was admitted at a private hospital. The former CM is survived by wife, three sons, a daughter and grandchildren. His last rites are to be performed in Nilanga his birthplace in Latur district.
8. Renowned **Theatre Director** Ebrahim Alkazi passed away.
Note: He was considered as the father of modern Indian theatre. He was the first Director of National School of Drama (NSD). Also an art connoisseur, collector and gallery owner, he founded Art Heritage Gallery in New Delhi.
9. Nobel Peace Prize winner, John Hume passed away.
Note: He was a founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in 1970 and led the party from 1979 until 2001.
10. **Politician** Ram Pradhan passed away recently.
Note: He served as the governor of Arunachal Pradesh during Rajiv Gandhi government. He was an IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre. He also headed 2-member committee set up in December 2008 to probe the security forces’ response to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.
11. Renowned personality Sameer Sharma passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: He was known for her role in TV serials: Geet – Hui Sabse Parayi, Left Right Left, Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii, Sssshhh....Koi Hai Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, Jyoti, Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon – Ek Baar Phir. He was also seen in Siddharth Malhotra and Parineeti Chopra starrer ‘Hasee Toh Phasee’ movie and Sonakshi Sinha starrer movie ‘Ittefaq’.
12. Renowned politician Shyamal Chakraborty passed away due to COVID-19 infection, he was a former governor of **West Bengal**.
Note: He served as the Transport Minister of West Bengal thrice from 1982 to 1996. Shyamal Chakraborty was also elected twice as Rajya Sabha member. He was also a member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1981 to 1996. He was also the state President of Centre of Indian Trade Unions, (CITU), the trade union arm of CPM.
13. Renowned personality Shirley Ann Grau passed away recently.
Note: The famous fiction writer and Pulitzer Prize-winner, Shirley Ann Grau, died at the age of 91 due to stroke in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States. She wrote six novels and four short stories which are all set



- in the Deep South, from New Orleans to north Louisiana and Alabama.
14. Renowned personality Sadia Dehlvi passed away recently, she was a veteran **Writer and Activist**.
Note: She was born in 1957, came from the royal 'Shama' family, edited the Urdu women's journal Bano. Dehlvi, writing focuses on women, minorities, Islamic spirituality, and Delhi's heritage and culture.
 15. Renowned personality Mukund Lath passed away recently, he was a veteran **Culture Historian**.
Note: A prominent culture historian and exponent of Mewati Gharana, Mukund Lath passed away at the age of 82 on 6th August, 2020 in Jaipur. He was awarded India's fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri, in 2010 for his contributions to the field of arts and cultural history.
 16. Renowned personality Nandi Yellaiah passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: He was first elected to the Lok Sabha from Siddipet in 1979. He was elected to Lok Sabha six times and Rajya Sabha twice from 2002 to 2014. Nandi Yellaiah commenced his political career as a corporator of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.
 17. Famous personality Manitombi Singh passed away, he was a veteran **Sportsman**.
Note: He played for Mohun Bagan and was part of the Hindustan FC team that won the Delhi Soccer Association league title in 2010. Manitombi played for India in the 2002 LG Cup in Vietnam.
 18. Renowned personality PK Muthusamy passed away recently, he was a veteran **Songwriter**.
Note: Veteran Tamil film songwriter, PK Muthusamy passed away. He had penned memorable Tamil film lyrics like 'Mannukku Maram Baaramaa?' - which means 'are the trees a burden on the earth?'. His other famous songs composed by Muthusami include 'Mapilai vandar' and 'Chinna Chinna nadai nadandu' etc.
 19. Noted personality Rahat Indori passed away recently, he was a veteran **Urdu Poet**.
Note: With a 50-year career in poetry, Indori, an Urdu scholar of great repute, was one of the biggest mushaira (poetry symposiums) stars in the country and someone who fearlessly called a spade a spade. He was also a bollywood lyricist and known for the lyrics of songs like "M Bole to" from Munnabhai MBBS (2003), and "Neend Churai Mei" from Ishq (1997).
 20. Renowned personality GK Menon passed away, recently he was a veteran **Journalist**.
Note: He played cricket at the club level and also was an active member of the Shivaji Park Gymkhana in Dadar, central Mumbai. He was manager of the 1952-53 Bombay University team which won the Rohinton Baria Trophy by beating Delhi in the final at Bengaluru.
 21. Chunnakara Ramankutty passed away recently he was a famous poet and film and drama lyricist of **Malayalam** language.
Note: Popular Malayalam poet and film and drama lyricist Chunnakara Ramankutty passed away at a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram. Starting from 1978 he wrote lyrics for Malayalam films, till a few years back.
 22. Famous sportsperson Chetan Chauhan passed away recently, he was associated with **Cricket**.
Note: He was Minister for youth and sports in the state of Uttar Pradesh Cabinet in 2018 and has also served as Minister of Sainik Welfare, Home Guards, PRD and Civil Security in the UP Cabinet.
 23. Noted Carnatic musician Dr B Siva Kumar passed away recently, he was proficient in **Veena** musical instrument.
Note: Dr Siva Kumar, a science graduate of Loyola College Chennai has also taken MA in Music from Bharathi Dasan university and followed it up with a PhD in Music. He has won several awards including the Tamil Iyal Isai Nataka sangam award and the award for Ragam Tanam Pallavi presentation from the Tamil Isai Sangam.
 24. Renowned personality Nishikant Kamat passed away, he was a veteran **Film Director**.
Note: Nishikant had directed some popular Bollywood movies like Force, Drishyam and Madaari. He made his silver screen debut in 2004 with the Hindi movie Hava Aney Dey. In 2008, Kamat helmed his first Bollywood film Mumbai Meri Jaan. As an actor, he was known for his performances in Daddy, Rocky Handsome, Julie 2 and Bhavesh Joshi. He was also the creative producer of the web series The Final Call and Rangbaaz Phirse.
 25. Renowned personality Pandit Jasraj passed away recently, he was a veteran **Vocalist**.
Note: Pandit Jasraj was a recipient of India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri in 1975; Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1987 and Padma Bhushan in 1999. In the year 2000, the government of India conferred him with Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honour in the country.
 26. Legendary sportsperson Angela Buxton passed away recently; she was associated with **Tennis** sports.
Note: Buxton won the women's doubles alongside Althea Gibson at both Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 1956. Buxton also reached the singles final at Wimbledon 1956 but lost to American Shirley Fry.



27. Renowned personality Russell A. Kirsch passed away recently, he was a veteran **computer scientist**.
Note: Russell Kirsch, a computer scientist credited with inventing the pixel and scanning the world's first digital photograph, passed away at his home in

Portland. Pixels, the digital dots used to display photos; video and computer screens were invented by Russell Kirsch in 1957. He scanned the world's first digital photograph.

Important Days

January (1st to 14th) 2021

1. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) observed the 63rd Foundation Day on **1st January, 2021**.
Note: DRDO was established in 1958 with just 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in the Defence sector. At that time, it was tasked with designing and developing cutting edge defence technologies for Indian Armed Forces.
 2. World Braille Day is observed globally every year on **4th January**.
Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people. The day is marked remembering the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille – for people with visual disabilities. Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809 in the town of Coupvray in northern France.
 3. The World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on **6th January**.
Note: The day aims to raise awareness about children who have been orphaned due to wars. The objective of the day is to spread awareness about the predicament of war orphans and highlight the emotional, social, and physical challenges they face while growing up.
 4. The theme of the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention to be organized on 9th January 2021 -- **Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
Note: Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs and provides an important platform to engage and connect with the overseas Indians. In view of the sentiments of our vibrant diaspora community, the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, is being organized on 9th January 2021, despite the ongoing Covid pandemic.
 5. The World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on **10th January**.
Note: The day was observed as on this day in 1975, India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi
- inaugurated the first World Hindi Conference. The basic aim of observing this day is to promote the Hindi language worldwide.
 6. The theme of 'National Youth Day 2021' observed every year on 12th January to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda -- '**YUVAAH – Utsah Naye Bharat Ka**'.
Note: National Youth Day is celebrated in India every year on 12 January to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The day was declared by the Government of India in 1984 while the event was first celebrated in 1985. The main aim behind this is to make sure that the students across the country can be encouraged to learn about the life, the ideas and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda and apply them in their lives.
 7. In India, the Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed each year on **14 January**.
Note: In India, the Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed each year on 14 January since 2017 to acknowledge and honour the selfless devotion and sacrifice of our veterans in the service of the nation. The day was initially called Armistice Day. 2021 marks the 5th Armed Forces Veterans Day.
 8. Ministry of Transport and Highways has decided to observe Road Safety Month from **18 January to 17 February 2021**.
Note: During this period, various nation-wide activities have been planned to be conducted throughout the country in association with the state governments/ UT administrations, OEMs and other stakeholders. The month-long event will see awards being given to best performance in road safety to a state as well as Swacchta Award, road safety activities by NHIDCL (National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited), HOAI (Highway Operator Association of India), NHAI among others.

November



1. **Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact** is the theme of the World Aids Day 2020.
Note: The day is being celebrated since 1988. It is celebrated to create awareness against the spread of HIV infection. It is one of the 11 official Global Public Health campaigns of World Health Organisation.
2. The World Computer Literacy Day is observed every year on **2nd December**.
Note: The day promotes technological skills, especially in children and women. The World Computer Literacy Day controls the advanced gap that exists in the world today. The day was originally founded by the Indian computer company NIIT to mark its 20th anniversary in 2001.
3. The National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on **2nd December**.
Note: The year 2020 marks the 36th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. Through this day, awareness is created about the rising pollution of air, water, and soil, as well as shifts the attention of people with regards to the pollution control acts.
4. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed annually on **2nd December**.
Note: The theme of the for 2020 is 'Not all Disabilities are Visible'. The day is celebrated to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.
5. **"Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive"** is the theme of the Indian Navy Day 2020, celebrated every year on December 4.
Note: Every year the Indian Navy Day is celebrated on December 4. Every year the Indian Navy Day is celebrated to commemorate Operation Trident. The operation was launched by the Indian Navy during the India-Pakistan war of 1971 to attack Karachi Harbour.
6. International Volunteer Day is observed every year on **5th December**.
Note: The theme for International Volunteers Day 2020 is 'Together We Can Through Volunteering'. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic on the world level, the volunteers have worked at the forefront of medical, community and societal responses.
7. The International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated every year on **7th December**.
Note: The purpose of International Civil Aviation Day is to help generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation to the social and economic development of States, and of the unique role of ICAO in helping States to cooperate and realize a truly global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind. The Council has decided that from now until 2023, the theme will be: "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development".
8. In India, the Armed Forces Flag Day is observed annually on **7th December**.
Note: The three branches of the Armed Forces of India, namely, the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy are remembered on this day. The 'Armed forces Flag Day Fund' (AFFDF) has been constituted by the Government of India for the welfare and rehabilitation of the Ex-Servicemen (ESM) community.
9. The International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime is observed annually on **9th December**.
Note: The 9th of December is the anniversary of the adoption of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the "Genocide Convention"). This year marks the 71st anniversary of the Convention.
10. **'RECOVER with INTEGRITY'** is the theme of the International Anti-Corruption Day 2020 being observed every year 9th December.
Note: The day is observed since the passage of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on 31 October 2003. The theme of International Anti-Corruption Day 2020: 'RECOVER with INTEGRITY.' The theme focuses on recovery through corruption mitigation and emphasizes that inclusive COVID-19 recovery can only be achieved with integrity.
11. **27th December** has been approved by the United Nations General Assembly to be observed as the International Day of epidemic preparedness.
Note: The day is to be marked to facilitate exchange of information, transmission of scientific knowledge and best practices locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. This will help to prevent and respond to the epidemics. The resolution Adopted expressed grave concern stating impacts created by epidemics and infectious diseases. The covid-19 was exemplified during the consensus. The day mainly aims to prevent COVID-19 like situations and to equip the world to fight such scenarios.
12. **"Recover Better-Stand Up for Human Rights"** is the theme of the International Human Rights Day.
Note: The day was chosen to honour the United Nations General Assembly adoption of Universal Declaration of



Human Rights. The United Nations Prize in the field of Human Rights is awarded on the Human Rights Day. This year, the Human Rights Day was celebrated under the theme "Recover Better-Stand Up for Human Rights".

13. Every year, UNICEF Day is observed on **11th December** by the United Nations.

Note: UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children Emergency Fund. It was started in order to provide assistance, supplies and improve health, education, nutrition of children after World War II. The organisation was originally named UNICEF, that is, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

14. '**Mountain Biodiversity**' is the theme of the International Mountain Day 2020 celebrating every year on December 11 by United Nations.

Note: It is important to conserve mountains as they are home to 15% of world population. They also host more than half of world biodiversity hotspots. Also, conserving mountains is a key part of Goal 15 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

15. **12th December** the International Day of Neutrality celebrated across the world.

Note: It was officially declared by a UN General Assembly resolution adopted in February 2017 and first observed on December 12, 2017.

16. The Universal Health Coverage Day is observed every year on **12th December**.

Note: The theme of 2020 is "Health for all: protect everyone. To end this crisis and build a safer and healthier future, we must invest in health systems that protect us all now".

17. The Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on **14th December**.

Note: Every year on 14 December, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, celebrates Energy Conservation Day in a bid to raise awareness on the importance of energy conservation for the present as well as future generations. The day is organised annually to showcase India's achievements in energy efficiency and conservation, while working towards climate change mitigation.

18. International Tea Day is celebrated every year on **15th December**.

Note: International Tea Day focuses on promoting better trade practices and working conditions as well as ethical and sustainable production of tea. The day also aims towards raising awareness on the importance of tea in fighting poverty and hunger.

19. India celebrates Vijay Diwas every year on **16th December**.

Note: On the occasion, PM Narendra Modi paid tribute at National War Memorial by lighting the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashal'. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveils the logo for 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' to mark Vijay Diwas.

20. International Migrants Day is observed annually on **18th December**.

Note: The day also commemorates the assembly adopting the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in 1990. As per the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the theme for International Migrants Day 2020 is "Reimagining Human Mobility".

21. In India, Minorities Rights Day is observed every year on **18th December**.

Note: On 18 December 1992, the United Nations adopted the Statement on the individual's Rights belonging to religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities. The Ministry was established on 29 January 2006. It was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Union Government established the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

22. International Human Solidarity Day is observed globally every year on **20th December**.

Note: The is commemorated to celebrate unity in diversity and raise awareness about the importance of solidarity. According to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, solidarity is among the fundamental values that are essential to international relations.

23. In India the National Mathematics Day is observed every year on **22nd December**.

Note: The main objective behind celebrating the day is to raise awareness among people about the importance of mathematics for the development of humanity. National Mathematics Day was first observed in 2012 when former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh declared this day as National Mathematics Day on February 26, 2012.

24. National Farmers' Day is observed every year on **23rd December**.

Note: Kisan Diwas or National Farmers' Day is observed on December 23, the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, the fifth prime minister of India. This day is of vital significance as it lays the idea of empowering the farmers of the society with the latest learnings of the agricultural sector.

25. The theme of National Consumer Rights Day being celebrated every year on 24th December -- **The Sustainable Consumer**.



Note: On December 24, 1986, Consumer Protection Act 1986 received the approval of the President of India and hence, came into force. Consumer Protection Act 1986 aims to provide few rights to the consumers in order to save them from the damages caused to them due to different unfair trade practices.

26. National Good governance day is observed annually on **25th December**.

Note: The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The day aims to let the citizens, the students, who are the future of the country know about the government's responsibilities and duties that it needs to fulfill.

27. Ministry of skills development joins hands with **Microsoft and NASSCOM** to provide digital learning content for students at industrial training institutes (ITIs).

Note: Nearly 1,20,000 students in around 3000 ITIs across India can be benefited by this digitized e-learning module via the Bharat skills portal. Microsoft has also facilitated access to the free content available on the Microsoft Learn platform for more than 24 lakh students in the ITI ecosystem, by linking the Global Skilling Initiative (GSI) through the Bharatskills platform.

28. The first ever International Day of Epidemic Preparedness, observed on **27th December 2020**.

Note: The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness aims to promote international awareness and action on the prevention of, preparedness for and partnership against epidemics.

November 2020

1. World Vegan Day is observed globally every year on **1st November**.

Note: This day is celebrated to spread benefits of veganism for humans, non-human animals, and the natural environment. Vegan Day is an opportunity to promote the benefits of a vegan diet and veganism in general.

2. International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is observed every year on **2nd October**.

Note: Between 2006 and 2019, more than 1,200 journalists have been killed. The recent assassination of Journalist Jamal Khashoggi in October 2018 kindled worldwide criticism and scrutiny of the Saudi Government. The date of November 2nd was chosen to mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against journalists to commemorate the assassination of French journalists in Mali in 2013.

3. **World Tsunami Awareness Day** is observed all across the world on 5th November.

Note: The day is celebrated to spread awareness among people across the world in matters related to the dangers of tsunami. In 2020, World Tsunami Awareness Day encourages the development of national and community-level, local disaster risk reduction strategies to save more lives against disasters. This year's observance promotes "Sendai Seven Campaign," target.

4. Every year, the International Day for Preventing the exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is observed on **6th November**.

Note: The resolution to celebrate the day was passed in 2001. According to the United Nations Environment

Programme, a least 40% of internal conflicts are linked to the exploitation of natural resources in the last 60 years.

5. The National Cancer Awareness Day is observed annually in India on **7th November**.

Note: Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan first announced National Cancer Awareness Day in September 2014. According to the WHO, cancer is the second leading cause of death globally. World Cancer Day is observed on 4th February every year.

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

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

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

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

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



- To renew national and international commitment
8. Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year on **12th November**.
Note: The day is celebrated to commemorate the first and only visit of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947. On 12 November 1947, Mahatma Gandhi addressed the displaced people (a refugee from Pakistan), who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition.
 9. The theme of the National Ayurveda Day 2020 is '**Ayurveda for COVID-19 pandemic**'.
Note: National Ayurveda Day is being celebrated every year from 2016 on the day of Dhanwantri Jayanti or Dhanteras. Ayurveda is considered one of the most ancient and well-documented systems of medicine that are equally relevant in modern times.
 10. Every year World Diabetes Day is observed on **14th November**.
Note: World Diabetes Day is observed every year on November 14, aims to promote global awareness and how can people live the way they want while managing diabetes in an efficient way. World Diabetes Day (WDD) was first created in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation and was later recognized by the United Nations in 2006.
 11. The International Day for Tolerance is annually observed on **16th November**.
Note: The day is observed to educate people about the need for tolerance in society and to help them understand the negative effects of intolerance. This day was created to encourage mindfulness and faith in human rights – in order to encourage equality and diversity across the world.
 12. National Press Day is observed every year on **16th November**.
Note: The day marks the presence of an independent and responsible press in India. This day symbolizes freedom of the press and its responsibilities towards the society. The Press Council of India started functioning on this day.
 13. The theme of the **World Toilet Day 2020** celebrated every year on 19th November -- **Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change**.
Note: The official convener of the World Toilet Day is the UN-Water. In 2020, the World Toilet Day is celebrated under theme "Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change". According to the United Nations, more than 4.2 billion live without safely managed sanitation. Also, more than 673 million people still practice open defecation.
 14. World Philosophy Day 2020 was observed on **19th November**.
Note: The Day encourages academic exchange and highlights the contribution of philosophical knowledge in addressing global issues. The 2020 edition invites the world to reflect on the meaning of the current pandemic, underlining the need, more than ever before, to resort to philosophical reflection in order to face the multiple crises we are going through.
 15. The theme of the 59th National Pharmacy Week observed between November 16, 2020 and November 22, 2020 -- **Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals**.
Note: The Indian Pharmaceutical Association has been organizing the National Pharmacy Week every year during the third week of November. This year the 59th National Pharmacy Week was celebrated.
 16. **Maharashtra** state observed the National Unity Week from 19th to 25th of November in order to increase social harmony in the state.
Note: Maharashtra will observe the National Unity Week from 19th to 25th of November in order to increase social harmony in the state, everyone should participate in this programme.
 17. The world television day is observed every year on **21st November**.
Note: The day marks the association of emerging and traditional forms of broadcast. The World Television Day theme of the 2020 edition is TV makes a difference.
 18. World Fisheries day is celebrated every year on **21st November**.
Note: The day highlights the importance of healthy oceans ecosystems and to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world. The World Fisheries Day 2020 celebrated under the theme Social Responsibility in the fisheries value chain.
 19. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is celebrated worldwide on **25th November**.
Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence and the true nature of the issue is often hidden. This year's theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!".



- 20.** The National Law Day is observed **26th November** to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution in India.
Note: On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950. The Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification. The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi made the declaration on 11 October 2015 while laying the foundation stone of the B. R. Ambedkar's Statue of Equality memorial in Mumbai.
- 21.** In India the National Milk Day is observed every year on **26th November**.
Note: The day was fixed by all the dairy majors of the country including the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), along with 22 state-level milk federations.
- 22.** The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed every year on **29th November**.

Note: The day marks the adoption of resolution on the partition of Palestine in 1947 and was adopted by UN General Assembly in 1977 as the as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Palestine: It is recognized officially as State of Palestine by UN and other entities. It is a sovereign state in Western Asia with administrative centre located in Ramallah. It will be observed on 1 December with special meetings in 2020 due to COVID-19.

- 23.** The United Nations Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is observed every year on **30th November**.
Note: The day marks a tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.

October

- 1.** The first ever World Postcard Day was celebrated on October 1, 2020.
Note: The goal for the World Postcard Day is to bring that joy to as many people as possible. A postcard or post card is a piece of thick paper or thin cardboard, typically rectangular, intended for writing and mailing without an envelope. The study and collecting of postcards is termed deltiology.
- 2.** International Coffee Day is observed every year on 1st October.
Note: The focus of International Coffee Day 2020 is 'Coffee's Next Generation', a global initiative targeting talented and motivated young people and entrepreneurs in the coffee sector.
- 3.** The International Day of Older Persons is observed every year on **1st October**.
Note: The Day is observed to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society. The theme of 2020 is 'Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?'
- 4.** World Vegetarian Day is observed annually around the planet on October 1.
Note: World Vegetarian Day is observed annually around the planet on October 1 to promote the joy, compassion and life-enhancing possibilities of

vegetarianism. This day is celebrated to encourage and bring awareness about a vegetarian diet.

- 5.** The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2nd October.
Note: It is annually held on October 2 to coincide with renowned Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. This day is referred to as Gandhi Jayanti in India. The objective of the day is to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness".
- 6.** World Habitat Day celebrated every year on 5th October.
Note: The day is celebrated to remind the people that they have all power and responsibility to shape the future of towns and cities. The first Monday of every year is being celebrated as World Habitat Day. This was designated by the United Nations. The theme of the Day this year is 'Housing for All-A better Urban Future'.
- 7.** World Teachers' Day is observed globally every year on 5th October.
Note: The day provides the occasion to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, take stock of achievements, and draw attention to the voices of teachers, who are at the heart of efforts to attain the global education target of leaving no one behind. In 2020, World Teachers' Day will celebrate teachers with the theme "Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future".



8. Indian Air Force Day is celebrated every year on 8th October.
Note: Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 by the British Empire as the Royal Indian Air Force. The name was changed to Indian Air Force in 1950.
9. The World Post Day is observed every year on 9th October.
Note: The purpose of World Post Day is to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives and its contribution to the social and economic development of countries. World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.
10. World Migratory Bird Day is observed globally on 10th October.
Note: The Day will celebrate the biannual migration. The aim of the day is to raise awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them. This time the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is "Birds Connect Our World".
11. World Mental Health Day is observed globally every year on 10th October.
Note: The day is celebrated with an objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing the efforts in support of mental health. This year's theme set by the World Federation for Mental Health is 'mental health for all'.
12. In India, the National Postal Day is celebrated annually on 10th October.
Note: The Day aims to commemorate the role played by the Indian postal department for the past 150 years, which was founded in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.
13. International Day of the Girl Child is observed globally every year on 11th October.
Note: The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights. The theme for 2020 International Day of the Girl Child is "My voice, our equal future".
14. World Arthritis Day is observed globally every year on 12th October.
Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness about arthritis, an inflammatory condition which causes pain and stiffness in joints which can worsen with age. This day was started by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) in 1996 in order to spread awareness about arthritis and encourage policymakers to help reduce the burden of arthritis.
15. The United Nations marks the International Day for Disaster Reduction every year on 13th October.
Note: The day is celebrated to spread how people and communities all over the world are reducing their exposure to disasters. The day is also called World Calamity Control Day. This year, in 2020, the day is marked under the theme "Disaster Risk Governance".
16. The World Standards Day 2020 is observed every year on 14th October.
Note: The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of standardisation to the global economy among the consumers, regulators and industry. World Standards Day 2020 theme is "Protecting the planet with standards".
17. World Students' Day is observed every year on **15th October**.
Note: This year marks the 89th birth anniversary of the former president and 'Missile Man' Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. In 2010 the United Nations declared 15 October "World Students' Day", due to Kalam's love for students and who himself was a dedicated teacher and identified himself foremost in that role before anything else.
18. Global Handwashing Day is observed every year on **15th October**.
Note: This year's theme, "Hand Hygiene for All," seeks to raise awareness of making soap and water available globally, especially in public places, schools, and health care facilities
19. The **International Day of Rural Women** is observed globally each year on **15 October**.
Note: In India, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare observes the day as the Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas since 2016, to increase the active participation of women in agriculture. The theme for this International Day of Rural Women is "Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19," to create awareness of these women's struggles, their needs, and their critical and key role in our society.
20. National Women Farmers' Day is observed every year on **15th October**.
Note: Mahila Kisan Diwas was celebrated at ICAR Institutes and Krishi Vigyan Kendras across the country to recognize the contribution of women in Agriculture. The day was celebrated by ICAR-CIFRI with the hope to empower and leverage farm women with fisheries sector to bring Second Blue Revolution in the country.
21. World Food Day is observed every year on **16th October**.
Note: This day generates awareness globally for those who suffer from hunger and to ensure the need for food



- security and nutritious diets for all. Theme 2020: “Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together”.
- 22. The World Statistics Day is observed every year on 20th October.**
Note: The celebration of World Statistics Day 2020 is a global collaborative endeavour, organized under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The World Statistics Day 2020 theme “Connecting the world with data we can trust.” This theme reflects the importance of trust, authoritative data, innovation and the public good in national statistical systems.
- 23. The World Osteoporosis Day is observed every year on 20th October.**
Note: WOD is organized by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), by the launch of a year-long campaign with a specific theme. In 2020 the Global WOD Campaign theme is “THAT’S OSTEOPOROSIS”, highlighting emotionally impactful visuals and stories of real people living with osteoporosis in all regions of the world.
- 24. International Chef’s day is celebrated every year on 20th October.**
Note: International Chef’s day is celebrated on October 20 every year to honour the profession and educate people about healthy food. The theme of International Chefs Day 2020 is ‘Healthy Food For the Future’.
- 25. World Snow Leopard Day is observed globally every year on 23rd October.**
Note: The day also emphasizes the importance of taking measures to stop poaching, as well as consolidating efforts in terms of an environmental organization in the countries of the snow leopard range. The first Snow Leopard Day occurred on the 23rd of October in 2014.
- 26. The theme of World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2020 – Your Window to the World.**
Note: World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is held annually on 27 October across the globe. This day was chosen by UNESCO in 2005 to raise awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audiovisual documents.
- 27. The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 -- Vigilant India - Prosperous India.**
Note: Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 Theme: Satark Bharat, Samridh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India). It is commemorated to affirm our commitment towards promotion of integrity and probity in public life through citizen participation
- 28. International Animation Day is observed globally every year on 28th October.**
Note: The day has celebrated the art of animation and also recognise the artists, scientists and technicians behind animation. This year marks the 19th International Animation Day. The day was created in 2002 by International Animated Film Association (ASIFA), an International Animated Film Association, a member of UNESCO.
- 29. The United Nations Day is observed every year on 24th October.**
Note: The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and its founding Charter. The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries.
- 30. The United Nations’ World Development Information Day is observed every year on 24th October.**
Note: The day aims to draw the attention of world public opinion to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them for overall growth and development.
- 31. The World Polio Day is celebrated annually on 24th October.**
Note: World Polio Day provides an opportunity to highlight global efforts toward a polio-free world and honour the tireless contributions of those on the frontlines in the fight to eradicate polio from every corner of the globe.
- 32. International Animation Day is observed globally every year on 28 October.**
Note: The day has celebrated the art of animation and also recognise the artists, scientists and technicians behind animation. The day was created in 2002 by **International Animated Film Association (ASIFA)**, an International Animated Film Association, a member of **UNESCO**.
- 33. The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is observed every year on 31st October.**
Note: This year marks the 145th anniversary of the great leader who played an instrumental role in India’s struggle for independence, and later during the integration of the country.
- 34. The UN World Cities Day is observed every year on 31st October.**
Note: The Day is celebrated to promote the international community’s interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.
- 35. International Internet Day is observed every year on 29th October.**



Note: It aims to honour a momentous day in the history of telecommunications and technology. This day also highlights the sending of the 1st electronic message

which was conveyed from one computer to another computer in the year 1969.

September

1. United Nations celebrates the International Day of Charity globally every year on **05th September**.
Note: The day is being celebrated to sensitize and mobilize people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others via volunteer and philanthropic activities. The day also recognizes the role played by charity in reducing humanitarian crises and human suffering within and among nations.
2. The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed globally on **7th September**.
Note: The day aims to raise public awareness at all levels individual, community, corporate and government that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment. The very first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies will be held on September 7th, 2020.
3. The theme of the 55th International Literacy Day 2020 -- **Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond**.
Note: International Literacy Day is observed globally on 8th September every year. The theme highlights literacy learning in a lifelong learning perspective, and therefore, mainly focuses on youth and adults.
4. International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed globally on **9th September**.
Note: The day was established by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly, calling on UNESCO and UNICEF to raise awareness of the plight of millions of children living in countries affected by conflict. The resolution proclaiming the Day was presented by the State of Qatar and co-sponsored by 62 countries.
5. The World Suicide Prevention Day is observed every year on **10th September**.
Note: The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented. The theme for the 2020 World Suicide Prevention Day is 'Working Together to Prevent Suicide'.
6. Hindi Diwas is celebrated to mark the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India -- **14th September**.
Note: The Constituent Assembly of India had, in 1949, recognised and adopted Hindi — an Indo-Aryan language written in the Devanagari script — as the official language of the newly-formed nation. Hindi is one of the two official languages of the Union government — the other being English. It is one of the 22 scheduled languages of the Republic of India.

August

1. **World Lung Cancer Day** is being observed on **1st August** to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer.
2. The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week celebrated annually in the first week of August from 1st to 7th of August -- "**Support Breast feeding for a healthier planet**".
3. The World Sanskrit Day was observed annually on **Shravan Purnima (3rd August 2020)**.
Note: On the occasion Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked everyone involved in promoting, teaching and using Sanskrit language.
4. Annually World Heroshima Day is observed every year on **6th August**.
Note: Annually 6th of August marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima during World War II. The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named "Little Boy", on the town of Hiroshima in Japan.
5. **National Handloom Day** is being celebrated every year on 7th August.
6. United Nations observes the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples every year on **09th August**.
Note: The **theme** of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2020 is "**COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience**".
7. The World Biofuel Day is observed globally every year on **10th August**.
Note: The World Biofuel Day is observed every year to aware about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. The day also highlights the various actions taken by the Government in the Biofuel sector.
8. **International Youth Day** is being celebrated very year on 12th August.
Note: This day is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society. The Day aims to promote the ways to engage the youth and make



- them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions.
9. The theme of the International Youth Day (IYD) 2020 -- **Youth Engagement for Global Action.**
Note: This day is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society. The Day aims to promote the ways to engage the youth and make them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions.
 10. The 'World Elephant Day' is observed every year across the world on **12th August.**
Note: The day focuses on bringing the world together to help elephants and also inform people and organisations about the threat that an elephant faces. On 12 August, 2012, the first international Elephant Day was celebrated. Since then, it is observed annually and this day is dedicated to the huge animal protection and preservation.
 11. The World Organ Donation Day is observed globally every year on **13th August.**
Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and motivate people to donate organs after death.
 12. The World Lizard Day is observed every year on **14th August.**
Note: Most celebrations of this holiday occur at the local level, through events organized by schools, natural history or science museums, zoos, national parks, conservation NGOs etc.
 13. The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed globally every year on **19th August.**
Note: This day is celebrated to pay tribute to humanitarian personnel and those workers who lost or risked their lives while doing humanitarian service.
 14. The World Photography Day also known as World Photo Day is observed annually on **19th August.**
Note: The Day is celebrated to inspire photographers across the globe to share a single photo with a purpose of sharing their world to the world.
 15. Indian Akshay Urja Day or Renewable Energy Day is observed on every year on **20th August.**
Note: It is significant to promote awareness about renewable resources among people who are ignorant about the subject. Indian Akshay Urja Day was established in 2004 to support renewable energy development programs and promote its use instead of traditional sources of energy.
 16. **Rajiv Gandhi** birth anniversary is celebrated as Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day on 20th August every year.
Note: This year on 20th August 2020, we are going to celebrate the 76th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
 17. World Mosquito Day is observed annually on **20th August.**
Note: The Day is celebrated to raise awareness about the Causes and Prevention of Malaria and to commemorate the discovery made by British Doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit Malaria between humans.
 18. The World Senior Citizen Day is observed globally every year on **21st August.**
Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness about issues affecting older people, such as deterioration with age and the abuse of the elderly and support, honour and show appreciation to seniors and to recognize their achievements. The World Senior Citizen's Day also recognises and acknowledges the contributions of older people to society.
 19. International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism observed globally every year on **21st August.**
Note: The day is observed to pay tribute to the individuals across the globe who have been attacked, injured, traumatized or lost their lives because of terrorist attacks. This year, the 3rd commemoration of the day will focus on the response to the pandemic and cancellation of many memorials and commemorations, it is critical to take the time to remember and honour the victims of terrorism.
 20. The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition observed globally every year on **23 August.**
Note: The Day is observed to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. The day was designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.
 21. The World Water Week 2020 is observed as the World Water Week at Home (WWWeek at Home) from **24th to 28th August 2020.**
Note: The theme for World Water Week 2020 at Home is '**Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action**'.
 22. The Women's Equality Day is being observed in the United States on **26th August.**
Note: This was 100th anniversary of the Women's Equality Day. The day is celebrated to commemorate American women getting the constitutional right to vote.
 23. The National Sports Day is observed every year on **29th August.**



Note: The first National Sports Day was celebrated on 29th August 2012, on the birth anniversary of Major Dhyani Chand who was the star of hockey team of India.

24. The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed globally on **29th August**.

Note: The day aims to increase awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as

one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

25. The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed every year on **29th August**.

Note: The day is being observed to express deep concern about the rise in **enforced or involuntary disappearances** in different regions of the world including the incidents of arrest, detention and abduction.

Appointments

Prime Minister		
Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)

Cabinet Ministers

Sr. No	Name of the Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence	Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)
2	Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs	Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
3	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.	Nagpur (Maharashtra)
4	Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda	Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers.	Bangalore North (Karnataka)
5	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Karnataka)
6	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development and Minister of Panchayati Raj.	Morena (Madhya Pradesh)
7	Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad	Minister of Law and Justice; Minister of Communications and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.	Patna Sahib (Bihar)
8	Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Rajya Sabha (Madhya Pradesh)
9	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)
10	Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Minister of Human Resource Development.	Hardwar (Uttarakhand)
11	Shri Arjun Munda	Minister of Tribal Affairs.	Khunti (Jharkhand)
12	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Minister of Women and Child Development and Minister of Textiles.	Amethi (Uttar Pradesh)
13	Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Minister of Health and Family Welfare;	Chandni Chowk (NCT of



		Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences.	Delhi)
14	Shri Prakash Javadekar	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
15	Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
16	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel.	Rajya Sabha (Madhya Pradesh)
17	Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minister of Minority Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Jharkhand)
18	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal and Minister of Mines.	Dharwad(Karnataka)
19	Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.	Chandauli(Uttar Pradesh)
20	Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.	Begusarai(Bihar)
21	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Jal Shakti.	Jodhpur(Rajasthan)

List of Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

S. No.	Name of Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.	Bareilly(Uttar Pradesh)
2	Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning.	Gurgaon(Haryana)
3	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence	North Goa (Goa)
4	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy and Minister of State in the Department of Space.	Udhampur (Jammu and Kashmir)
5	Shri Kiren Rijiju	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs.	Arunachal West(Arunachal Pradesh)
6	Shri Prahlad Singh Patel	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Culture and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Tourism.	Damoh(Madhya Pradesh)
7	Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and	Arrah(Bihar)



		Entrepreneurship.	
8	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.	Rajya Sabha (Uttar Pradesh)
9	Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Shipping and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)

Ministers of State

S. No.	Name of Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Shri Faggan singh Kulaste	Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel.	Mandla (Madhya Pradesh)
2	Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.	Buxar(Bihar)
3	Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.	Bikaner (Rajasthan)
4	General (Retd.) V. K. Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.	Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
5	Shri Krishan Pal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Faridabad (Haryana)
6	Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.	Jalna(Maharashtra)
7	Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.	Secunderabad(Telangana)
8	Shri Parshottam Rupala	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)
9	Shri Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
10	Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.	Fatehpur(Uttar Pradesh)
11	Shri Babul Supriyo	Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.	Asansol(West Bengal)
12	Shri Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.	Muzaffarnagar(Uttar Pradesh)
13	Shri Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao	Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development; Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.	Akola(Maharashtra)
14	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.	Hamirpur(Himachal Pradesh)
16	Shri Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.	Ujjarpur(Bihar)
17	Shri Rattan Lal Kataria	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Ambala(Haryana)
18	Shri V. Muraleedharan	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary	Vadakara(Kerala)



		Affairs.	
19	Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.	Surguja(Chhattisgarh)
20	Shri Som Parkash	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.	Hoshiarpur(Punjab)
21	Shri Rameswar Teli	Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.	Dibrugarh(Assam)
22	Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Minister of State in the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.	Balasure(Odisha)
23	Shri Kailash Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.	Barmer(Rajasthan)
24	Sushri Debasree Chaudhuri	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.	Raiganj(West Bengal)

Appointments

January (1st to 14th) 2021

- P Ravi Kumar** has been appointed as the 38th Chief Secretary of Karnataka.
Note: P Ravi Kumar will hold this post until May 2022, i.e., till he attains the age of 60. Prior to his appointment, P Ravi Kumar was the Additional Chief Secretary(ACS) of Karnataka govt and was ACS of Karnataka CM, BS Yediyurappa. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, a 1981-batch IAS officer was appointed as CS of Karnataka govt in 2018.
- Suneet Sharma** has been appointed as the New Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board under the Ministry of Railways.
Note: He takes over the charge from the incumbent VK Yadav upon the completion of his term as the Chairman and CEO of the board on 31st December 2020. Previously Suneet Sharma served as the General Manager of the Eastern Railway. He is also appointed as the ex-officio Principal Secretary to the Government of India.
- Umesh Sinha** has been appointed as the deputy election commissioner in the Election Commission of India.
Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in the term of reemployment of Sinha as deputy election commissioner on contract basis for a period of six months beyond December 31, 2020. Sinha is a part of a committee set up by the Election Commission to look into the issue of revising the election expenditure of candidates during campaigning.
- Soma Mondal** has taken over as first-ever woman head of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).
Note: Before joining SAIL as a Director, Mondal was the Director (Commercial) at fellow Central public sector enterprise, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). In a company statement, Mondal said that the first target is to improve the financial performance of SAIL.
- Nancy Pelosi** has been elected as the as the speaker of US House of Representatives for the 117th Congress.
Note: The House voted 216-209 to reinstate Pelosi, after Democrats lost 11 seats in the November elections to command a narrower 222-212 majority. Five Democrats chose not to support her - two voted for Democratic lawmakers who were not running, while three others simply voted "present."
- Major General Gautam Chauhan** has been appointed as the first Additional Director General-ADG (Human Rights-HR) in the newly created Human Rights cell in the Indian Army.
Note: He will function under the Indian Army Vice Chief Lieutenant General SK Saini. This is the 1st time, Indian army has appointed a major general rank officer to examine the human rights issue and suggest means to better the track record of the force. This appointment is part of the ongoing restructuring of Indian Army headquarters.
- Ram Vinay Shahi** will head the high-level group named "South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE)" for the development of South Asia energy security architecture set up by the Government of India.



- Note:** It has been set up under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)-run think tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The development of South Asia-focused energy security architecture is on the lines of India's neighbourhood-first policy under which Cross-border energy trade is a key part. The energy architect by India includes cross-border electricity trade, supplying petroleum products and setting up liquefied natural gas terminals.
8. **Karan Bajwa** has been appointed as the leader of Google Cloud for Asia-Pacific region.
Note: Presently, Bajwa leads Google Cloud in India. He will lead all regional revenue and go-to-market operations for Google Cloud, including on Google Cloud Platform (GCP) and Google Workspace.
9. According to the **Global Economic Prospects** (GEP-January 2021) report released by the World Bank (WB), India is expected to grow at **5.4%** in the Financial Year (FY) 2021-22.
Note: Global Economy is expected to expand by 4% in 2021. The major causes of India's contraction are sharp declines in household spending & private investment. The report also states that Vaccine Deployment & Investments as the need to sustain the Global recovery.
10. **Ashish Pethe** has been appointed as the chairman of the All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC).
Note: Pethe has been closely associated with GJC and was the Zonal Chairman West, which he will continue even after this new position.
11. **Sanjay Kapoor** has been appointed as the president of the All India Chess Federation (AICF).
Note: Kapoor, representing Uttar Pradesh Chess Association, defeated incumbent P R Venketrama Raja in a close contest. Kapoor received 33 votes as against 31 of Raja. Naresh Sharma, belonging to the Chauhan faction, was elected as treasurer, beating Kishore Bandekar 34-30. The AICF has been split into two factions, one led by Raja and the other by Chauhan.
12. **Hima Kohli** has been appointed as the first woman chief justice of Telangana High Court.
Note: She is the first woman chief justice of the state. She came here from Delhi high court. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan administered the oath of office to her. Justice Hima Kohli got enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi. She was appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Delhi on 29 May, 2006.
13. **Raj Iyer** has been appointed as the first Chief Information Officer of the US Army, after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020.
Note: One of the highest-ranking Indian-American civilians in the US Department of Defense, Raj Iyer, who holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary of the Army and directs representation of the secretary in matters relating to information management/information technology (IT). Equivalent in rank to a three-star General, Raj Iyer will supervise an annual budget of USD 16 billion for the US Army's IT operations.
14. **Rabi Narayan Mishra** has been appointed as full-time Director of the College of Supervisors (CoS), which was set up by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to further broaden and strengthen the supervisory skills among RBI's regulatory and supervisory staff.
Note: The College of Supervisors (CoS) has now been fully operationalized for effective supervision of the regulated entities. It was set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in May 2020 to further broaden and strengthen the supervisory skills among RBI's regulatory and supervisory staff at entry level and on a continuous basis.
15. **Sabrina Singh** has been appointed as Deputy Press Secretary to the Vice President in the White House.
Note: Singh was Press Secretary to Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the Biden-Harris campaign. Prior to her role on the campaign, Singh served as senior spokesperson for Mike Bloomberg's presidential campaign and National Press Secretary for Cory Booker's presidential campaign.
16. **RS Sharma** has been appointed as the head of a 10-member empowered committee for administration of COVID-19 vaccine by the Government of India.
Note: The members of the committee comprises senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). The committee can invite distinguished persons when there is a need to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine through Co-WIN app.
17. **Jai Shah** has been named as the official representative of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board meetings.
Note: Shah is the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). He will replace BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, who was currently representing India at the ICC Board, but he suffered a heart condition recently and had to be admitted to hospital where he underwent primary angioplasty.



18. Japarov Sadyr Nurgojoevich was elected as the president of **Kyrgyzstan**.
Note: He served as the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan till 14th November 2020 after which his official powers in office are suspended due to the pending results of the January 2021 presidential election. He served as the acting president of the country after the resignation of Sooronbay Jeenbekov. After his resignation, Talant Mamytov, speaker of Kyrgyzstan's Parliament became the acting president of the country.

19. Samantha Power has been nominated as the administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) by US President-elect Joe Biden.
Note: If confirmed by the Senate, Power, 50, will head the agency which oversees US foreign humanitarian and development aid, Xinhua news agency reported on Wednesday. Biden also announced that he is elevating the position to the National Security Council within the White House.

December 2020

- 1. Professor Sangita Srivastava** becomes the first women vice chancellor of Allahabad University (AU).
Note: She is the first woman chosen for this post at AU. Prof Srivastava is a former head of Allahabad University's home science department. After her new appointment, she was relieved of her present charge as vice chancellor of Prof Rajendra Singh University on the orders of the chancellor and governor Anandiben Patel.
- 2. Utpal Kumar Singh** has been appointed as the as Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha and Lok Sabha Secretariat.
Note: His appointment will come into effect from December 1, 2020. He will succeed incumbent Snehlata Shrivastava. Mr Singh is a 1986 batch IAS officer of Uttrakhand Cadre and has been appointed as Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha in the rank and status of Cabinet Secretary.
- 3. Varsha Joshi** has been appointed as the Chairperson of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
Note: The Government of India has appointed IAS officer Varsha Joshi as the new Chairperson of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). She is presently served as Joint Secretary (CDD), Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.
- 4. Kumud Srinivasan** has been named as the Treasury Secretary by the U.S. President-elect Joe Biden.
Note: If confirmed, she will be the first woman to lead the Treasury Department in its 231-year history. The 74-year-old previously broke barriers as the first female Fed chief.
- 5. AR Rahman** has been appointed as the ambassador for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts' (BAFTA) 'Breakthrough Initiative'.
Note: The initiative, supported by Netflix, aims to identify, celebrate, and support up to five talents

working in film, games, or TV in India. As part of BAFTA Breakthrough India, a jury of British and Indian industry experts will select five talents from across India to take part in the year-long mentoring and guidance programme.

- 6. Kuldeep Handoo** has been appointed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Fit India' Ambassador.
Note: Mr Handoo, who is Wushu Coach of Team India is serving as Inspector in Jammu and Kashmir Police Department. Fit India Movement is a nation-wide movement in India to encourage people to remain healthy and fit by including physical activities and sports in their daily lives.
- 7. Uday Shankar** has been named as the president-elect of industry chamber FICCI for 2020-21.
Note: Shankar will be succeeding Sangita Reddy, president of Ficci and joint managing director, Apollo Hospitals Group, during Ficci's 93rd annual general meeting. Presently Shankar is the president of The Walt Disney Company for Asia Pacific and the chairman of Star and Disney India.
- 8. SM Vaidya** has been appointed as the first Vice President of the World LPG Association (WLPGA).
Note: Shri SM Vaidya is appointed as the first Vice President of the World LPG Association (WLPGA), The World LPG Association (WLPGA) is the authoritative voice of the global LPG industry representing the full LPG value chain. Shri SM Vaidya currently is the Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation.
- 9. Dr Vivek Murthy** has been appointed as the Surgeon General of US President-elect Joe Biden.
Note: 43-year-old Murthy will be leading the Covid-19 response team. He served as Surgeon General during the Obama administration too. Dr Murthy was previously confirmed by the Senate to serve in the same capacity, holding the post as 'America's Doctor' between 2014 and 2017.



- 10. Anil Soni** has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of the newly launched The WHO Foundation, which works alongside the World Health Organization to address most pressing health challenges across the world.
Note: Soni will assume his role as The WHO Foundation's inaugural Chief Executive Officer on January 1 next year. In his new role, Mr Soni will accelerate the Foundation's "work to invest in innovative, evidence-based initiatives that support WHO in delivering on its mission to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all,
- 11. Justice Rajesh Bindal** has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Common High Court for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh.
Note: He will take charge on December 9, 2020. He succeeds Justice Gita Mittal, the 1st female Chief Justice of this court. President of India appointed him, in exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India Prior to his appointment as chief justice of the common HC for the UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh, he served as the senior-most Judge of this court.
- 12. Sabrina Filzmoser and Flavio Canto** have been appointed as International Judo Federation (IJF) climate ambassadors by IJF President Marius Vizer.
Note: The pair are now expected to talk about global warming and use judo as a positive influence in delivering this message.
- 13. Zena Wooldridge** has been appointed as President of the World Squash Federation.
Note: She will become the 10th WSF President to serve since the Federation's inception in 1967. She is the second female President after New Zealand's **Susie Simcock**.
- 14. Annika Sorenstam** has been elected as the president of the International Golf Federation (IGF).
Note: IGF President, **Peter Dawson**, is stepping down after 10 years of leadership and service. Sorenstam, a 72-time winner on the LPGA Tour and former No. 1 from Sweden.
- 15. Uday Kotak** has been reappointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) for a period of 3 years.
Note: RBI also granted approval for reappointing Prakash Apte as Part-time Chairman and Dipak Gupta as joint MD for 3 years period with effect from January 1, 2021. The board and the shareholders of the bank had approved these reappointments, subject to RBI's approval at their respective meetings.
- 16. Indian American astronaut Raja Chari** has been selected as the Commander of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) by NASA and the European Space Agency.
Note: The Indian American will command the mission, while Tom Marshburn will serve as pilot and Matthias Maurer as a mission specialist. Earlier this year in January, Chari became one of the 11 astronauts to join NASA's ranks.
- 17. Shekhar Vempati** has been elected as the Vice President of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU).
Note: It is one of the largest broadcasting associations in the world. The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union was formed in 1964 as a professional association of broadcasting organisations with over 286 members in 57 countries and regions, reaching the potential population of about three billion people. Vempati is an alumnus of IIT Bombay and worked in Infosys for more than a decade as Product Strategist.
- 18. Siddharth Chatterjee** has been appointed as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in China by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
Note: Resident Coordinators are the UN Secretary-General's representatives for development at the country level. They lead UN teams supporting countries to recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 19. Vineet Agarwal** has been appointed as the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).
Note: Managing Director of logistics major Transport Corporation of India Limited Vineet Agarwal has taken over as the new President of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham), the industry body said. He replaces Niranjan Hiranandani, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Hiranandani Group of Companies. Sumant Sinha, Chairman and Managing Director of ReNew Power, is the new Senior Vice-President of Assocham.
- 20. Florin Citu** has been appointed as Romania's new prime minister.
Note: Some 260 lawmakers in Romania's 465-seat, two-chamber assembly on Wednesday voted for the new government, while 186 voted against. Former investment banker and finance minister Florin Citu become the new prime minister at a time when Romania is struggling against the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout.



21. Arya Rajendran has become the Country's Youngest Mayor from Kerala's Capital Thiruvananthapuram.
Note: The party district committee has decided to field S Arya Rajendran as the mayor candidate on behalf of the LDF and Suresh Kumar as the District panchayat president of Thiruvananthapuram. In the recent civic polls, the LDF has won 51 wards in the 100-member prestigious corporation of the Kerala capital. Rajendran is a state committee member of the Students Federation of India (SFI) and also the state

president of Balasangam, the children's wing of the Left party.

22. Dr. Harsh Vardhan has been nominated as the board member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI).

Note: Dr Vardhan will represent the South East Area Regional Office (SEARO)/ Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board. Dr Vardhan will assume the charge with effect from January 1, 2021, and serve till December 31, 2023.

November 2020

- John Magufuli** has been re-elected as the president of **Tanzania**.
Note: Magufuli received 12.5m votes in presidential ballot, while his main challenger, Tundu Lissu of the Chadema party, received 1.9m votes. Magufuli has been seeking a second five-year term and promised voters that he would boost the economy by completing ambitious infrastructure projects started in his first term.
- PVG Menon** has been appointed as the chief executive officer of the Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI).
Note: The Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI), an organization setup to provide a skilled workforce for the Electronics industry, announced the appointment of PVG Menon as its chief executive officer. Prior to taking up this role, Menon was the President & CEO of VANN Consulting and has over three decades of experience in the development, marketing and management of technology.
- Gurdeep Singh** has been appointed as the chairman of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT)
Note: The appointment committee of the Union cabinet issued the order for the central deputation. The post of MbPT chairman was vacant after former chairman Sanjay Bhatia retired on July 31 and was appointed as Lokayukta of Maharashtra. Jalota, who is the first Goods and Services Tax (GST) commissioner of Maharashtra, is currently the additional chief secretary in the higher and technical education department of the state government.
- Priyanca Radhakrishnan** has been appointed as the first-ever Indian-origin minister of New Zealand by the country's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.
Note: She was appointed as the Minister for the Community & Voluntary Sector and Minister for

Diversity, Inclusion & Ethnic Communities. She was elected first as a Member of Parliament belonging to the Labour Party in September 2017. In 2019, she was appointed the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Ethnic Communities.

- Duarte Pacheco** has been elected as the 30th President of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) for a three-year term of 2020-2023.
Note: He succeeds Gabriela Cuevas Barron, a Mexican Parliamentarian. The Presidential Election was conducted over the virtual platform during the 206th Session of the Governing Council of IPU, which was conducted as a virtual session. Around 400 parliamentarians from 140 member Parliaments registered their vote during the 24-hour window.
- Alassane Ouattara **Ivory Coast** has been elected as the president of which country for a consecutive third term.
Note: The 2020 Ivory Coast Election held on 31st October 2020 was boycotted by the two opposition figures – former President Henri Konan Bedie and ex-Prime Minister Pascal Affi N'Guessan and their supporters. The total voter turnouts was around 53.90% and the opposition claimed that only 10% Ivoirians took part in the election.
- Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha** has been appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)
Note: President Ram Nath Kovind has administered the oath of office to Sinha as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Sinha, a former diplomat, joined as the Information Commissioner on January 1, 2019. He has served as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka.



- 8. Gyanendro Ningombam** has been elected as the President of Hockey India.
Note: Executive Board after being Elected Unopposed for the **Senior Vice President post**. Earlier, Gyanendro Ningombam has been serving as the Officiating President of Hockey India since July 2020. Gyanendro has been associated with the discipline of Hockey in Manipur for the last 40 years, and has impressed with his work at the grassroots level.
- 9. Vidisha Maitra** has been elected to the UN's Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).
Note: The election was a tightly contested one but Maitra won with **126 UN members** supporting her candidature for the only post for the Asia-Pacific group while **64 voted** for the opposing candidate who was from Iraq. India has been a member of the committee since its inception in **1946**.
- 10. Akshay Kumar Singh** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive of the country's biggest gas importer, Petronet LNG Ltd.
Note: He will replace Prabhat Singh who completed his 5-year term. Petronet is a joint venture of IOC, GAIL, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and BPCL. The four state-owned firms hold 12.5 per cent stake each in the company whose chairman is the Oil Secretary. Petronet operates liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal at Dahej in Gujarat and Kochi in Kerala.
- 11. Joe Biden** has been elected as the next President of United State of America.
Note: His Oath of Office as the 46th President of the US will be administered by the Chief Justice of Supreme Court. He is to assume office on January 20, 2021. The election results make Trump the first one term president since 1990. This year, the US vote counting was delayed.
- 12. T. N. Manoharan** has been appointed as the as the administrator of the crisis ridden Laxmi Vilas Bank by the Reserve Bank of India.
Note: The RBI has also drafted a scheme of amalgamation for LVB with DBS Bank of India and aims to complete the merger process before moratorium period ends. The proposed amalgamation will provide stability and better prospects to LVB's depositors, customers and employees.
- 13. Kris Gopalakrishnan** has been appointed as the first Chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub.
Note: He was appointed by the Reserve Bank of India. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub aims to promote innovation across financial sector. The RBI set up the hub to promote, support and hand-hold cross thinking.
- The hub will aim to increase the use of innovative technologies across the finance sectors.
- 14. Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Financepeer, Google incubated education fee financing company.
Note: Rohit Sharma will be supporting Financepeer to transform the education sector and introduce innovation across the various segments of education. This collaboration between Rohit Sharma and Financepeer will increase the reach of edtech and Fintech platforms of Financepeer among the Indian parents and schools.
- 15. Maia Sandu** became the first woman **President of Moldova** after winning the Presidential election with around 57.75% of votes.
Note: Maia Sandu, won the election defeating the pro-russian incumbent president, Igor Dodon by 15 points (42.25% of votes). Maia Sandu worked for the World Bank and later became the prime minister of Moldova in 2019.
- 16. Smriti Mandhana** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of ESFBL.
Note: Mandhana will feature in promoting Equitas Small Finance Bank's new product aimed at women called Eva. 'Eva' is a unique savings account which tries to address the well-being of Indian women in every aspect such as Health, Wealth and Prosperity as per the Bank.
- 17. Sonu Sood** has been appointed as state icon of Punjab by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
Note: The decision of honouring Sonu Sood with the title comes after he earned laurels for his humanitarian work during the lockdown. Sonu has been helping migrant workers reach their hometowns amid the coronavirus pandemic. He also helped people by giving them face masks, food, mobile phones and more.
- 18. SN Rajeswari** has been appointed as a Whole-time member (distribution) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
Note: She is appointed for a period of 3 years or till attaining the age of 62. The centre appointed her as the CMD of Oriental Insurance in August 2020, she will hold the position as CMD till the end of May 2022.
- 19. Girish Chandra Murmu** has been elected as External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva for three years.
Note: Murmu will assume the position shortly by taking charge from Supreme Audit Institution of Switzerland. The CAG of India has been the external auditor of various international organisations. He has



- earlier also been on the UN Board of Auditors from 1993 to 1999 and 2014 to 2020.
- 20. Pia Dandiya** has been appointed the White House Fellow for the year 2020-21.
Note: Dandiya, the founding principal of Democracy Prep Endurance High School in Harlem, New York, is the only Indian American among 14 White House Fellows announced this year.
- 21. Navneet Munot** has been appointed as managing director and chief executive officer of HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd.
Note: Munot, who was earlier chief investment officer (CIO) at SBI Mutual Fund, will be succeeding Milind Barve, who has been MD and CEO of HDFC AMC since inception in 2000.
- 22.** The new Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC) -- Greg Barclay.
Note: Barclay succeeds India's Shashank Manohar who stepped down in July 2020 and will replace Imran Khwaja, who is currently the interim chairman. He was serving as NZC's representative on the board of the International Cricket Council and had also served as the director of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2015.
- 23. Lt Gen Harpal Singh** has been appointed as the new Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army.
Note: He is presently the Director-General of Border Roads Organisation and would take over his new appointment on 1 December. Lt Gen Harpal Singh, an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers on 24 December 1982. He later commanded a Border Roads, Task Force, in Jammu and Kashmir valley.
- 24. Neera Tanden** has been be nominated as the as the **Director of the Office of Management** and Budget by the U.S. President-elect Joe Biden Joe Biden.
Note: It is a top position inside the White House responsible for managing the administration's budget. Ms. Tanden (50) would be the first woman of colour to head the influential Office of Management and Budget at the White House. Ms. Tanden is currently chief executive of the left-leaning Center for American Progress.

October

1. Amir Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Online live tutoring company Vedantu.
Note: Online live tutoring company Vedantu has onboarded Bollywood actor Aamir Khan as its brand ambassador. Vedantu with its new ad campaign aims to make quality LIVE online learning accessible to every child, every home with India's best curated teachers.
2. Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Real Estate Developer, Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited.
Note: Kolkata based Real Estate Developer, Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited appointed Former National Cricket Team Captain and Current President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Sourav Ganguly as it's Brand Ambassador. He will lead the campaign of Bengal Peerless's Residential Project Avidipta II
3. Alexander De Croo has been selected as the Prime Minister of Belgium.
Note: De Croo's French-speaking socialist rival Paul Magnette confirmed that the parties had chosen the 44-year-old finance minister as premier. Belgium has had no governing majority for 21 months since the collapse of former leader Charles Michel's government, and it has been 493 days since federal elections failed to resolve the crisis.
4. Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) the State Bank of India.
Note: State Bank of India (SBI) said Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Before joining the country's largest public sector lender, Attra was Partner at EY India and senior executive at ICICI Securities.
5. **Jayant R Varma, B. Shashank Bhide and C. Ashima Goyal** appointed as the member (s) of the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** by the Government of India.
Note: Their appointments were cleared by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet chaired by PM Modi. The current MPC was set up by the GoI in 2016 following the finalisation of Monetary Policy Framework Agreement. The framework introduced inflation targeting. The committee consists of six members. Of these three are nominated by GoI as done recently. A Government official cannot be appointed to the committee.
6. M A Ganapathy has been appointed as the Director-General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
Note: The post of BCAS chief fell vacant after Rakesh Asthana was appointed as the Director-General of



- Border Security Force in August. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Ganapathy to the post of Director-General, BCAS, for a tenure up to his superannuation on February 29, 2024.
7. Dinesh Kumar Khara has been appointed as the new Chairman of State Bank of India for a period of three years.
Note: The post was lying vacant after the former Deputy MD & CFO Prashant Kumar, was appointed as the CEO of Yes Bank in March 2020. C Venkat Nageshwar was serving the post on interim capacity. Attra is a former Partner at global consulting firm EY India and had also served as the CFO at the ICICI Securities.
 8. Rinki Sethi has been appointed as New Information Security Head of Twitter.
Note: Twitter Inc appointed Rinki Sethi, a former information security executive at IBM, as its chief information security officer. Sethi had previously worked as the vice president of information security at cyber-security firm Palo Alto Networks Inc.
 9. M Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as the new deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
Note: Prior to this, M Rajeshwar Rao was an executive director at RBI. He succeeds NS Vishwanathan as the central bank's fourth deputy governor. NS Vishwanathan resigned from the post in March 2020 before the completion of his term in June, citing health reasons.
 10. Nilesh Shah has been elected as the Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
Note: He was earlier elected as the Chairman for 2019 – 2020. Nilesh Shah would also continue as the ex-officio Chairman of AMFI Financial Literacy Committee, being the Chairman of AMFI. These decisions were taken by AMFI, the industry body of SEBI-registered mutual funds at its Board Meeting.
 11. J Venkatramu has been appointed the managing director and chief executive officer of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
Note: J Venkatramu has been appointed the managing director and chief executive officer of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). He will succeed Suresh Sethi, who served the post till March 2020. Venkatramu is presently working as the chief digital officer in Equitas Small Finance Bank. He has been appointed to the post of MD and CEO of IPPB for a period of three years.
 12. Arvind Hali has been appointed as the new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL).
Note: Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL) has appointed Arvind Hali as the new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of its housing finance company Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL). It has also appointed Amar Bahl as the Deputy Managing Director & COO of the company.
 13. Piyush Goyal has been assigned the additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution after the demise of Ram Vilas Paswan.
Note: The Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been assigned the additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in addition to his existing portfolios, following the death of union minister Ram Vilas Paswan. Goyal is currently serving as the Union Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry.
 14. Srikant M Datar has been appointed as the dean of the Harvard University's business school.
Note: Datar will succeed Nitin Nohria, another Indian-American, and will be the second dean of Indian origin at Harvard University, with Rakesh Khurana, who heads Harvard College. Datar will be the 11th dean of the prestigious school.
 15. Former **Reserve Bank of India** Executive Director **Uma Shankar** has been appointed as the Additional Director (Non-Executive, Independent) to **Karnataka Bank**.
Note: She is a former Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India. She was with RBI for over 37 years in different capacities. Her core competence is in the financial sector supervision but she has also been responsible for currency management, foreign exchange and the internal accounting and administration.
 16. **Rohan Jaitley** has been elected as the President of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA).
Note: He was the single candidate left for the post, as the lone candidate who had filed his nomination against him withdrew his candidature. The 31-year-old lawyer is slated to remain in the post till June 30, 2021. Notably, late Arun Jaitley had also served as the president of DDCA between 1999 and 2013.
 17. Jacinda Ardern has been elected as **prime minister of New Zealand** for the second consecutive three-year term.
Note: In the battle against Covid, Ardern was alone among her western peers in pursuing an explicit elimination strategy and imposed one of the strictest nationwide lockdowns in the world. Ardern's centre-left Labour Party won 49.2% of the total 83.7% votes counted in the 120-member parliament.



- 18. Rajkiran Rai G** has been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for the term 2020-21.
Note: Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India, was elected as Deputy Chairman of the Association. IBA is an association of banks and other entities in the banking ecosystem in India catering to its members. The decision was taken during a meeting of the managing committee of IBA.
- 19. Dhruv Bahl** has been appointed as chief operating officer (COO) of Merchant payment network BharatPe.
Note: Merchant payment network BharatPe has elevated Dhruv Bahl as its chief operating officer (COO) with immediate effect. In his new role, Bahl will be leading operations across customer support, deployments – QR, Swipe & Cards, KYC, loan disbursements and lead generation.
- 20. Constantina Dita** has been named an ambassador for the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships to be held in Gdynia,
Note: Dita competed at eight editions of the World Half Marathon Championships and earned seven medals in the process, making her one of the most successful athletes in the history of the event. Her double victory in Edmonton in 2005, taking individual and team gold medals, remains one of the highlights of her career.
- 21. Seema Mustafa** has been elected as President of the Editors Guild of India.
Note: Mustafa succeeds Shekhar Gupta, the Editor-in-Chief of ThePrint, while Kapoor and Nath will take over from A.K. Bhattacharya, the Editorial Director of Business Standard, and Sheela Bhatt, the Contributing Editor of Rediff.com, respectively.
- 22. Amrit Mohan Prasad** has been appointed as head of the newly created Guwahati based Eastern command of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
Note: The Indo Tibetan Border Police guards the line of actual control. The Eastern command overlooks the Indo Tibetan Border Police battalion posted along the line of actual control in states such as Assam, Sikkim, arunachal pradesh.
- 23. Saad al-Hariri** has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Lebanon by the President Michel Aoun.
Note: Hariri won the backing of a majority of parliamentarians in consultations with Aoun. He faces major challenges to navigate Lebanon's power-sharing politics and agree a cabinet, which must then address a mounting list of woes: a banking crisis, currency crash, rising poverty and crippling state debts.
- 24. Farooq Abdullah** has been selected as the chairman of the Gupkar alliance to fight for the restoration of full statehood and special constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir.
Note: Veteran CPM leader M.Y. Tarigami was elected the convenor while Lok Sabha member from South Kashmir Hasnain Masoodi will be the coordinator of the conglomerate known as Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD).
- 25. Wavel Ramkalawan** has been elected as the President of Seychelles recently.
Note: He secured 54.9% of the total vote. Seychelles has elected an opposition candidate as its President for the first time since 1977.
- 26. Luis Arce** has been elected as the President of **Bolivia**.
Note: He captured 55.1% of the total votes. Arce will take the charge of the office on 8 November 2020. He would succeed Jeanine Anez, who is serving as the interim President of Bolivia. The 57-year-old, Luis is a member of the political party Movement Toward Socialism.
- 27. Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha** has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner of India.
Note: He was already the Information Commissioner and was also the most senior. The post of CIC chairman had been vacant for several months after Bimal Zulka retired. A Marathi journalist, Uday Mahurkar has been selected for the post of Information Commissioner. Uday Mahurkar worked as a deputy editor in India Today Group and is considered close to the Sangh Parivar.
- 28. Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of healthcare company Dr Trust.
Note: Senior India cricketer Rohit Sharma was named brand ambassador of healthcare company Dr Trust. Dr Trust manufactures monitoring devices, which help in tracking vitals like blood pressure, blood oxygen levels, respiration rate, pulse rate and others.

September

- 1. Mustapha Adib** has been appointed as the Prime Minister of **Lebanon**.
Note: He was Lebanon's ambassador to Germany. Mustapha Adib was named by four former prime ministers on the eve of binding consultations between the president and parliamentary blocs on their choice for the post.



2. **Matthew Hayden** has been appointed as the trade envoy to India by Australian government along with Indian-origin politician Lisa Singh for advancing business ties with India.
Note: Three new appointments to the board of the Australia-India Council were announced. Lisa Singh, former Labor Party Senator from Tasmania, would be the Deputy Chair. Former Victoria Premier Ted Baillieu and former cricketer Hayden are the other new members.
3. **Hemant Khatri** has assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of state-owned defence shipbuilder, Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL).
Note: He will replace Rear Admiral L V Sarat Babu (Retd). Previously, Hemant Khatri was serving as the Director of Strategic Projects HSL. Hemant Khatri was appointed as the CMD of HSL was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on 27th May 2020 with effective from 1st September 2020 till 31st July 2025 the date of his superannuation or until further orders.
4. **Aveek Sarkar** has been appointed as the chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI).
Note: He succeeds Vijay Kumar Chopra, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers. Aveek Sarkar was the founding Managing Director of Penguin India, the Indian counterpart of Penguin Books, the founding Editor of Business Standard and also the pivotal figure behind the acquisition of STAR News by the ABP Group in 2003.
5. **Usha Padhee** has become the first women Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
Note: She is the first woman and third IAS officer to have been appointed to the post. The central deputation tenure of Usha is scheduled to end on 16th July 2022. She succeeds Rakesh Asthana (IPS) who was appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force (BSF) on 17th August 2020.
6. **S Krishnan** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab and Sindh Bank
Note: Prior to this appointment, he was an Executive Director at Canara Bank. He will replace S Harishankar, the current MD and CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank.
7. **Murali Ramakrishnan** has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of the South Indian Bank.
Note: Ramakrishnan had retired from ICICI Bank as Senior General Manager at Strategic Project Group on May 30, 2020, and joined the South Indian Bank as an advisor on July 1, 2020. He represented the bank in the board of CIBIL and the risk advisory board of VISA for the Asia Pacific.
8. **VK Yadav** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board.
Note: The chairman and CEO will be the cadre controlling officer responsible for human resources (HR) with assistance from a DG (HR). The Cabinet had earlier approved the restructuring of the Railway Board, whose strength has been cut from eight to five, as part of large scale reforms initiated by the national transporter.
9. **Ayushmann Khurrana** has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Bajaj Allianz Life.
Note: The actor will promote its products and digital services across offline and online mediums. Khurrana will feature in the brand's next campaign 'Smart Living' that encompasses its term plan – Smart Protect Goal and the new digital service – Smart Assist.
10. **Dwayne Bravo** has been appointed as the first cricket ambassador of SBOTOP sportsbook brand.
Note: Bravo is recognised as one of Caribbean cricket's best ever 'all-rounders', representing the West Indies in all formats of the sport. He has represented the country in 256 test matches and 120 one-day-internationals and is also considered as one of the best ever 'all-rounders' of the sport.
11. **Kenichi Ayukawa** has been elected as the President of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).
Note: He will replace Rajan Wadhwa. Ashok Leyland MD and CEO, Vipin Sondhi has been elected as the new vice president of SIAM.
12. **Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations** appointed Vinkesh Gulati as its 35th President for the year 2020-22.
Note: Gulati is the Director of United Automobiles, based out of Allahabad and Faridabad. United Automobiles is involved in the Auto Dealership business since the year 1985 and are dealers for brands like Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Auto.
13. **Anil Jain** has been appointed as the president of All India Tennis Association (AITA).
Note: He was elected unanimously to lead the administration of AITA after Praveen Mahajan's tenure as AITA President came to an end this year. Anil Dhupar was elected as the Secretary-General and Rohit Rajpal will serve as the Treasurer of AITA.
14. **S. Mahalingam** has been appointed Honorary Consul of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Chennai, with consular jurisdiction over Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
Note: Mr. Mahalingam retired as chief financial officer and executive director of Tata Consultancy



Services. Mr. Mahalingam is replacing former Honorary Consul Suhasini Maniratnam, whose mandate was terminated after five years.

- 15. Preeti Sudan** has been appointed to the World Health Organisation's independent panel for pandemic preparedness.

Note: The decision by the panel's two heads, former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clarke and former Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. In a meeting of the Chairs, Helen Clarke is believed to have conveyed that Sudan's experience as the head of the government ministry that led India's response to the pandemic makes her much more suited for the job.

- 16. Paresh Rawal** has been appointed as the new chief of National School of Drama (NSD).

Note: In a career span of over three decades, Rawal has been acknowledged with numerous awards, including the prestigious National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1994. He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2014 for his contribution to the entertainment industry

- 17. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Smriti Mandhana** has been appointed as the brand ambassadors of the fantasy sports gaming platforms, Playerzpot.

Note: The partnership will see the cricketers in the brand's upcoming campaigns and promote Playerzpot through engagement activities. The duo will anchor the brand with their sports charisma and help in creating a higher brand recall amongst the key target audience.

- 18. Jane Fraser** has been appointed as the first women Chief Executive Officer of the Citigroup.

Note: She will be the first women CEO of Citigroup. She will take over the top job in February, replacing Michael Corbat who will retire. Fraser, who has served as president and CEO of global consumer banking since 2019, will join the board of directors immediately.

- 19. Ayushmann Khurrana** has been appointed as the celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign titled as 'For Every Child' by UNICEF.

Note: He will support UNICEF towards ending violence against children, by working towards this initiative in India. After his appointed, Ayushman Khurrana joins the like of former football star David Beckham who is working on this campaign globally

August

- 1. Hamed Bakayoko** has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast.

Note: The Republic of Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara has appointed Defence Minister Hamed Bakayoko (55 years old) as Prime Minister (PM). Hamed Bakayoko will also hold his position as defence Minister. Hamed Bakayoko became acting PM on May 2, 2020 due to the absence of Amadou Gon Coulibaly.

- 2. Indian economist Urjit Patel** has been appointed as the additional and independent director of Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd.

Note: He has been appointed for a term of five years. Recently, he has authored a book titled 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver'. The book will be published by HarperCollins India.

- 3. Varun Sridhar** has been appointed as the New Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Money.

Note: Sridhar will report to Amit Nayyar, President of Paytm who leads the financial services business of Paytm. He will lead the launch and development of equity development and the mutual funds, NPS and Gold Services.

- 4. Perseverance** launched by NASA to seek signs of ancient life and collect first Martian rock.

Note: The rover will land on Jezero Crater of Mars on Feb. 18, 2021 with duration of at least one Mars year (about 687 Earth days). The outlay of Mars mission 2020 is around \$2.7 billion.

- 5. Mohamed Irfaan Ali** became the President of **Guyana**.

Note: He is a member of the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP). He succeeds David Arthur (A.) Granger. David A. Granger is a member of A Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change (ANPU-AFC).

- 6. Gen. Charles Q. Brown** sworn in as the first Black Chief of Staff of the Air Force of **USA**.

Note: President Donald Trump hosted the swearing-in of Gen. Charles Q. Brown. Vice President Mike Pence administered the oath of office to Gen. Brown, who was confirmed by the Senate in June in a 98-0 vote.

- 7. Mark Anthony Phillips** has been sworn in as the Prime Minister of **Guyana**.

Note: Former Chief-of-Staff of the Guyana Defence Force Brigadier (retired), Mark Anthony Phillips has been sworn in as Prime Minister of Guyana. He served as the Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force from 2013 to 2016. Meanwhile, former President Bharrat Jagdeo has been sworn in as Vice President.



- 8. Sashidhar Jagdishan** has been appointed as the next Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank for a period of 3 years.
Note: Aditya Puri was the CEO of HDFC Bank since September 1994. He is the longest-serving head of any private bank in India. Sashidhar Jagdishan is a chartered accountant. He holds a Master's degree in Economics of money, banking and finance. He joined the Bank in 1996 and heads finance, human resources, and other departments.
- 9. Manoj Sinha** has been appointed as the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir.
Note: He will succeed Girish Chandra Murmu, who resigned recently. Manoj Sinha has represented the parliamentary constituency of Ghazipur in eastern Uttar Pradesh thrice in the Lok Sabha. He also served as Communication Minister as well as Minister of state for Railways.
- 10. Girish Chandra Murmu** has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
Note: He will assume office on 8 August 2020. He will replace Rajiv Mehrishi, a 1978 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, as the CAG. Murmu, a 1985 batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, was the first Lt Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
- 11.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Government of India (GoI), has approved another extension of Ajay Tyagi's term as Chairman of **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved extension of Tyagi's term until February 28, 2022. His tenure would otherwise have ended at the end of this month. In 2017, the government had initially appointed Tyagi for five years as Sebi chief, but suddenly it was cut to three years. With this second extension, he will be at the helm for five years.
- 12.** Indian cricketers **Suresh Raina & Harmanpreet Kaur** were appointed as Global brand ambassadors of Win Trade Fantasy (WTF) Sports.
Note: In addition to this, Suresh Raina has also joined the brand as Strategic Partner. World Trade Fantasy (WTF) Sports is a fantasy sports gaming platform, which was formally launched in India and other parts of the world on 6th August, 2020.
- 13. Pradeep Kumar Joshi** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
Note: His tenure as the chairman of the UPSC will be till April 4, 2022. He succeeds Arvind Saxena who retires as the UPSC chairman on 6th August 2020.
- 14. GK Pillai** has been appointed as the chairman of the 3-member committee set up by the government of India for determination of ceiling rates under Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme.
Note: The two other members are Y G Parande, retired Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs member and Gautam Ray, retired chief commissioner of custom and central excise.
- 15. Hardayal Prasad** has been appointed as new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PNB Housing Finance Limited.
Note: Prasad will take over from, Neeraj Vyas the current interim managing director and chief executive officer of the company, will step down from the position on August 10. Prasad is experienced in banking, international operations at SBI and SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card).
- 16. Mahinda Rajapaksa** took oath as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.
Note: The 74-year-old Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) leader has been appointed as the PM of Sri Lanka. Prior to this, Mahinda Rajapaksa was first elected prime minister in 2004 and again appointed for brief periods in 2018 and 2019.
- 17.** Alexander Lukashenko has won the presidential election in **Belarus**.
Note: President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko has won his sixth consecutive term with 80.23 per cent of the vote at the country's presidential election. A former English teacher Svetlana Tikhanouskaya, who emerged as Lukashenko's main rival at the elections gets 9.9 per cent of the vote.
- 18. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala** has been appointed as the Executive Chairman of Financial Services Platform, Capital India Finance Limited (CIFL).
Note: Dr. Bhanwala is a PhD holder and did his Post Graduation degree in Management from Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. He was Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) from December 2013 till May 2020.
- 19.** Walter Roger Martos Ruiz becomes new Prime Minister of **Peru**.
Note: His appointment was confirmed by President of Peru, Martin Vizcarra. Ruiz will succeed Pedro Álvaro Cateriano Bellido. The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Government Palace in Lima.
- 20. Mohamed Ould Bilal** has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Mauritania.



- Note:** The appointment was made by the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani. Mohamed Ould Bilal is a veteran public administrator and has served as the head of the country's national water agency, a presidential aide and a cabinet minister.
- 21. Pramod Bhasin** has been appointed as the new Chairman of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).
Note: He is currently the vice-chair of the board of governors at ICRIER. He will replace Isher Judge Ahluwalia, who has stepped down due to health reasons. Isher had been in this position for 15 years. She will continue as chairperson emeritus, a position specially created to honour her exceptional contributions to the Council.
- 22. Subhash Sheoratan Mundra** has been appointed as non-executive chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH).
Note: Sameer Gehlaut, the co-founder and Chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd (IBHFL) has stepped down as the Executive Chairman of the company, and taken up the role of Non-Executive, Non-Independent Director of IBHFL He has stepped down to take charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indiabulls Ventures Ltd, a subsidiary company of IBHFL.
- 23. Soma Mondal** has been selected as the next chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).
Note: She will be taking charge when the present Chairman Anil Chaudhary. Mondal had taken over as Director (Commercial) of SAIL in September 2018. Prior to this, she was Director (Commercial), NALCO, Bhubaneswar which was history in making as was NALCO's first-ever female director.
- 24. Rakesh Asthana** has been appointed as the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).
Note: Asthana is currently heading the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) with an additional charge of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), will assume full-time charge of the border guarding force deployed at the approximately 2,280 km long border with Pakistan.
- 25. Kaushik Khona** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of GoAir Airline.
Note: GoAir is owned by the Indian business conglomerate Wadia Group. Khona brings with himself more than 32 years of corporate experience and all at the CXO level. He was with the Wadia Group for almost 4 years from 2008 to 2011.
- 26. Goa Governor Satya Pal Malik** has been appointed as the new Governor of **Meghalaya**.
Note: Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has been given the additional charge of Goa, it added. Mr. Malik, who was Governor of Jammu and Kashmir when its special status under Article 370 was abrogated last August, will be replacing Tathagata Roy in Meghalaya.
- 27. Recently, Ashok Lavasa** has stepped down from constitutional post of **Election Commissioner of India**.
Note: Lavasa is set to join the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank as the vice-president from September 2020. He will succeed the incumbent vice-president Diwakar Gupta, who is in charge of private sector operations, and public-private partnerships.
- 28. GP Garg** has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
Note: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has appointed GP Garg as executive director (ED). Prior to this, he was Chief General Manager in Sebi and has handled several assignments since joining in January 1994. He has been closely associated with Sebi's initiatives on financial literacy and investor education in the country.
- 29. Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Sports eyewear "Oakley".
Note: As a part of the partnership, Sharma will be sporting Oakley eyewear equipped with patented Prizm technology created specifically for sports lenses. With this partnership, Sharma will sport the brand's performance eyewear on and off the pitch. He joins the likes of Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and Milind Soman who have endorsed the brand before.
- 30. Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona** has been sworn in as the 54th President of **Dominican Republic**.
Note: Abinader's Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) won the elections with 53% vote, while Gonzalo Castillo who was the candidate of the ruling PLD got 37.7%. The 53-year old Luis Rodolfo Abinader was elected to the four-year term on July 5, which ended the 16-year run in power by the Center-Left Dominican Liberation Party (PLD).
- 31. Keith Rowley** has been appointed as the **Prime Minister** of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term.
Note: Keith Rowley sworn in as Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term. He is from the ruling People's National Movement (PNM).As per the preliminary result, PNM won 22 of the 41 electoral seats, while the opposition United National Congress (UNC) led by former prime minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar won 19 seats.
- 32. Ritesh Shukla** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of the newly launched NPCI



International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NPCI.

Note: It is also responsible to co-create payment technologies with other countries. NPCI has appointed Ritesh Shukla as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NIPL. As per the Regulatory records the NIPL was incorporated on April 03, 2020 and has Dilip Asbe, MD & CEO of NPCI, Arif Khan, Chief Digital Officer and Rupesh Achayara, Head of Finance at NPCI as directors.

33. Luis Rodolfo Abinader has been sworn in as the President of Dominican Republic.

Note: He succeeds Danilo Medina of Liberation Party. Abinader's Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) won the elections with 53% vote, while Gonzalo Castillo who was the candidate of the ruling PLD got 37.7%. The 53-year old Luis Rodolfo Abinader was elected to the four-year term on July 5, which ended the 16-year run in power by the Center-Left Dominican Liberation Party (PLD).

34. Ashwani Bhatia has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank of India (SBI).

Note: He has been appointed as the managing director up to the date of his superannuation that is May 31, 2022.

Bhatia is currently working as the managing director and chief executive officer at SBI Mutual Fund.

35. Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the **Election Commissioner of India**.

Note: Mr. Kumar has been appointed in place of Ashok Lavasa, who has resigned to join the Asian Development of Bank. Mr. Kumar is an ex-IAS officer of the 1984 batch of Jharkhand cadre.

36. Vinay Tonse has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Mutual Fund (MF).

Note: Vinay Tonse has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Mutual Fund (MF). He will replace Ashwani Bhatia, who has been now appointed as the managing director (MD) of State Bank of India.

37. Akinwumi Adesina has been re-elected as the **President of African Development Bank**.

Note: The 60-year-old Nigerian was the sole candidate to head the continent's biggest multilateral lender, in a virtual vote as a result of the coronavirus, at the end of its two-day annual meetings.

Important News - India

January (1st to 14th) 2021

1. V. Muraleedharan has launched the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and Mobile application to connect with 3.12 Crore Indian Diaspora across the world.

Note: The portal web interface will be used by Indian Missions whereas the mobile app will be used by diaspora & Indian nationals. The portal will be used by MEA for sharing information on Visa, Passport & other activities like consular services, conducting surveys and news about events organised by missions. It will also connect the Indian diaspora community to connect them to new & existing Government schemes.

2. National Metrology Conclave 2020 was organized in **New Delhi**.

Note: The theme of the conclave is 'Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated the conclave.

3. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' laid the foundation stone of the buildings for School of Engineering and Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship in **Jawaharlal Nehru University**.

Note: Pokhriyal expressed his delight at the naming the School of Management after late Atal Bihari Vajpayee,

who was not only a visionary Prime Minister of India, but an inspiring author too.

4. Hubballi, Karnataka railway station is set to get the "world's longest railway platform" of 1500 plus meters' length and 10 meters width.

Note: The construction of the platform is done with an expenditure of Rs. 90 core for remodeling of wards, building work, signalling, third entrance construction, electrical and other related works. This project is a part of doubling between Hubballi and Bengaluru which is underway since November 2019.

5. 4th Global Ayurveda Festival 2021 (GAF2021) will be organized in **Kerala**.

Note: The event, which showcases Ayurveda as a global treatment programme, will serve as a meeting place for those working towards this goal around the world. The festival, which was scheduled to be held in Angamaly from May 16 to 20 last year was postponed due to COVID-19.

6. Under chairmanship of R P Tiwari the University Grants Commission has set up a 7-member committee to look at the possibility and review the feasibility of holding the Common Entrance Test at undergraduate level from the next academic year in central universities.



- Note:** The committee is headed by Raghavendra P Tiwari, Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Punjab. If CET is implemented, the National Testing Agency (NTA) will be responsible to conduct this test and a common exam for a discipline at least twice a year for admission to Central universities.
7. 1.9 Km long Feni Bridge also known as Maitree Setu will connect which **Tripura** state with Bangladesh scheduled to be operational soon.
Note: It provides access to the Chittagong seaport and is all set to be opened in a few months. Its construction was started in 2017 but it got delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic. The bridge has been taken over by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), the project execution authority which will recheck the safety standard of the work.
 8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation for **six** Light House Projects (LHPs).
Note: These will be developed as a part of the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) initiative under which 1,000 houses at each location are to be constructed in a year (12 months), using six distinct technologies. GHTC-India aims to adopt innovative technologies in the housing construction sector.
 9. The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** (FSSAI) has capped the amount of trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils and fats to **3%** for 2021.
Note: The country's food regulatory body notified the amendment on December 29, more than a year after it issued a draft on the subject for consultation with stakeholders. The revised regulation applies to edible refined oils, vanaspati (partially hydrogenated oils), margarine, bakery shortenings, and other mediums of cooking such as vegetable fat spreads and mixed fat spreads. Trans fats are associated with increased risk of heart attacks and death from coronary heart disease.
 10. The five day long 'National Folk Dance Festival' 2020 was held in **Jammu**.
Note: A 5 day long 'National Folk Dance Festival' was held in Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory-JKUT) from December 26, 2020. It was organised by the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala (Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India) jointly with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.
 11. The DRDO has signed an MoU with **Maha Metro** Rail Corporation to render technical support to implement the advanced biodigester Mk II technology to treat human waste in Metro Rail Network.
Note: The MoU was signed by Dr DK Dubey, Director DRDE, Gwalior and Atul Gadgil, Director, Maha-Metro Rail Corporation Limited, Pune, as per an official release. DRDO's biodigester is an indigenous, green and cost-effective technology, with a rare distinction of having one of the largest numbers of DRDO-licencees (ToT holders).
 12. Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', virtually laid foundation stone for India's first Test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems in **IIT Hyderabad**.
Note: Department of Science & Technology, Government of India sanctioned INR 135 Crore to IIT Hyderabad under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to establish 'TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad'. An area of 2 acres of land has been allocated in IIT Hyderabad campus for the setting up of a hub. 'TiHAN Foundation' was incorporated as a Section-8 company by the institute in June 2020.
 13. India flagged off the 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (40-ISEA) from **Mormugao Port, Goa**.
Note: The Expedition will have 43 members and the chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasily Golovnin will take the team to Antarctica. On return, the vessel will bring back the members of the 39th Expedition. The Ministry of Earth Science launched the expedition. National Centre for Polar & Ocean Research (NCPOR), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is the implementation agency of the Indian Antarctic Programme.
 14. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurated India's 1st of its kind Migrant Worker Cell at **Surat, Gujarat**.
Note: An initiative of Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) it aims to help Migrants from Odia & other parts of the country working in different industries of Surat. The cell will be based at iLab, Udhna, Surat and has been created under the 'National Urban Livelihood Mission Scheme'.
 15. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission signed an MoU with **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** to supply of 1,72,000 cotton durries every year.
Note: The agreement has been signed for one year which will be renewed thereafter. The development comes after Home Minister Amit Shah gave instructions to the paramilitary forces to encourage local products to support the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The cotton durries will be produced by Khadi artisans in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab.
 16. In collaboration with the Global Educational Research Association (GERA) **Central University of Punjab, Bathinda** has organized the Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON 2020', inaugurated by the Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.
Note: This two-day International Conference is being organized by Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) in collaboration with the Global Educational Research Association (GERA). The focal theme of



- EDUCON-2020 is “Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Restore Global Peace”.
17. The government of India has formulated a New Industrial Development Scheme for Union Territories **Jammu and Kashmir**.
Note: The government of India has formulated a New Industrial Development Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir (J&K IDS, 2021) as the Central Sector Scheme for the Development of Industries in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The main purpose of the scheme is to generate employment which directly leads to the socio-economic development of the area.
 18. Under chairmanship of **G Kishan Reddy** the Union Government has decided to form a committee to find a solution to issues associated with preservation of Ladakh’s land, culture and language.
Note: A 10-member delegation from Ladakh met Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday. The delegation is learnt to have expressed concern over threat to the region’s unique culture, language and demography due to recent changes brought about by the Centre to the status of the region. The delegation included former MPs Thiksay Rinpoche and Thupstan Chhewang, former BJP minister Chering Dorjay, Leh chief executive councillor Tashi Gyalson and sitting BJP MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal.
 19. The Central government has sanctioned Rs 37.87 crore for the facelift of Parshuram Kund pilgrimage site located in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: Parshuram Kund is one of the most sacred places in the country which is visited by a large number of pilgrims throughout the year and thousands of people take a holy dip in the Lohit river during Makar Sankranti. It is expected to boost the livelihood of the locals & socio-economic development of the area.
 20. The theme of Virtual International Akhand Conference ‘EDUCON 2020’ -- **Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Restore Global Peace**.
Note: The focal theme of EDUCON-2020 was Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Restore Global Peace. This two-day International Conference is being organized by Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) in collaboration with the Global Educational Research Association (GERA).
 21. **Ajit Doval** represented India in the Annual India and France Strategic Dialogue 2021 to discuss regional and global issues.
Note: The key focus areas of discussions were Covid-19 vaccines, cooperation within the Indo-Pacific area, nuclear, space, maritime safety, environment, digital economy, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity and defence sectors. The last edition of the Strategic Dialogue was held in February 2020 in Paris, France. It is held with the two countries as alternating as hosts.
 22. Public sector company **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to establish Clean & Energy Efficient Interventions at NHAI Establishments.
Note: EESL will set up Solar Power Projects, energy efficient LED lighting and EV Charging stations at NHAI establishments. The MoU was signed in the presence of Rajeev Sharma, Chairman, EESL & RK Pandey, Member-Projects, NHAI.
 23. **Amit Shah** has launched the launched ‘Single Window Clearance System’ for coal mines.
Note: The platform is expected to ease the process of obtaining clearances for the smooth operationalisation of coal mines. It will help in reducing the time taken to grant approvals in the sector. The Unified platform will reduce the need for companies to approach different for operationalisation of coal mines, which is the main cause for delay.
 24. India’s rank in the Henley Passport Index 2021 released by Henley & Partners, based on the exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) -- **85th**.
Note: Last year, India held 84th position. Indian passport got a score of 58, which means Indian passport holders get to visit 58 countries without prior visa. India shared the rank with Tajikistan. Japan, once again topped the list with a visa-free score of 191. The nation has been holding the position for three consecutive years, either solely or jointly, with Singapore. This year, Singapore sits at the second position with 190 countries.
 25. Bharti Airtel signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)**.
for the digital transformation of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in order to achieve the goal of “Atma Nirbhar Bharat”.
Note: With this MSMEs will be served with business automation and connectivity needs viz. data/voice connectivity, marketing solutions, cloud security and collaboration. Under this assistance, NSIC aggregates services of various technology providers as per the needs of MSME.
 26. India’s rank in the Arton Capital Passport Index 2021 -- **61st**.
Note: Sweden, Finland and Spain all ranked second, with a mobility score of 133. While all the passport holders of all the three countries require visas for 65 countries, the Swedish passport holders can go to 99 countries without requiring a visa, and to 34 countries on a visa-on-arrival



arrangement. Passports of Denmark, Norway, Switzerland and New Zealand ranked at the third place, with all the countries having a mobility score of 132, requiring a visa for 66 countries.

- 27. Subhash Chandra Khuntia** will head the 'Health Insurance Advisory Committee' set up by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) to examine the availability of health insurance products in the country.

Note: The expert committee will be headed by IRDAI Chairperson, Subhash Chandra Khuntia and will have a Member (Non-Life) as the vice-chairperson. The committee, which has a term of one year.

- 28. Under Preeti Pant** chairmanship the Health and Family Welfare Ministry has set up a committee to examine the adverse findings from the National Family Health Survey-5.

Note: The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has set up a technical expert group to examine the adverse findings from the National Family Health Survey-5 and "recommend programmatic and policy interventions to improve" indicators pertaining to malnutrition, stunting, anaemia, and C-section. The committee is chaired by Joint Secretary Preeti Pant and includes experts from medicine and nutrition. There are also State programme officers from Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

December 2020

- 1. M Venkaiah Naidu** chaired the 19th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Governments held recently.
- Note:** The Summit ended with the adoption of the Joint Communique. During the meet he launched the first ever SCO Online Exhibition on Shared Buddhist Heritage. It was launched during the 19th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government.

- 2. India's** ranked at **8th** in the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2020.

Note: India recorded 277 Deaths, 439 Injuries & 558 Incidents due to Terrorism in 2019. Regionally, South Asia was the most impacted region by terrorism in 2019, recording more deaths than any other region. Also, globally the deaths caused due to terrorism fell by 15 per cent to 13,286 in 2019 over 2018.

- 3. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** will chair the high-level inter-ministerial Apex committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA) constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Note: The purpose of AIPA is to generate a coordinated response on climate change matters that ensures India is on track towards meeting its obligations under the Paris Agreement including its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Senior officials from fourteen ministries will serve as members to AIPA who will oversee the progress in implementation of India's NDC and receive periodic information updates to monitor, review and revisit climate goals to fulfil the requirements of the Paris Agreement.

- 4. According to The International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN) Dairy Processors Report 2020** the position of AMUL as the Milk Processor globally is **8th**.

Note: The rankings are based on the parameters of Milk Intake per annum. Amul has reported an intake of

10.3 Billion Kg of Milk annually, it is more than double growth from the 4.54 Billion Kg of Milk Intake reported by Amul in 2013.

- 5. Reliance Industries Ltd** has topped the Fortune 500 list of Indian companies list of 2020.

Note: Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, bagged the second spot, followed by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at the third. The country's largest lender State Bank of India was in the fourth position, while India's second-biggest fuel retailer Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) took the fifth spot.

- 6. 7th** edition of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Conclave 2020 was held in **Hyderabad**.

Note: It was organized by UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR) in collaboration with 3 state governments – Telangana, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka. Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Biswabhusan Harichandan participated as the Chief Guest of the Conclave.

- 7. India's** first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol developed by **Indian Oil Corporation Limited**.

Note: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan launched India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol through video conferencing. The high octane premium grade petrol being marketed under the brand XP-100 will be made available in 10 cities across the country including the national capital in the first phase.

- 8. Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu** virtually released a commemorative postage stamp in honour of late Prime Minister **IK Gujral**.



- Note:** I K Gujral was the 12th Prime Minister of India, he served as the Prime Minister from April 1997-March 1998. During his tenure as India's External Affairs Minister, I K Gujral laid a set of five principles – 'Gujral Doctrine' to guide the conduct of foreign relations with India's immediate neighbours.
9. **Boris Johnson (PM UK)** will be the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January 2021.
Note: India has invited U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson as chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January 2021 and a decision on this is awaited from London. If Johnson accepts the invite, he would become the first British prime minister to grace the parade at Rajpath in nearly three decades. The last British prime minister at the Republic Day parade was John Major in 1993.
10. Arjun Munda e-launches "Virtual Aadi Mahotsav in **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: Videos showcasing different aspects of their culture – music, dance etc, will also be shared. In essence, it will still be a celebration of the tribes and their diverse, varied lifestyle but on a different platform.
11. **Gwalior and Orchha** in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of UNESCO's world heritage cities under its urban landscape city programme.
Note: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), an agency of the United Nations, aims at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture. After getting included in the heritage city list, the face of Gwalior and Orchha will totally change and UNESCO along with the state tourism department will make a master plan for the beautification of the two places.
12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated metro rail project in **Agra** recently through video conferencing.
Note: The project consists of two corridor connecting the major tourist attractions with railway stations and bus stand. This metro project, worth over Rs 8,000 crore, will strengthen the mission related to the establishment of smart facilities in Agra.
13. "**Inclusive Innovation-Smart, Secure, Sustainable**" is the theme of the India Mobile Congress 2020 organized by the Department of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India.
Note: The Department of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India are organizing the Indian Mobile Congress. It was organized under the theme "Inclusive Innovation-Smart, Secure, Sustainable". The Congress is to be held between December 8, 2020 and December 10, 2020.
14. India ranked at 10th position in the 'Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2021'.
Note: The overall score of India is 63.98. It is for the second time in a row that India emerged among the top 10 countries with higher climate performance from among 58 economies. India was at 9th spot last year in the index. Like CCPI 2020, the first three places in 2021 ranking also remains unoccupied, since none of the countries is on the path compatible with the Paris climate targets, to implement strategies to limit global warming below 2 or even 1.5°C.
15. The Union Minister of state for tourism and culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the Association of Buddhist Tour Operators International Convention in **New Delhi**.
Note: The convention is to be held in partnership with Ministry of Tourism. During the inauguration ceremony the Minister made the following announcements
- The Swadesh Darshan scheme and PRASAD Yojana was launched to develop the tourism industry in the country.
 - Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, more than 350 crores of Rupees have been sanctioned for the development of Buddhist sites
 - More than 900 crores of Rupees have been sanctioned under the PRASAD scheme
16. The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Koliwar Bridge built over Sone river in Bihar.
Note: The bridge was constructed at an expense of 256 crores of rupees. The existing two-Lane Bridge over the river for both road and rail traffic is 138 years old. The Bridge has been replaced which includes three lanes of carriageway. The bridge will up subsequently reduce the traffic on NH-30 and on NH -922. It is all major link between Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
17. The fifth India Water Impact Summit was organized by **National Mission for Clean Ganga & Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies**.
Note: The Summit is being organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies. The Summit will disseminate and discuss the need for modalities of embracing Ganga. Also, it will act as a common platform for the investors and stakeholders in the water sector. The Summit will promote International



- cooperation between India and several other foreign countries for river management.
18. The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of new Parliament building in New Delhi. The project is expected to be completed by **2022**.
Note: The construction cannot begin for now with the Supreme Court hearing petitions challenging the project on environmental grounds. Last week, the Supreme Court had berated the government, accusing it of "pushing forward aggressively" with the project even before its decision on the petitions. "You can lay the foundation stone, you can carry on paperwork but no construction or demolition, no cutting down any trees,
 - 19. The second TCGA-Cancer Genome Atlas 2020 conference was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The conference brought together scientists and clinicians from all over the world to jointly establish the Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA). Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) aims to create an indigenous, open-source and comprehensive database to collect molecular profiles of all prevalent cancers in the Indian population.
 - 20. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Austria on Technology Cooperation in the Road Infrastructure Sector.
Note: It was signed by the Additional Secretary, MoRTH Shri K.C. Gupta and the Ambassador of Austria Brigitte Oppinger-Walchshofer in New Delhi. The MoU will cover Road Transportation, Road/Highways infrastructure development, management and administration, Road safety and Intelligent Transport Systems between both countries.
 - 21. Mumbai ranked first in the Urban Quality of Life (UQoL) Index 2020 released by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B).
Note: In accordance to this, Mumbai (Maharashtra) tops the index followed by Delhi, Kolkata (West Bengal) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) by providing Highest Quality of Life while Bihar's capital city Patna provides poorest quality of life to its people. Notably, this is for the first time the index has considered the factor of gender parity under which Chennai is named as the most women-friendly city while Patna stood last.
 - 22. India ranked at **9th** position in global spam calls in the 4th Edition of Global Insights Report for 2020 released by Truecaller.
Note: This was a drop for India in the rankings, which indicates spam calls actually fell this year in the country. Truecaller's report also revealed another interesting fact during the three months of lockdown: In India calls to emergency services spiked by 148% at the beginning of the lockdown.
 - 23. **SJVN Limited** has signed an MoU with Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited for green energy projects.
Note: As per the MoU, IREDA will provide services to SJVN for development of Green Energy Projects, and help SJVN in devising an action plan to create and acquire Renewable Energy Projects for the next 5 years. As part of the MoU, IREDA will undertake Techno-Financial due diligence (identifying suitable technology for particular project sites) for the projects of SJVN.
 - 24. The Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX), a \$9 billion initiative has been launched by **Asian Development Bank**.
Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched a USD 9 billion vaccine initiative that will offer support to its developing member economies to procure and deliver COVID-19 vaccines. The Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) provides a comprehensive framework and resource envelope for supporting developing Asia's vaccine access, using two complementary components.
 - 25. National Centre for Divyang Empowerment has been inaugurated in **Hyderabad**.
Note: This is first of its kind establishment to re-skill and rehabilitate the Divyang Warriors of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) who suffered life threatening injuries in line of duty.
 - 26. **NITI Aayog** releases white paper titled 'Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India'.
Note: It lays out India's vision for public health surveillance through the integration of 3-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat, along with the need for expanded referral networks and enhanced laboratory capacity.
 - 27. **Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)** has signed an agreement with cGanga, a think-tank of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, for development of sludge management framework in India.
Note: This was announced during the 5th India Water Impact Summit 2020. The event is co-organised by National Mission for Clean Ganga and Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies.
 - 28. To commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 2022, the Union Culture Ministry was planning to set up a museum in **Kolkata**.



- Note:** A museum on Bose was “proposed to be set up in Kolkata as a part of commemorations and that the current museum at Red Fort, New Delhi is also proposed to be expanded. The GoI is also planning to reprint some of the books written by Netaji. The Netaji museum in New Delhi is also to be expanded.
- 29.** India’s rank in the recently released United Nations’ Human Development Index 2020 -- **131st**.
Note: For the first time, the United Nations Development Programme introduced a new metric to reflect the impact caused by each country’s per-capita carbon emissions and its material footprint, which measures the amount of fossil fuels, metals and other resources used to make the goods and services it consumes. Norway, which tops the HDI, falls 15 places if this metric is used, leaving Ireland at the top of the table.
- 30.** A dedicated control centre for Space Situational Awareness (SSA) activities in the country has been set up in **Bengaluru**.
Note: ISRO SSA Control Centre, 'NETRA', is set up within the ISTRAC campus at Peenya. The control centre is envisaged to function as a hub of all SSA activities within India.
- 31.** Indian city **Mumbai** ranked first in the Urban Quality of Life (UQoL) Index 2020 released by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B).
Note: In accordance to this, Mumbai (Maharashtra) tops the index followed by Delhi, Kolkata (West Bengal) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) by providing Highest Quality of Life while Bihar’s capital city Patna provides poorest quality of life to its people. Notably, this is for the first time the index has considered the factor of gender parity under which Chennai is named as the most women-friendly city while Patna stood last.
- 32.** India’s first Zoological Park to acquire ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification -- **Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad**.
Note: HYM International Certifications Pvt Ltd, accredited by the ASCB, recently reviewed the ISO 9001: 2015 certification. The basis of assessment was sanitisation, food processing, animal breeding, medicare, animal care, hygiene maintenance and establishment. Notably, the number of tigers and Indian Gaur were also increased at the Nehru Zoological Park.
- 33.** Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) & Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) announced partnership with **Google** company to reduce the digital skill gap in India’s auto dealership sector.
- Note:** The main focus of the partnership is to empower Indian dealerships through adoption of digital tools and platforms to engage with customers in post-COVID era. Training will be provided under the topics of Digital Marketing, Hyper Local Marketing & Full Funnel Strategy. This is Google India’s first-of-its-kind initiative to help the dealer fraternity and support them in this necessary transition.
- 34.** The networking and communication company Ericsson released a report “The Ericsson Mobility Report 2020” which estimated India’s 5G connection to surpass 350 million by **2026**.
Note: The report also notified India’s first 5G connection to be rolled out by 2021. More than 15% of the world’s population (1 billion people) will live in areas under 5G coverage. 60% of the global population (3.5 billion) will use 5G connections with 5G subscriptions by 2026
- 35.** According to the **2020 Global Status Report** for Buildings and Construction released by Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, the Building & Construction sector accounted for **38%** of CO₂ emissions.
Note: This is the 5th Edition of the Annual Report. GlobalABC was launched at COP21 (2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference) and is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- 36.** India’s rank in the ‘Human Freedom Index 2020: A Global Measurement of Personal, Civil, and Economic Freedom’ -- **111th**.
Note: It is the sixth Annual Report released by Cato Institute of United States & Fraser Institute in Canada. New Zealand topped the index followed by Switzerland. India was ranked 110th in terms of personal freedom and 105 on economic freedom. The index put China at 129th, Bangladesh at 139th and Pakistan at 140th rank.
- 37.** India’s rank in the corrected ‘Doing Business’ 2020 report -- **63rd**.
Note: The World Bank has come out with a corrected Doing Business ranking following review of data irregularities. The WB has lowered China’s ranking by 7 notches. The WB also corrected the rankings of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan. The ranking of Azerbaijan has been improved to 28 from 34.
- 38.** **Amit Shah** will head the committee constituted by the central government to celebrate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose’s 125th birth anniversary.
Note: The committee will include experts, historians, authors, and family members of Netaji, as well as



- eminent personalities associated with his Azad Hind Fauj and Indian National Army. The committee will lend guidance to the commemorative activities in Delhi, Kolkata and other places associated with Netaji and the Azad Hind Fauj in India as well as overseas.
- 39. Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI)** has decided to establish the “Dr F C Kohli Centre of Excellence for Advanced Research in Mathematical and Computing Sciences.
Note: With a committed donation of Rs 10 crore towards the establishment of the centre, the institute will raise funds from corporates, community groups, colleagues and wellwishers to further augment the corpus. FC Kohli, known as the architect of the Indian IT industry, passed away on November 26 at the age of 96.
- 40.** As per the ‘Status of Leopard in India 2018’ report, released by Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar, the population of leopard in India has increased by **60 per cent**.
Note: More than 60 per cent increase in population has been recorded over the previous estimate which was conducted in 2014. The States of MP (3,421), Karnataka (1783) and Maharashtra (1690) have recorded the highest leopard estimates.
- 41.** The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has launched a multilingual call centre for aquafarmers in **Andhra Pradesh** state.
Note: The call centre primarily caters to aqua farmers of Andhra Pradesh, the state that contributes more than 60 per cent of the country’s marine products export basket. The call centre can also handle calls in English and Hindi.
- 42.** Homegrown data storage and management platform DigiBoxx has been launched by **NITI Aayog**.
Note: India now has its own cloud storage platform, DigiBoxx. A potential alternative to Google Drive, Dropbox, and Microsoft OneDrive, the indigenous cloud service is seen as a step that furthers the initiative of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat.’ The homegrown data storage and management platform has been launched by NITI Aayog and it will provide affordable services to both regular users as well as businesses. Without revealing any technical details, the company said that all the data will be encrypted and stored in servers in India. The cloud storage platform is available on Android and iOS and can be accessed on computers through the web. The most interesting feature of the service DigiBoxx is that it allows users to share files even when they don’t have a DigiBoxx account.
- 43.** International Gita Mahotsav 2020 was held in **Kurukshetra** city of India inaugurated by Himachal Pradesh chief minister (CM) Jai Ram Thakur.
Note: The international festival was held from 17th to 25th December, 2020. In view of the pandemic, the celebrations are subdued this time. While earlier, the extravaganza used to continue throughout the month, this time the celebrations was last for only a week.
- 44.** **Indian Navy** with Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sharing ocean services data, expertise in operational oceanography.
Note: This MoU is focused on sharing of ocean services, data, and expertise in the field of operational oceanography and the same will benefit both Indian Navy and INCOIS in furthering meaningful interactions and professional exchanges in future.
- 45.** India will host a Global Media and Film Summit in **2021**.
Note: The year 2022 will mark 75 years of independence and 75 years of Cannes Film Festival, and the occasion will be celebrated in a different scale with a special pavilion at the International Film Festival.
- 46.** India indigenously developed high horsepower locomotives and has become the country in the world to do so -- **6th**.
Note: The Indian Railways has operationalised its first 12,000 hp electric locomotive manufactured locally by French rolling stock manufacturer Alstom. The locomotive made its maiden commercial run between Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Station to Shivpu. Indian Railways’ completes five years of awarding the contract to Alstom for manufacturing the high-speed electric locomotives.
- 47.** Name the mobile application that was launched by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot to identify and geotag insanitary latrines and manual scavengers -- **“Swachhata Abhiyan”**.
Note: This app would help in rehabilitating all manual scavengers and replace insanitary latrines with sanitary ones. In the absence of any authentic data base regarding the location of insanitary latrines, it has been decided to seek the help of NGOs, Social Organisations and general public for collection and compilation of the data.
- 48.** **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched E-Sampada, a new web portal and mobile app on Good Governance Day.



Note: The new application provides a single window for all the services including allotment for over one lakh government residential accommodations, office space allotment to government organisations in 45

office complexes in 28 cities and booking of 1,176 holiday home rooms. The portal provides online facility to users across India to lodge complaints, submit documents and appear for virtual hearing.

November 2020

1. The government of India is to set up fourteen more aerodromes in the country to develop sea plane tourism in the country, the project will be implemented jointly by **The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India**.

Note: Recently, PM Modi inaugurated the seaplane service between Statue of Unity in Kevadia and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. The 14 aerodromes are being planned under UDAN scheme. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India are to implement the project jointly.

2. The Ministry of AYUSH will set up “Strategic Policy and Facilitation Bureau” with **Invest India** to facilitate systematic growth of AYUSH sector.

Note: The Bureau will help to make AYUSH systems future ready. It will support in making initiatives under the ministry to its full potential. Also, it will help to initiate the growth and investment of the AYUSH sector. Invest India and the Ministry of AYUSH will collaborate to define short- and long-term targets. Also, it will deploy trained experts to implement and execute the plans of the ministry.

3. The Ministry of Labour recently notified the draft rules for the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 to be implemented by **April, 2021**.

Note: The Industrial Relations Rules, 2020 is to supersede the Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1949, Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1954, Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rules, 1946 and Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957. Under the new Industrial Relations Rules, 2020, the establishments with more than 300 workers will have to seek Government Approval to lay 15 days in prior to the lay off of the intended actions. Earlier, the limit was 100 employees. This means the doing business is being eased under the new rules.

4. The Indian Oil Corporation Research and Development Centre signed a MoU with **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, to develop biomass gasification-based Hydrogen Generation Technology to produce Fuel Cell Grade Hydrogen at an affordable price.

Note: The technology being envisaged under the programme will provide clean energy option to address the challenge of biomass waste. The

technology is to be demonstrated at the Indian Oil Research and Development Centre at Faridabad. The hydrogen generated from this demonstration plant is to be used to power fuel cell buses of bigger projects of Indian Oil. Biomass Gasification is a process that converts biomass to hydrogen and other products without combustion.

5. **Which Tiger Reserve** has been included in the ‘World Network of Biosphere Reserves’ list of the UNESCO.

Note: This is the 12th biosphere reserve from India to be included in the ‘World Network of Biosphere Reserves’, and third from Madhya Pradesh, after Pachmarhi and Amarkantak. Currently, Panna Tiger Reserve is home to 54 tigers. The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) covers internationally designated protected areas (known as biosphere reserves) that demonstrate a balanced relationship between people and nature (like encourage sustainable development).

6. India’s first “Tyre Park” will be established in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

Note: The West Bengal Transport Corporation will launch this Tyre Park. The Tyre Park, which will come up at the Esplanade area, would have a small cafe where people can sit, relax and enjoy the craftsmanship made from tyres.

7. **Meri Saheli** initiative has been launched the Indian Railways to provide safety and security to women passengers during their train journeys.

Note: The Meri Saheli initiative has been launched by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways. A team of lady officer and staff have been formed under the new initiative, which will visit all passenger coaches of the train including ladies coaches, to identify women passengers. The team will note down their journey details like coach number and seat number, especially if a lady is travelling alone on the train.

8. Chief Justice of India, Sharad Arvind Bobde inaugurated India’s first-ever E-resource centre Nyay Kaushal in **Nagpur**.

Note: Chief Justice of India, Sharad Arvind Bobde inaugurated India’s first-ever E-resource centre Nyay Kaushal at Judicial Officers Training



- Institute in Maharashtra's Nagpur. Nyay Kaushal will facilitate e-filing of cases in Supreme Court, any High court and district courts across the country.
9. India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics** to launch 51 direct-to-home (DTH) education TV channels.
Note: Under the MoU, all the 51 DTH education channels will be available as DD co-branded channels to all DD Fresh Dish viewers. The 51 DTH channels includes Swayamprabha, E-Vidya for Class 1 to 12, DigiShala, Vande Gujarat, etc. The channels are to provide quality educational programmes to rural and remote households. These services are to available free of cost for all the viewers 24/7. This will aid the GOI to achieve its target of providing "Education to all".
 10. **Shashi S Vempati** will be the chairman of the of the committee constituted the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to review "Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India".
Note: Headed by Shashi S Vempati, CEO, Prasar Bharti, the committee will examine the different aspects of television rating systems in India and carry out any changes, if necessary. The committee will submit its report within two months from the issue of the notice.
 11. Six startups under the leadership of women have won the COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge that was launched by **MyGov** in collaboration with UN Women.
Note: COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge was hosted on the platform of MyGov. It called for the applications from the startups that are led by women as well as those startups who provide solutions to issues faced by a large number of women. COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge was implemented in two stages- Proof of Concept Stage and Ideation Stage. It also received an overwhelming response with a total of 1265 entries from all over the nation.
 12. The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to invest ₹1,810 crore for 210 MW Luhri Stage-I hydropower project to be constructed across river **Satluj**.
Note: The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to invest ₹1,810 crore for 210 MW Luhri Stage-I hydropower project. The project is to be constructed across river Satluj in Himachal Pradesh. It is being implemented by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVNL) on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) basis.
 13. Indian Railways (IR) has tied up with **Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad** to improve its operational efficiency using digital tools such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Analytics.
Note: Indian Railway will provide passengers-related data, train operations-related data, freight data and asset-related data to ISB for the analysis. After analysis, it will be used by IR in the Passenger Reservation System (PRS), introduction of new trains, and predictive asset maintenance.
 14. India holds fifth joint working group on coal with **Indonesia** where the countries discussed on Indian Coal Policy reforms, commercial mining of coal in India and coking coal exploration.
Note: During the meeting, the countries discussed on Indian Coal Policy reforms, commercial mining of coal in India and coking coal exploration. India is currently looking for opportunities to import more coal from Indonesia. This is because the coal prices in world market is declining at rapid rate. The plan is to replace coal imports destinies with Indonesia and not increase coal imports. India is to increase its coal imports from Indonesia because, the Indonesian coal prices have fallen greatly in September 2020 due to the pandemic. The prices have been declining since March 2020.
 15. **S Jai Shankar** represented India in the first India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave held virtually.
Note: The Conclave was jointly hosted by Ministry of External Affairs and Confederation of Indian Industry. The Conclave focused on clean technologies and renewable energies, Artificial Intelligence, supply chain logistics and block chain led transformation. The Nordic Baltic Eight includes Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Iceland, Norway, Lithuania and Sweden. The Baltic States are Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. These three countries are located in the Baltic sea and are fast growing economies.
 16. The Katakay Panel was set up by **National Green Tribunal** to probe the blowout, subsequent fire at an Oil India Limited (OIL) well at Baghjan in Assam which submitted its report recently.
Note: The Katakay Panel was set up by National Green Tribunal to provide a report about the accident. BP Katakay is a retired Guwahati High Court Judge. According to the panel, OIL did not have the required consent to establish, operate and carry out drilling and testing of hydrocarbons. The panel also reported that the well was deficient in planning and supervising critical operation at the well site.
 17. **Narendra Modi** chaired the Global Investor Roundtable Conference in which twenty of the world largest Sovereign Wealth Funds and pension
Note: The conference witnessed the participation of twenty of the world largest Sovereign Wealth Funds and pension. These participants owned total assets of



more than 6 billion USD. The main focus of discussion at the conference was about the vision of GoI in becoming a 5 trillion USD economy.

- 18. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** in partnership with American India Foundation, Dell Technologies and University of Mumbai has launched "Project Future Ready" to equip students with career skills.

Note: The project is set to impact over 1 lakh students in Mumbai and Delhi-NCR, of which 60 per cent are females. The project aims to provide skills development for these students through career mentoring, leveraging online skilling platforms and providing market aligned skills training for employability and inculcating entrepreneurial mind-set.

- 19. Snam** has announced multiple green energy partnerships with Adani group, Indian Oil and Greenko, paving way for its entry into the Indian market.

Note: Snam is an operator of Europe's largest natural gas transmission network. Greenko has tied up with Snam for setting up a 50-50 joint venture to develop a "green hydrogen" business. Italian firm has collaborated with the Adani Group to "envisage exploration of the hydrogen value chain in India and global markets.

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

Note: The project cost includes investment from the state govt and also from the consortium of 20 companies led by Tata Technologies. The project is expected to bring qualitative improvements in the field of industrial training and education to create an enhanced learning environment for training youth.

- 21. According to "Interstate Migrant Policy Index" (IMPEX)** released by the 'India Migration Now' **Kerala** is at the top in integrating migrant workers.

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

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

Note: The committee approved 29 projects leveraging investment of Rs 443 crores. Under the Scheme of

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

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

Note: The ministry sought comments from various stakeholders within 30 days for finalizing the rules. The government aims to implement the four labour codes from April 1, 2021. In September 2020, Parliament had approved the Three Labour Codes – Code on Industrial Relations, the Code on Social Security and the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions. The Industrial Relation (Central) Rules, 2020 will replace the Industrial Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1949, the Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1954, the Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957 and Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946.

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

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

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

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



26. The Government of India has set up a 21-member Inter-Ministerial Committee under chairmanship of **Arun Goel** to strengthen the Capital Goods (CG) sector.
Note: The committee is headed by Arun Goel, Secretary of Department of Heavy Industries, Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. The Committee will strengthen the capital goods sector. The committee will figure out the ways and means to make the CG sector globally competitive and also to become the manufacturing hub for the world.
27. **Hero MotoCorp** has signed a distribution agreement with Harley-Davidson Motor Company for Indian market, as a part of "The Rewire" a plan to change its business model in India.
Note: Under this Hero will sell and service Harley-Davidson motorcycles, parts and accessories for general merchandise through a network of exclusive Harley-Davidson dealerships and MotoCorp will develop and sell a range of premium motorcycles under the Harley-Davidson brand. In September 2020, Harley-Davidson Motor Co decided to exit India and announced the shutting down of its Manufacturing plant in Bawal, Haryana.
28. Tamil Nadu state has won the first position in the in the Union ministry of Jal Shakti's 2nd National Water Awards for 2019 under the best state (normal) category for the conservation and management of water.
Note: The Awards will be presented during the 2-day virtual ceremony on 11th and 12th November 2020 in the presence of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister for Jal Shakti and Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
29. The theme of 13th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2020 is **Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility**, held virtually from New Delhi.
Note: It was inaugurated by Minister of State-MoS (Independent Charge-IC) Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). This was the first virtual UMI conference amid COVID 19 and was also held for a day as against the usual format of three days without any exhibition.
30. Government of India issued an order to bring digital or online Media, films and audio-visual programmes, news portal and current affairs content under **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
Note: This will include OTT (over-the-top) platforms such as Netflix, Hotstar, Prime Video & Online News Portal. In order to do bring this under Ministry of I&B President amended the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. At present, there is no law or autonomous body governing digital content.
31. **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** has emerged as the lowest bidder with Rs.3166 crores for the construction of the 20 kilometer (km) 4 lane road bridge across River Brahmaputra connecting Dhubri of Assam to Phulbair of Meghalaya.
Note: This will be India's longest Bridge over a River in the northeast. National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) is the executing agency and is expected to be completed by 2026-27. This river bridge project is financed by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). This project will enable better connectivity between the Northeastern states to the rest of India.
32. According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) report, Renewables 2020 – Analysis and Forecast to 2025 by the year 2025 renewable energy will overtake coal to become the largest source of electricity generation worldwide.
Note: India will double its green energy capacity addition in 2021 compared to 2020 levels. The report has predicted a decline in Global renewable capacity addition in 2022 due to expiry of incentives and policy uncertainties. The Renewable capacity additions are on track for a record expansion of nearly 10% in 2021.
33. As per the Vital Statistics of India based on Civil Registration System, released by the Registrar General of India which is the state with highest Sex Ratio -- **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: The report mainly provides insights on Sex Ratios in various states of India. Arunachal Pradesh was the state with highest Sex Ratio. The sex ratio of the state was 1084. The state of Manipur had the least Sex Ratio of 757.
34. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled "Statue of Peace" in **Rajasthan** to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Jain Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.
Note: The 151-inch tall statue has been made from Ashtadhatu- 8 metals, with Copper being the major constituent, and is being installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Pali, Rajasthan. Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji was Jain monk born on October 26, 1870.
35. Keetham lake lake is located in **Agra** of India recently been added to the Ramsar site list.
Note: Sur Sarovar also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh has been added to the 'Ramsar



- Sites'. Sur Sarovar is the 2440th site of Ramsar site. Sur Sarovar is the 40th Ramsar Sites in India.
- 36.** Only crater lake of Country that has been added to the 'Ramsar Sites' recently -- **Lonar Lake**.
Note: Lonar lake is the 2441st Ramsar site. Lonar lake is the 41st Ramsar Sites in India. With the inclusion of this wetland, the total number of Ramsar Sites in India is 41, the highest in South Asia.
- 37. Ministry of Finance** gave its nod for the creation of the first ever "National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)" with an expected outlay of Rs 650 crore.
Note: In this regard, Ministry of Labour & Employment has envisaged development of NDUW seeded with Aadhaar. This project will include migrant workers also and the benefits to be provided through this database will encourage them to enroll on the website.
- 38.** The Energy Efficiency Services Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Goa's** Department of New and Renewable Energy to set up first convergence project of India to generate Green Energy for agriculture and rural areas.
Note: According to the agreement, the first convergence project of India to generate Green Energy for agriculture and rural areas is to be set up in Goa. The project is to focus on energy solutions that are evolved based on the concepts that combine climate change, renewable energy and Artificial Intelligence.
- 39. Mumbai** has become the first city in the country with a gender-specific city's urban plan which has provisions for designated spaces for the needs of women.
Note: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has added a chapter titled 'Gender, Special Groups and Social Equity' under the Revised Draft Development Plan (RDDP) 2034. The plan proposed "departure from gender blindness to gender mainstreaming".
- 40. Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), New Delhi** has become the first airport in Asia Pacific Region to get the Level 4+ Transition – carbon accreditation.
Note: The airport was accredited under ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation program for its works in aligning its carbon management with global climate goals to reach net zero emission reduction. The Airport is owned and operated by GMR Group.
- 41.** Indian city **Bhubaneswar** becomes the First City in the Country to get ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 9001:2015 Certification for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) services.
Note: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) was the first civic body to implement FSSM regulations in Odisha. Jenaidah is the first city in the world to get ISO certification for FSSM. Bhubaneswar is 2nd in the world and 1st city in India in this regard.
- 42. Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched the Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge, aimed to ensure that no person needs to enter a sewer or septic tank, unless absolutely unavoidable in the interest of greater public hygiene.
Note: The initiative, that promotes mechanized cleaning, also aims to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of 'hazardous' cleaning. The virtual event witnessed participation of representatives from 243 cities across the country, coming together to take a pledge to mechanize all sewer and septic tank cleaning operations by 30th April 2021.
- 43.** India's rank in the global list that measured business bribery risks of 2020 -- **77th**.
Note: India ranked 77th position in the global list that measured business bribery risks of 2020. North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea were at highest risks and Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.
- 44.** The theme of the 13th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2020 was held virtually from New Delhi -- **Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility**.
Note: It was inaugurated by Minister of State-MoS (Independent Charge-IC) Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). This was the first virtual UMI conference amid COVID 19 and was also held for a day as against the usual format of three days without any exhibition.
- 45. India** will host G20 summit in 2023.
Note: The main focus of the Summit was on resilient, inclusive and sustainable recovery from covid-19 crisis. During the Summit the leaders discussed on the preparedness of the countries in response to the pandemic. They also shared their vision on building a resilient future. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 2020 G20 summit that was held under the theme of "realising opportunities of the 21st century for all".
- 46.** The Union Information Technology Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the International version of mobile application **UMANG**.
Note: UMANG is Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance. It was launched in UK, US, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, UAE, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand. The International version was launched on the completion of three years of UMANG.



47. The name of the cyclone that hit the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry -- **Nivar**.
Note: It is to hit the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry. The National Crisis Management Committee recently reviewed the status of cyclone held through video conferencing. The committee was set up by Government of India in the wake of natural calamity.
48. The theme of the 23rd Edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2020 -- **Next is Now**.
Note: The Summit is being held completely in Virtual Platform due to Pandemic. Theme of BTS 2020 is 'Next is Now'. The BTS 2020 Summit focused on technologies and innovations in the field of 'Information Technology & Electronics' and 'Biotechnology'
49. According to Global Employability Ranking and Survey (GEURS) 2020, **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** has been ranked as the best institute in terms of employability of its students.
Note: The GEURS 2020 was released by the Times Higher Education and French HR Consultancy group 'Emerging'. Globally, India has been ranked among the 15 best-performing countries in employability, improving from its 23rd rank in 2010.
50. Food Processing minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated a mega food park (MFP) in **Punjab**.
Note: This MFP built at project cost of Rs 107.83 crores and spread over 55 acres of land is expected to benefit about 25000 farmers. Till date, 37 MFPs have been sanctioned and 20 have already started functioning
51. **VK Saraswat** will chair the Expert Committee constituted by the NITI Aayog to explore the technological and commercial viability of the Virgin Hyperloop technology for ultrahigh speed travel in India.
Note: The Virgin Hyperloop test run was conducted on a 500-meter track in Las Vegas in the USA with a pod, as the hyperloop vehicles are called, travelling with passengers, including an Indian, inside an enclosed tube at more than 100 mph or 161 kmph.
52. Two-days '80th All India Presiding Officers Conference' was held in **Kevadia, Gujarat** was inaugurated by President Ramnath Kovind and concluding session addressed by PM Narendra Modi.
Note: The two-day conference was held at Kevadia in Gujarat. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates the conference which is being attended by Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, the state's Chief Minister Vijay Rupani among others. Speaker Om Birla is also the chairperson of the conference.
53. **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) virtually.
Note: During the three-day virtual conference, all the leading companies displayed their latest technological development in the field of renewable energy and discuss various options available for energy transition. Several world leaders, Energy Ministers of 75 countries and 200 eminent speakers attended the event. The summit is organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.
54. Indian Railways collaborated with **Indian School of Business, Hyderabad** for a study on 'An Integrated Coal-Freight Optimization Model' to increase network throughput and optimize freight transportation over Indian Railways.
Note: In this regard, Letter of Agreement (LoA) was exchanged between Shiva Prasad, Principal Chief Operations Manager, South Central Railway (SCR) and Milind Sohoni, Deputy Dean, Indian School of Business. Exchange was done in the presence of Gajanan Mallya, General Manager, SCR and other senior officials of Railways & ISB at Rail Nilayam, Hyderabad, the zonal headquarters of the South Central Railway zone of the Indian Railway.
55. FLO, the women wing of the FICCI has signed an agreement with **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong** and Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre (IESC) to mentor entrepreneurs.
Note: Under this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), FICCI FLO, IESC and IIM Shillong will jointly provide guidance and mentor entrepreneurs by facilitating a nurturing, instructive and supportive environment during the initial and critical stages of starting a business, thus enabling them to reduce the initial startup costs and establish themselves in a shorter timeframe.
56. The theme of the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) -- '**Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition**'.
Note: During the three-day virtual conference, all the leading companies displayed their latest technological development in the field of renewable energy and discuss various options available for energy transition. Several world leaders, Energy Ministers of 75 countries and 200 eminent speakers attended the event. The summit is organised by the Ministry of New



- and Renewable Energy. The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.
- 57. PM Narendra Modi unveiled University of Lucknow's centennial commemorative coin of Rs.100 over a virtual platform.**
Note: He also released the commemorative stamp issued by the India Post and its cover at the event organised for the celebration of the 100th Foundation day of the University of Lucknow. Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh(UP), Anandiben Patel, Governor of UP and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is also a Lok Sabha member from Lucknow Constituency participated in the event.
- 58. Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' chaired the virtual national conference on 'Empowering Through Zero (Shunya Se Sashaktikaran)', the conference was organized by NGO Sri Aurobindo Society.**
Note: It was organised by Sri Aurobindo Society. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' honoured over 40 education officers and 26 teachers for their leadership role and innovative practices respectively during COVID-19 pandemic. He launched an e-book, 'Innovation and Leadership Casebook – Covid Edition'. It comprises the innovative efforts and work of the education officers and teachers.
- 59. Narendra Singh Tomar** has inaugurated Honey Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Programme in 5 states for producing honey.

Note: Aim: To address the issues faced by beekeeping industry and also promote honey production in the country increasing farmer's income. These 5 FPOs will be set up by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED). It will be set up at East Champaran (Bihar), Morena (Madhya Pradesh), Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) and Sunderbans (West Bengal).

- 60. Prakash Javadekar** launched the India Climate Change Knowledge Portal.
Note: The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address the climate change issues. It will be a single-point information resource that provides information on the different climate initiatives taken by various Line Ministries enabling users to access status on these initiatives.
- 61. The Government of India** has approved the construction of Song Dam Drinking Water Project worth Rs 1100 crore in **Dehradun**.
Note: This scheme will provide 24-hour drinking water to the city of Dehradun and will give a rebirth to River Rispana. It one of the most important projects of our government. Originally built on the Song River, the dam is about 148 meters high and aims to generate power up to six megawatts.

October 2020

- 1. The Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers Shri. D.V. Sadananda Gowda** has launched POS 3.1 software, SMS Gateway and Home Delivery facility of Fertilizers (RBK) for farmers in **Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: Under POS 3.1 version, keeping in view of prevailing pandemic condition, contactless OTP based authentication option has been introduced. Farmer will be able to purchase fertilizer without touching finger print sensor. The SMS Gateway will periodically send SMS to farmer about availability of fertilizer at retail outlet from where he last purchased the fertilizer.
- 2. South Eastern Railways zone** has launched the project, "Operation my Saheli" to enhance the security of women passengers in the train throughout the entire journey from the originating point to their destinations.
Note: Since 18th September 2020, The pilot version of the project "Operation my Saheli" has been introduced

in 3 trains: Howrah-Yesvantpur Durgam Special, Howrah- Ahmedabad Special and Howrah-Mumbai Special. "Operation my Saheli" is executed under the Framework of "Nirbhaya Fund" and no additional expenditure is provided by the Head of Railways.

- 3. Thaawarchand Gehlot** has launched the "Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)" to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.
Note: The mission has been launched under the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in order to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions. The Objective of this fund is to provide concessional finance to the entities of the SC entrepreneurs.
- 4. NITI Aayog and Embassy of The Netherlands in India** has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to support the decarbonization and energy transition agenda for accommodating cleaner and more energy.



- Note:** The focus of the partnership is on co-creating innovative technological solutions by leveraging the expertise of the two entities. Through this collaboration, NITI Aayog and the Dutch Embassy seek a strategic partnership to create a platform that enables a comprehensive collaboration among stakeholders and influencers, including policymakers, industry bodies, OEMs, private enterprises, and sector experts.
5. India will construct first five animal overpasses on under construction Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.
Note: These have been planned to ensure there are no disturbances to the Ranthambore Wildlife Corridor connecting Ranthambore and Mukundra (Darah) wildlife sanctuaries in Rajasthan. The plan of the animal bridges have been approved by the Central Wildlife Board. The Rajasthan Government has also approved the project.
 6. Sambhar lake will have temporary shelters for migratory birds.
Note: The Rajasthan government will build temporary shelters for migratory birds near the famous Sambhar Lake before this year's winter season, when a large number of avian guests from the cold northern regions of Central Asia are expected to arrive at the country's largest inland saline water body. More than 20,000 migratory birds had died due to avian botulism in the lake last year.
 7. **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated the virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians namely "Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit 2020".
Note: During the summit he encouraged indigenous vaccine production. The aim of the summit is to bring Indian origin experts in academic institutes and R&D organizations across the world on a single platform to debate upon collaboration mechanisms to strengthen academic and S&T (science & technology) base in India for global development
 8. SUNIDHI initiative has been launched by the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) to digitise its entire provident fund and pension related activities.
Note: CMPFO, a statutory body under the coal ministry, administers different schemes of provident fund, pension and deposit linked insurance for coal mine workers. The project was inaugurated in the virtual presence of Coal Secretary Anil Kumar Jain and Coal India (CIL) Chairman Pramod Agrawal, among others.
 9. The **Supreme Court** has constituted the Ravi Chopra Committee to look into the to assess the environmental violations in the Chardham road project.
Note: The SC appointed the HPC to oversee the dream project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi worth Rs 12000 Crore which aims to widen 889kms of road linking Chardham shrines. The Committee has alleged that the Chardham road project has violated court order. The Supreme Court had ruled that width of roads constructed under Chardham project shall be 5.5 metres. This was ruled based on the recommendation of Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH) for mountain roads.
 10. **Puducherry airport** becomes the first airport of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) which is entirely solar-powered.
Note: The 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant was commissioned on 2nd October 2020. The approx cost of the plant is Rs 2.8 crore. With becoming absolutely power-neutral, the Puducherry airport will be able to meet its entire power requirement through the solar power plant.
 11. The red cherry pepper chilli "Dalle Khursani" of Sikkim has earned the geographical indication (GI) tag from the Union department of Industry promotion and internal trade.
Note: Notably, it is considered as one of the hottest chillies in the world. Dalle Khursani fetches as much as Rs 480 per kg in the local market today. Dalle Khursani has been included in the GI Registry of the Government of India on the basis of an application filed by the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (Neramac) on behalf of Sikkim. It is to be mentioned that the largest manufacturer of Dalle Khursani products is the state government-owned Sikkim Supreme.
 12. The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC) signed an MoU with NCERT to convert educational materials into Indian Sign Language.
Note: The conversion of all education material in sign language will strengthen the concept of equal opportunity for everyone irrespective of their physical inability. The signing of MoU between ISLRTC and NCERT was attended by Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union Cabinet Minister for Education amongst other members of the NCERT, ISLRTC, and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
 13. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has entered into an MoU with Swiggy, to onboard street food



vendors on its e-commerce platform under the PM SVANidhi Scheme.

Note: The MoU aims at giving the street food vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses. The Ministry and Swiggy will run a pilot programme by on-boarding 250 vendors across five cities namely – Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Indore, and Varanasi.

14. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the strategically important Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh.

Note: The 9.02 Kilometre Long Tunnel has been constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of INR 3, 300 crores. It connects Manali and Lahaul-Spiti Valley. The Tunnel is built in the Pir Panjal Range of Himalayas at an altitude of 3000 Meters (10, 000 Feet) from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).

15. The tribal unit of the National Institute of Naturopathy was inaugurated in Pune.

Note: It would provide free clinical services to the tribal population in the area. A research unit on tribal practices for health maintenance had also been set up and it will be a “repository of knowledge and will work in areas of education, nutrition and health problems of the tribal population”.

16. Ajay Kumar Bhalla will chair the screening panel constituted by the government of India to vet all Chinese foreign investment proposals.

Note: More than 100 proposals involving foreign direct investment (FDI) from China are pending. The screening panel is headed by the home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla and has the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) secretary as a member.

17. Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode will soon be launching an e-learning hub and library as a pilot project for villagers.

Note: The programme aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and academic system by providing knowledge and practices for the emerging professions. Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan is a flagship programme by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan is aimed at linking the Higher Education Institutions with a set of at least five villages.

18. India's premium cotton has been named as Kasturi Cotton.

Note: Now India's premium cotton would be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton trade. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness. India is the second largest cotton

producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world. It produces about six million tonnes of cotton every year which is about 23 per cent of the world cotton. She said, India produces about 51 per cent of the total organic cotton production of the world.

19. PM Narendra Modi launches physical distribution of property cards under SVAMITVA which scheme.

Note: Under this scheme, beneficiaries of 'SVAMITVA Scheme' can use the property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits. SVAMITVA Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme on National Panchayat Day 24th April 2020. In the States, the Revenue Department /Land Records Department are the Nodal Department and shall carry out the scheme with the support of State Panchayati Raj Department.

20. PM Narendra Modi will release a commemorative coin of 100 rupees in honour of **Vijaya Raje Scindia**.

Note: One of the founder members of BJP, Vijaya Raje Scindia is popularly known as the Rajmata of Gwalior. The coin is being released in celebration of birth centenary of Vijaya Raje Scindia. The special commemorative coin was minted by the Finance Ministry as a part of these celebrations. This coin will be released by the Prime Minister on her birth anniversary.

21. India ranked at 155th in the health spending index 2020 released by Oxfam.

Note: Globally, the report found, only 26 of the 158 countries surveyed were spending the recommended 15% of their budgets on health. “Nigeria, Bahrain and India, (the last of) which is currently experiencing the world's fastest-growing outbreak of Covid-19, were among the world's worst performing countries in tackling inequality going into the pandemic

22. India ranked at 129th among 158 countries in the 2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index.

Note: According to the report, India has spent only 4 percent of its budget on health during the Pandemic, which is the Fourth Lowest in the world. Nigeria, Bahrain and India are among the World's worst performing countries in tackling inequality during the pandemic. With 4% of Budget on Health, India has been ranked at 155 (4th from the Bottom) on the health spending index.

23. The National Maritime foundation of India joined hand with Taiwan to foster cooperation in the Indo-pacific region.

Note: The think tanks will set up a joint task force to deepen the bilateral dialogue in the Indo-pacific region. They will also conduct joint Research and expand cooperation. The Asia exchange Foundation is waiting



- for the covid-19 travel restrictions to get over in order to send a delegation to India to hold direct talks. The foundation is the organiser of the Yushan Forum.
- 24.** NITI Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) jointly launched the India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF) under the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP).
Note: IEMF aims to engage Indian researchers, knowledge partners, think tanks and national and international government agencies and departments for long-term energy planning. The Sustainable Growth is one of the four pillars of the US-India SEP entailing energy data management, energy modelling and collaboration on low carbon technologies as three key activities.
- 25.** **Harish Kumar** is heading the committee constituted by the Election Commission of India to examine the expenditure limit of candidates contesting in Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections.
Note: The two-member committee will examine the expenditure limit of candidates contesting in Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections. The need to increase expenditure has come up due to the increase in the size of electorate and increasing inflation. Previously the expenditure ceiling of a candidate was revised in 2014.
- 26.** The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the Anaemia Mukht Bharat index in association with Intergovernmental organization UNICEF.
Note: The anaemia Mukht Bharat is an initiative to reduce the prevalence of anaemia in India. Haryana topped the anaemia free India index or the anaemia Mukht Bharat Index with a score of 46.7. The index was released during the eighth governing body meeting of National Health Mission in Chandigarh.
- 27.** AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the Regional Raw Drug Repository in **All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi**.
Note: This RRDR is the second in the series of repositories proposed by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB). AYUSH Ministry has said that there is an increased demand for the natural healing and herbal products across the globe which has been further pushed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- 28.** **Injeti Srinivas** is the chairperson of the IFSCA Expert Committee that submitted its second interim report to the chairperson of International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
Note: It was an IFSCA Expert Committee that was constituted to study about the international retail business development in IFSC. The committee as constituted to make recommendations on promoting international retail business in IFSC (International Financial Service Centre).
- 29.** Recently, the **Mumbai police** registered a **TRP scam case against** certain news channel after ratings agency BARC (**Broadcast Audience Research Council**) filed a complaint with the police.
Note: The alleged scam came to light when ratings agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) filed a complaint with the police, alleging that certain channels were rigging TRP numbers to lure advertisers. It was alleged that some families at whose houses metres for collecting data of viewership were installed were being bribed to tune into a particular channel.
- 30.** **Surat** city with the longest BRTS corridor in the country.
Note: With this, Surat became the city with the longest BRTS corridor in the country. After the unveiling of the seven km long BRTS corridor from Kumbharia to Kadodara, the BRTS corridor in the city has become 108 running km.
- 31.** **Mandi** district has bagged top position among 30 districts of the country in the successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
Note: Himachal Pradesh's, Mandi district has bagged top position among 30 districts of the country in the successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Himachal Pradesh has also secured the second position at the national level for construction of roads under PMGSY.
- 32.** **Rajiv Kumar** will head 14-members panel constituted by the NITI Aayog to look into introducing reforms in the urban planning education system.
Note: The panel will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar. The members of the committee include Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog and secretaries of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- 33.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana' an electricity scheme for farmers in **Gujarat**.
Note: It is a scheme for providing 16 Hours of Power Supply to Farmers, providing day-time power supply needed by farmers for irrigation. The Farmers will get 3 Phase Power Supply from 5 AM to 9 PM. Gujarat Government has allocated a budget INR 3500 Crore for installing infrastructure under this scheme by 2023.



- 34.** India's rank in Ookla Speedtest Global Index that ranks nation on the basis of Global Mobile Internet Speed-- **131st**.
Note: India was ranked 121 in 2019 in this index. South Korea has topped the list with an average mobile internet speed of 121.00 Mbps. Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Nepal ranked higher on the list at 102, 116, and 117 respectively.
- 35.** TCS has partnered with IIT Kharagpur to develop novel Industry 4.0 technology.
Note: IIT Kharagpur has partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to develop novel Industry 4.0 technology for remotely controlled factory operations. This will provide setting a new trend in India's advanced manufacturing sector
- 36. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has launched 'e-Dharti Geo Portal'.
Note: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched 'e-Dharti Geo Portal' to integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system and make its geographic information system (GIS)-enabled.
- 1.** The Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh pokhriyal Nishank inaugurated the DST-IIEST Solar PV Hub in **West Bengal**.
Note: It aims to have world-class research facility. It will act as a central node for dissemination of knowledge in the field of solar energy, research and development, fabrication, solar photovoltaics, solar PV module, testing of solar cells and Solar PV systems. The hub provides great boost for the eastern and North Eastern regions of India.
- 37. PM Narendra Modi** to head the committee formed to commemorate 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur.
Note: PM Narendra Modi will be heading a high level 70 member committee to commemorate 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur. The committee will work to formulate and approve policies, plans, programmes and will look after supervision and guidance for commemoration, deciding broad dates for the programme.
- 38. NITI Aayog** has released the "Electricity access in India and benchmarking distribution utilities" report.
Note: The report says that 92% of customers received electricity infrastructure within 50 metres of their premises. Around 87% of the customers had access to grid-based electricity. Reminding 13% were those who either used non grid sources or did not use electricity at all.
- 39.** Under construction 8.1 Km long Feni Bridge will connect Indian state **Tripura** with Bangladesh to be completed by December 2020.
Note: The bridge is to be built over Feni river. It will link Tripura with Bangladesh. The construction of the bridge began in December 2010. After completion, the bridge will be the only land link between India's eastern states and its western states other than Assam.
- 40.** The Shipping Ministry has launched 'Direct Port Entry Facility' at **V.O. Chidambaranar port, Tuticorin**.
Note: The modern Direct Port Entry would allow direct movement of containers from mills to the container terminal round the clock, without in-between handling at CFSs. The facility is launch in an area of 18,357 sq. meters inside the truck parking terminal that was created under 'Sagarmala' for issuing customs permission of export cargo such as mills stuffed and e-sealed containers.
- 41. M Venkaiah Naidu** has launched the virtual festival of "Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance" organised by Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations.
Note: Natya Tarangini has been organising this for the past 23 years. This dance and music festival as the normal life has been disrupted by lockdowns, economic downturns and lack of social interaction caused by the pandemic.
- 42.** Tech giant **Microsoft** has collaborated with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to impart digital skills to more than one lakh underserved women in India over the next 10 months.
Note: As part of the collaboration, more than 70 hours of course content will be made available free of cost, covering topics such as digital literacy, enhancing employability, nano entrepreneurship, and communication skills. This initiative is an extension of Microsoft's partnership with NSDC to provide digital skills to over 1 lakh youth in the country.
- 43.** Indian IT firm **Infosys** has turned carbon neutral thirty years ahead of the 2050 timeline set by the Paris Agreement.
Note: Over the past years, Infosys said it has reduced its per capita electricity consumption by over 55% with the ambition to transition to renewable energy. Infosys was also India's first signatory to the RE100, a global initiative by companies committed to using 100% renewable energy.

September



1. According to the annual National Crime Records Bureau report the maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported from **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The cases of suicide and the number of accidental deaths registered an increase across the country last year compared to 2018, according to the annual National Crime Records Bureau report. The maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported from Tamil Nadu (16), followed by Andhra Pradesh (14), Kerala (11) and Punjab (9) and Rajasthan (7).
2. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract of **Rs 2580 Cr.** for supply of six Pinaka Regiments.
Note: The contract has been signed for supply of six Pinaka Regiments to the Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army and hence will enhance the operation preparedness of our Armed Forces. Induction of Six Pinaka Regiments which comprise 114 Launchers with Automated Gun Aiming & Positioning System (AGAPS); 45 Command Posts to be procured from M/s TPCL and M/s L&T and 330 Vehicles to be procured from M/s BEML, is planned to be completed by 2024.
3. **Dinesh Pant** will head the six-membered committee constituted by IRDAI on index-linked products following requests for permission from life insurers to introduce such products.
Note: It will also examine the products earlier available in the market in terms of product structure, ease of customer understanding and administrative processes and any other matter of relevance. Current IRDAI product regulations do not specifically permit insurers to sell index-linked products.
4. As per the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau **Delhi** city recorded the highest number of deaths due to dangerous driving and overall road accidents in 2019 among all cities.
Note: According to the data, a total of 1,400 persons died in road accidents and 529 persons died because of driving dangerously or carelessly in Delhi followed by Jaipur in Rajasthan where 320 persons died and Asansol in West Bengal where 301 persons died due to reckless driving. Delhi recorded the highest number of deaths due to dangerous driving and overall road accidents in 2019 among all cities, the data shared by National Crime Records Bureau showed.
5. Union Power Minister R K Singh launched the GTAM (**Green Term Ahead Market**) initiative that will lead to an increase in the number of participants in the Renewable Energy Sector.
Note: The move, that will lead to an increase in the participants in the renewable energy sector. The initiative will also help in achieving 175 GW renewable energy (RE) target of the country. It will lessen the burden on RE-rich states and incentivize them to develop RE capacity beyond their own RPO (Renewable Purchase Obligation).
6. India's rank in the 13th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 jointly released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School -- **48th**.
Note: India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT (Information and Communication Technology) services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and R&D-intensive global companies. Switzerland, Sweden, the US, the UK and the Netherlands lead the innovation ranking, and the top 5 positions are dominated by high-income countries.
7. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has decided to block **118** mobile apps in view of the emergent nature of threats.
Note: The step is expected to safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users and will also ensure safety, security and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace. 118 mobile apps have been blocked by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology by invoking its power under section 69A of the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009.
8. **Adani Green Energy Ltd.** has been ranked as World's Largest Solar Power Generation Asset Owner in terms of operating, under-construction and awarded projects by the Mercom Capital.
Note: Mercom Capital Group is a clean energy communication consulting firm. AGEL's under-construction and awarded capacity stands at 10.1 GigaWatts (GW) and its operational capacity is nearly 3 GW. AGEL's renewable energy portfolio stands at 12.32 GW, which exceeds the total capacity installed by the entire US solar industry in 2019.
9. **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation** became the first Indian Dairy Company to enter Rabobank's Annual listing of Global Dairy Top 20 Companies of 2020.
Note: Amul was ranked 16th with an annual turnover of USD 5.5 billion (approximately Rs 40,240 Crores). Switzerland's Nestle topped the list. Rabobank is a



- Dutch multinational banking and financial services company.
10. The chairman of the steering committee constituted by central government for green initiatives in the coal sector -- **VK Saraswat**.
Note: The objective behind this webinar was to discuss the road map for achieving the 100 million tonnes (MT) coal gasification target by 2030 with investments worth over Rs4 lakh crores. Notably, a Steering Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. VK Saraswat for green initiatives in the coal sector.
 11. Organization the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised a two-days long “National Tribal Research Conclave -- **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)**.
Note: The inaugural session of conclave was addressed by the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda. The National Tribal Research Conclave was organised to review the progress on the results of projects launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. 10 research partners shared their projects in the 2-days long conclave.
 12. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources with its counterpart of **Finland**.
Note: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved the MoU. The MoU facilitates cooperation in the field of geology, training, mineral prognostication and suitability analysis, Seismic and other Geophysical surveys
 13. **Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad** has developed the ‘EnglishPro’ mobile app that was launched by the Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.
Note: The app is developed by the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. The app will help learners develop Indian English Pronunciation in the unique “Indian” way. This app will be “a useful digital tool” and will act as an educational resource for the teachers, students and for people from varied backgrounds.
 14. **Mission Karmayogi** approved by the Union Cabinet which is aimed at bringing post-recruitment reforms in the Civil Services.
Note: The objective of this mission is to prepare the Indian Civil Servant for the future with right attitude, skills & knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India by focusing on competency led capacity building.
 15. **KIRAN** helpline has been launched by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry for mental health rehabilitation.
Note: The helpline was launched in view of the growing incidence of Mental Illness, particularly in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The helpline – 1800-500-0019 will provide relief and support to persons with mental illness.
 16. **Bengaluru** city tops the list of destinations for a career in Artificial Intelligence (AI).
Note: Job searches in the field have risen 106 per cent in the past year (June 2019 to June 2020), and this has increased further by 20 per cent from March to July 2020, in line with the onset of the pandemic. AI-related job postings have also seen a steady rise in the last two years, with a 51 per cent jump between June 2019 and June 2020.
 17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Patrika Gate in **Jaipur**.
Note: The Iconic Gate is built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in the Pink City. Prime Minister Modi also released two books written by the Group Chairman on the occasion, authored by Gulab Kothari, Editor in Chief of Rajasthan Patrika Group and Chairman of Patrika Group of Newspaper.
 18. As per NSO report on ‘household social consumption’ in its 75th round of the survey **Andhra Pradesh** state emerged as least literate state in the country with 66.4% of literacy rate.
Note: As per the report Kerala again emerged as the most literate state in the country with 96.2% literacy followed by Delhi (88.7%), Uttarakhand (87.6%), Himachal Pradesh (86.6%) and Assam (85.9%). The overall literacy rate in India is pegged at 77.7% where rural areas have 73.5% literacy rate and urban areas has 87.7%.
 19. **Sanyukta Samaddar** will chair the Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC) constituted by the NITI Aayog.
Note: It has members from Ministry of Power, Women & Child Development, Telecommunication, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Rural Development, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Food & Public Distribution, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Education, Housing & Urban Affairs, Health & Family Welfare, and Financial Services.
 20. The **National Skill Development Corporation** (NSDC) has partnered with **LinkedIn** to provide access to free learning resources for imparting digital skills to youth for enhancing employability.



- Note:** According to LinkedIn, Indian professionals with digital skills are 20 percent more in demand than professionals without digital skills in 2020. Under the partnership, 10 free LinkedIn learning paths, consisting of 140 courses for a range of in-demand tech jobs will be made available for free on eSkill India digital platform till March 31, 2021. It will help India's youth to develop skills needed for jobs.
- 21. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** has launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges.
Note: The programme will spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups. The initiative will help identify and promote innovations necessary for boosting the MSME sector.
- 22.** The first World Solar Technology Summit 2020 held virtually was attended by **149** countries.
Note: The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. The main objective of the summit is to pay attention to state-of-the-art technologies and next-generation technologies.
- 23. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** has been launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to focus on the focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country.
Note: The scheme will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 20,050 crores within a period of 5 years from the fiscal year 2020-21 to the fiscal year 2024-25 in all states and union territories. The scheme was announced as a part of the centre's AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package. The investment of Rs. 20,050 crores under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector.
- 24. Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai** has QR code-enabled contactless check-in mechanism for the passengers.
Note: Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai has put in place a QR code-enabled contactless check-in mechanism for the passengers, which allows them the use of their mobile phones to remotely operate check-in and self-bag drop kiosks for printing boarding passes and bag tags. Passengers at Mumbai airport just need to scan the QR code shown on the kiosks to access a remote keyboard and mouse on their mobile device, without touching the kiosks.
- 25.** Hubballi Railway Station in Karnataka has been renamed after **Siddharoodha Swamiji**.
Note: Union government has approved long-pending demand of Hubballians of renaming the Hubballi railway station. Name of Hubballi railway station, which is headquarters of South Western Railway, is being changed for the second time in the last five years. It was changed in 2015 from 'Hubli' to 'Hubballi'.
- 26.** 'Streets for People' challenge has been launched by **Union Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry**.
Note: The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.
- 27.** As per DPIIT **Gujarat** state emerged as the best performer in developing start-up ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs.
Note: Gujarat was categorised as the best performer among all States and one Union Territory (UT) Delhi, barring north-eastern States and other UTs. A total of 22 States and 3 UTs participated in the exercise.
- 28. NIMHANS** institution has developed Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas.
Note: The research by a team of doctors led by Bharath Holla, Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Integrative Medicine; Rose Dawn Bharath, Professor and Head of the Department of Neuro-Imaging and Interventional Radiology; and Dr. Benegal, was published in the journal Human Brain Mapping on August 26
- 29. Golden Temple** has been granted Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration enabling it to receive foreign donations.
Note: Govt's decision to allow FCRA to Sri Harmandir Sahib will deepen the connection of Seva between the Sangat and Sri Darbar Sahib. FCRA registration has been given in the name of 'Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Saheb Sri Darbar Saheb Punjab Association', a body set up in 1925. The FCRA will be valid for 5 years.
- 30. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** became the second Indian firm to attain a market valuation of over Rs. 9 lakh crore after Reliance Industries Limited.
Note: The company's market valuation went past ₹9 lakh crore in early trade helped by a rally in its share price. The stock of the software services firm gained 2.91% to ₹ 2,442.80 — its record high — on the BSE.
- 31.** IT company **Infosys** will acquire Czech Republic-based GuideVision for up to €30 million (about ₹260.4 crore).
Note: The acquisition is being carried out by Infy Consulting Company Ltd, a step-down subsidiary of Infosys Ltd. As per the regulatory filing, the cost of acquisition is "up to €30 million including earn-out and bonuses".



August 2020

1. Recently, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched an incubator capabilities enhancement program 'AIM-iCREST' in collaboration with **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation**.
Note: This is a first of its kind initiative for advancing innovation at scale in India. Under the initiative, the AIM's incubators will be provided requisite support to foster the incubation enterprise economy in order to enhance their performance.
2. 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting was held under the presidency of **Russia**.
Note: Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) participated in the meeting. The BRICS nations called the initiative to improve the environment and promote the circular economy in national plans for economic recovery after COVID-19
3. Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi bridge in **Bihar**.
Note: Over 5.5 km, this four lane bridge at NH-19 between Patna and Hajipur is being renovated to replace its existing concrete superstructure by new steel deck superstructure, consisting of about 6600 metric steel.
4. **Narendra Singh Tomar** released a booklet on 'Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)'.
Note: The booklet is prepared by Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development. It is based on the presentations made by states during regional and national workshops since inception of the programme. This book is a collection of different best practices that focus on addressing various issues, challenges, and threats to the implementation of DILRMP.
5. **CREDAI Awaas App** has been launched by Housing minister Hardeep Puri to market residential properties.
Note: Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Hardeep Singh Puri released the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs. ARHC as a sub scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
6. As per the recommendation by the Parliamentary Committee on Labour, the minimum eligibility period for gratuity payable to an employee on termination of his employment -- **One year**.
Note: The Committee made this recommendation in its report on Social Security Code, which has been evolved subsuming nine Central Labour laws. The committee, which is headed by Biju Janta Dal MP Bharatruhari Mahtab, submitted the report to Speaker Om Birla.
7. **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** has launched "Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21", a national level programme for popularizing science among school students of class sixth to Eleventh.
Note: Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan is an initiative of Vijnana Bharathi (VIBHA) in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, Government of India and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). It is India's largest Science talent search examination for New India using Digital Devices.
8. **SEBI** is planning to set up a virtual museum of securities market to highlight achievements and milestones in the Indian capital market.
Note: SEBI has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from agencies to develop the virtual museum. The museum is intended to be a visual online organised collection of history of evolution, achievements and milestones in the Indian securities market over the decades in terms of market infrastructure, regulation and enforcement, among others.
9. Union Minister of Education **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sirmaur at Dhaula Kuan in **Himachal Pradesh**.
Note: IIM Sirmaur was operationalised by IIM Lucknow from August 2015 as the mentor Institution with the commencement of the first batch of post graduate programme for 20 students from its temporary campus at Paonta Sahib, Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh. The complete full-fledged permanent campus at Dhaulakuan has been envisaged for a student strength of 1170. The Union Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs 531.75 Crore out of which Rs 392.51 Crore is for construction works.
10. A New initiative by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) the Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel has been launched by **Narendra Singh Tomar**.
Note: The channel is a new initiative by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). During the launch event, the minister also rolled out guidance videos made by NCDC on 'Formation and Registration



- of A Cooperative' for 18-different states in Hindi and regional languages.
- 11. Pradip Shah** is the head of the 7-member committee formed by International Financial Services Centre Authority for developing plans on international retail business.
Note: The committee will make strategies enhancing IFSC position for international financial services drawing a roadmap for the growth of international retail at the IFSC. The report will be submitted in 3 months
- 12. DD Assam** has been launched by Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar recently.
Note: It is a 24 x 7 satellite channel which will work on the message of unity in diversity. The channel will showcase rich history of Assam and other north East States.
- 13.** India's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or Kisan Rail was from flagged off between two stations **Devlali to Danapur**.
Note: The train is making its first move from Maharashtra's Devlali to Bihar's Danapur Railway station with various stoppages carrying fruits and vegetables. It will cover a distance of 1,519 km in 32 hours. Kisan rail was announced in Budget 2020
- 14.** The Government of India has extended Line of Credit of worth 18 million USD to **Maldives** to expand fishing facilities.
Note: The funds granted to Maldives are to be used for the following. To develop 50-tonne ice plant in Gemanafushi. Also, a 100-tonne ice storage facility is to be developed. The funds will be used to set up tuna cooked plant and fishmeal plant. Investments towards fish collection.
- 15.** The Ministry of Education organized the "Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy (NEP)" in association with **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.
Note: The event was inaugurated by the PM Narendra Modi. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Education, Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Communications along with Chairman and Members, Committee for Draft NEP participated in the virtual event.
- 16.** NHAI signs MoU with which **IIT Delhi** to set up Center of Excellence for Advance Data Management System for Highways.
Note: Under the agreement IIT Delhi will work with NHAI to develop advanced analytics based on Artificial Intelligence, prepare simulation models, enhance data storage and retrieval capacities to strengthen data-driven decision making.
- 17.** National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) joined hands with Global digital skills training provider to support the continuity of digital skilling of the Indian workforce -- **Simplilearn**.
Note: Under this collaboration, Simplilearn will host more than 1,000 hours of free learning in digital skills and technologies for learners across India under the categories of AI and Machine Learning, Big Data, Data Science & Business Intelligence, Cyber Security, Software Development, Project management, and Digital marketing.
- 18.** A new Platform, "Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste" to support the global reduction of food loss and waste has been launched by **FAO**.
Note: The official launch of the platform will be on the first International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFW) which will be observed on 29th September 2020.
- 19.** Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has signed an agreement with **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** for collaborative research and information dissemination in the area of food and nutrition.
Note: The agreement was signed during a ceremony which was presided Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. The collaboration between these two premier institutions of India will contribute in fulfilling the vision of New Food System 2050.
- 20.** The global conference on "Reimagining and Transforming the University: Confluence of Ideas during and Beyond the COVID-19 Disruption" was hosted by Indian university **O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)**.
Note: The event was inaugurated by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister for Education. The conference provided a platform to discuss to reimagine and transform the idea of university that will impact the lives of the students, academics and nations all across the globe.
- 21.** The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will open the Silk Training cum Production Center in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: This would be the first Silk Training cum Production Center in the state. Machinery like handlooms, Charkha, Silk reeling machines and warping drums would be installed in the training cum production Center. KVIC has transformed the dilapidated school building into the training cum



- production center for Eri Silk, and has also selected the first batch of 25 local artisans of Chullyu village to begin the training with.
- 22.** Website portal **My Handloom** has been launched by the Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, for the individual weavers and organization.
Note: The Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani launched a website portal, 'My Handloom' for the individual weavers and organization on the occasion of the 6th National Handloom Day on 7th August, 2020, virtually.
- 23.** **Delhi International Airport Limited** has developed AIR SUVIDHA, a first-of-its-kind portal allowing international arriving passengers to fill a mandatory self-declaration form and eligible passengers to apply for exemption from compulsory institutional quarantine for coronavirus.
- 24.** In a push for 'Make-in-India', **Rajnath Singh** has launched 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Saptah' to focus more on the vision of the government to shift to local manufacturing.
Note: The main idea behind this is to emphasize the importance of domestic defence production in the country.
- 25.** National portal **SURAKHSYA** is being launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forest on Human-Elephant conflict to collect real-time information and will also manage conflicts on a real-time basis.
Note: He will also launch portal on Human Elephant Conflict on the eve of World Elephant Day, 2020. The World Elephant Day is observed every year on 12th August to spread awareness about the animal.
- 26.** **Mumbai** become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage.
Note: Mumbai's Dadar has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed traffic signals that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from the default representation of men.
- 27.** **121** Police personnel have been awarded the "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2020.
Note: A total of 121 Police personnel have been awarded the "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2020. The award of "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" seeks to encourage high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognize such Excellence in Investigation by investigating officers.
- 28.** **Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)** has organized the "India@75 Summit – Mission 2022".
Note: The summit was focused on 'reinventing technology in India'. The MSME Ministry and Industries should be made import substitutes, cost-effective, pollution-free and indigenous.
- 29.** Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has rolled out second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with **Dell Technologies**.
Note: The Student Entrepreneurship Programme has been launched for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) as it will enable them to work closely with Dell volunteers.
- 30.** Festive sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy Hermal Chilli and Myndoli Banana (Moirā Banana) of **Goa** has obtained Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry.
Note: The Bicholim based All-Goa Khaje Producers Association (AGKPA) applied for the GI tag of Khaje through the department of science and technology in 2019.
- 31.** Krishi Megh is the data recovery centre of **ICAR** organization.
Note: Krishi Megh is the data recovery centre of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research). The data recovery centre has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad.
- 32.** Tribal freedom fighter museums are under development by ministry of tribal affairs -- **9**.
Note: The nine museums are being developed in Gujarat (Rajpipla), Jharkhand (Ranchi), Andhra Pradesh (Lambasingi), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Kerala (Kozhikode), Madhya Pradesh (Chhindwara), Telangana (Hyderabad), Manipur (Senapati) and Mizoram (Kelsi).
- 33.** **Swachh Bharat Mission Academy** is an IVR based mobile online learning course launched by Union Jal Shakti Ministry.
Note: The IVR based free mobile online learning course on ODF Plus will be crucial in achieving goals underlined in Phase - 2 of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). Swachh Bharat Mission Academy, with its mobile based technology will significantly boost the capacity building efforts in training of Swachhagrahis as well as community-based organizations, NGOs and others associated with phase 2 of the mission.



- 34. Indian Railways** is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge across river Lajai in **Manipur**.
Note: The bridge which is being constructed across river Ijai near Noney is an engineering marvel because the tallest pier height will be 141 meter. It will surpass the existing record of 139 meter of Mala - Rijeka viaduct, Montenegro in Europe.
- 35. NASSCOM** Association with organization 'Atal Innovation Mission' has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Step-up module for school students.
Note: The module was launched in a virtual platform attended by CEO NITI Aayog Mr Amitabh Kant, Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission Mr R Ramanan and NASSCOM President Debjani Ghosh. The AI Step-up module is expected to drive AI education and innovation to the next level in the young minds in schools across the country.
- 36.** As per the draft plan prepared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the "One Sun, One World, One Grid" (OSOWOG) initiative will **140 countries** through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power.
Note: As per the draft plan prepared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the OSOWOG will connect 140 countries through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power. "The vision behind the OSOWOG mantra is "the Sun never sets" and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
- 37. IIT Bombay** has secured top position in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements,' (ARIIA) 2020 for being the best centrally funded institution in India.
Note: The top five centrally funded institutions in the list are 1. IIT Madras; 2. IIT Bombay; 3. IIT Delhi; 4. IISc Bengaluru; 5. IIT Kharagpur. The ARIIA ranking was launched in 2019 by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The objective of ARIIA is to rank higher education institutions and universities in India as per Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Startup, and Development amongst faculty and students.
- 38.** Quality Control Lab has been set up by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in **Porbandar, Gujarat**.
Note: The Quality Control Lab will offer tests for seafood processors as well as exporters to confirm to product safety as per international regulatory requirements. Quality Control Lab is empowered with advanced testing instruments to evaluate antibiotic residues, heavy-metals, namely cadmium, lead, mercury and arsenic in seafood samples and histamine in fish such as tuna and mackerel.
- 39.** The Central Water Commission (CWC) of India has launched the flood forecasting initiatives across India in association with tech giant **Google**.
Note: The Central Water Commission is the first governmental partner of Google to measure water levels on an hourly basis using around 1000 stream gauges across India. Under the flood forecasting initiatives, Google has sent out numerous public alerts to people in flood-impacted regions of India.
- 40.** With the vision of going one step further towards self-reliance or "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has launched 'Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge'.
Note: The initiative aims at designing microprocessors for the development of various technological products. Students from all levels and startup companies can participate in the challenge. Prize money of total Rs. 4.30 crore will be provided by the government in the following way. Total of 1 crore to 100 semi-finalists. For 25 finalists, a total of 1 crore and Rs. 2.3 crore for the top 10 teams.
- 41. Delhi Police** has signed an MoU with All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) for extending ayurvedic mode of preventive and promotive health services in the residential colonies of the force.
Note: The MoU will offer Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive health services in the residential colonies of Delhi Police through a mobile unit named 'Dhanwantari Rath' and Police Wellness Centres. These sources would be catered by AIIA, supported by Ministry of AYUSH. "Dhanwantari Rath" is a mobile unit of Ayurveda health care services which comprises a team of Doctors who would be visiting Delhi Police colonies on regular intervals.
- 42.** The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla attended the virtual mode of Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) organized jointly by International Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of **Austria**.
Note: The two days long event was organized jointly by Geneva headquartered Inter Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of Austria with the assistance of the United Nations. The second part of the conference is scheduled to be held next year in Vienna, Austria which is expected to be a physical mode of meeting.
- 43.** Central government departments has launched its new official logo displaying three goals of the department, Accuracy, Validity, and Reliability -- **Labour Bureau**.
Note: The newly launched logo displays the three goals of the Labour Bureau i.e. Accuracy, Validity, and



- Reliability. It also indicates the Labour Bureau as a data-based organization that deals in data pertaining to workers and work.
- 44.** To improve the production and productivity of raw Jute in the country Jute Corporation of India (JCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Seeds Corporation (NSC)**.
Note: The MoU was signed virtually in the presence of Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Minister for Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani. Around 10, 000 quintals of certified jute seeds of JRO-204 variety to be distributed to the farmers through JCI in the 2021-22 crop year.
- 45.** The Bureau of India Standards (BIS) signed with an MoU with **IIT Roorkee** for collaboration in areas of Standardization and Conformity Assessment based on equality and reciprocity.
Note: In Accordance with the agreement, the collaboration will include several fields like Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical, Earthquake Engineering, Development and Management of Water Resources and Renewable Energy Projects, Infrastructure Development, Medical Biotechnology and Nanotechnology biomaterials. IIT Roorkee and BIS will participate in the standardisation activity through technical committees of BIS at the national and international levels.
- 46.** India's rank in the 2nd edition of global research "Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2020" released by online privacy solutions provider SurfShark -- **57th**.
Note: The DQL Index 2020 analyzes 85 countries around the world covering 6.3 billion people or 81% of the global population in terms of five core pillars: internet affordability, internet quality, e-infrastructure, e-security, and e-government, and results are premised on 12 different factors.
- 47.** **TL Alamelu** will head the ten-member committee set up by IRDAI to recommend setting up loss prevention entities for non-life insurers.
Note: The ten-member committee headed by Irdai member T L Alamelu has recommended the regulator and industry participants to join hands in establishing this company.
- 48.** **Tata Steel** has launched the FerroHaat App, a first-of-its-kind mobile application (App) in the world to source steel scrap from the traders.
Note: The new app is a major step by the company to organise India's scrap market while also providing a reliable source of scrap metal for the steel Industry.
- 49.** **Nitin Gadkari** has launched the mobile app named 'Harit Path' to monitor plantation along national highways.
Note: Under this initiative, the NHA planted over 25 lakh plants in 25 days along the stretches of the national highways between July 21 and August 15, 2020. The minister launched 'Harit Path', a mobile app to monitor the plantations through geo-tagging and web-based GIS-enabled monitoring tools.
- 50.** **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons, a requirement under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
Note: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has set up this council to cater to the transgender community with various essential needs. The Union Minister of social justice will be the head of the commission.
- 51.** As per the recent data published by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), India filed **Less than 1 per cent** of the global patent applications.
Note: The recent data published by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has shown that India filed less than 1% of the global patent applications with total filings of 2,053 in 2019.
- 52.** The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda has e-inaugurated "Tribes India Showroom" in **Mumbai**.
Note: The showroom has been inaugurated in Indian Globe Chambers of LIC Western Zonal Office, Fort, Mumbai. "Tribes India Showroom" is an initiative of TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to promote the livelihood of the tribal people marketing. "Tribes India on Wheels" is also launched by TRIFED to boost the sales and enhance tribal income in these challenging times.
- 53.** Ministry of Tourism has signed an MoU with **Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)** and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with primary objective of women empowerment.
Note: The signed MoU will enable FLO & TAAI to focus on personal and hospitality skills, a more flexible work balance and greater options for entrepreneurship with lower capital. The partnership between the three aims to increase the participation of women in the tourism sector and enable them to become an integral part of the tourism workforce of India.
- 54.** APEDA functions under **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has signed two MoUs with AFC India Limited and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) for



working together in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors.

Note: It has signed two MoUs one each with AFC ((formerly Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd) India Limited, and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Delhi for working together in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors.

55. Ramesh Chand will head the task force constituted by the NITI Aayog that recommended linking of Sugarcane prices to sugar rate.

Note: The Niti Aayog task force has recommended linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates to keep the industry in sound financial health. It has also pitched for a one-time increase in minimum sugar price to Rs 33 per kilo to help sugar mills cover the cost of production.

56. IT majors Tech Mahindra joined hands with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to support Indian women entrepreneurs.

Note: WTI awards is an initiative of the WEP to recognise women leaders in entrepreneurship across various sectors like healthcare and life sciences, agritech and education, among others.

57. ReNew Power signed a partnership agreement with **UNEP** to promote increased access to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.

Note: This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a part of progressive strategies that India has adopted to realise its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. The aim is to shift the heating and cooling sector to an energy efficient one.

58. Greenko Energies Private Limited entered into an MoU with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) to explore renewable energy power supply solution and energy storage.

Note: This comes under the framework of India's World largest clean energy programme, a part of global climate change commitments, which aims to have 175 GW of clean energy by 2022. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC limited.

59. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed the '**Vendor Performance Evaluation System**' to establish a transparent and comprehensive performance rating system for its consultants, contractors and concessionaires.

Note: The portal-based objective assessment of vendors was initiated to track the vendor performance for various NHAI projects. The vendors are required to conduct a self-assessment and upload the documents

related to the project activities executed by them on the portal.

60. Central Railway has introduced a drone-based surveillance system to protect railway assets.

Note: The Mumbai Division of Central Railway zone has recently procured Ninja UAVs. RPF has procured as many as nine drones at a cost of Rs 31.87 lakh at Central Railway, South Eastern Railway, South Western Railway, Modern Coaching Factory, and Raebareli.

61. Rajnath Singh has launched the Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNC) Mobile Training App.

Note: The Mobile Training App will support in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets as it has been affected adversely due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. The DGNC Mobile Training App seeks to offer entire training material to the NCC cadets on one platform.

62. National e-Governance Division (NeGD) is working under **MeitY** that signed an MoU with Common Service Center e-Governance Services India Limited to facilitate delivery of UMANG app services to citizens.

Note: This will benefit those citizens who either do not have access to smartphones or are not comfortable accessing app based e services on their own. Notably, all the UMANG services at CSCs are available at zero cost and will be provided by CSC operators Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).

63. Piyush Goyal has launched the National GIS (Geographic Information System)-enabled Land Bank system.

Note: The system is developed by the integration of the Industrial Information System (IIS) with State GIS systems. The platform will provide a database of industrial areas/clusters across the country and will serve as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information.

64. Mahindra & Mahindra has partnered with Israel's REE Automotive to develop commercial EVs .

Note: The corner modular architecture of REE integrated with the design, engineering, sourcing, ecosystem and production capacity of Mahindra will provide zero emission vehicles, including the autonomous vehicles. This will improve the mahindra's capabilities in the Electric Vehicle (EV) sector.

65. Valipe Ramagopal Rao will chair the 5-member committee constituted by DRDO to review charter of duties of 57 DRDO labs on the basis of current and futuristic defence and battlefield needs.

Note: The five-member committee will be chaired by Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi director V



Ramagopal Rao. The committee will submit its report in 45 days.

- 66.** Three-member committee headed by **DB Shekatkar** has been to review the effective utilisation of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Services (AFHQ CS) cadre.
Note: This is in line with the recommendation of the Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (ret'd) committee on enhancing the military's combat potential and rebalancing defence expenditure.
- 67.** In partnership with **UNDP**, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has launched the Sustainable Finance Collaborative (SFC) to Promote Sustainable Finance in India.
Note: In this regard, a three days consultation centered on the broad scope of Sustainable Finance architecture in India was held to accelerate green finance by bringing together leading experts and organizations.
- 68.** Next-generation startup Challenge contest has been launched by the Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ravi Shankar Prasad - **Chunauti**.

Note: This contest is a part of Rs 95 crore programme, spanning over 3 years, will hunt for around 300 startups working in identified areas and to provide them seed funds of up to Rs 25 lakh and other support from government through the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).

- 69. Piyush Goyal** represented India in the virtual 8th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) chaired by Vietnam.
Note: It was attended by Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Meeting was chaired by Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam.
- 70.** The Union Government is planning to come up with Mega Bamboo Industrial Park in **Ghati**.
Note: Apart from this government is also planning to set up a Mega Bamboo Industrial Park at Ghati near Jammu and Bamboo Technology Training Centre will also come up in the region. This was announced by the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh.

Important News – State

January (1st to 14th) 2021

- Punjab** government has launched a mobile application 'DigiNest' that will enable people to have digital access to the directory of state govt.
Note: Punjab CM, Captain Amarinder Singh virtually launched a mobile application 'DigiNest' that will enable people to have digital access to the directory of state govt. In addition to this, he also launched an online Punjab Advertisement Release Order System. This will bring transparency and efficiency in the entire process of releasing State Government's advertisements and payments to media houses.
- Jharkhand** government has launched state's own crop relief scheme 'Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana' which will replace Government of India's crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
Note: The new scheme is a compensation scheme which will provide security cover to farmers of Jharkhand in cases of crop damage due to natural hazards. Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative, Jharkhand will be the implementing agency of the scheme. The main objectives of the scheme are – Food Safety, Crop Diversification, rapid development in Agriculture & paving way for competition.
- Delhi** government and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have signed an agreement with Oakridge Energy to solarise schools in the state.
Note: The project will be developed by Oakridge and subsidised under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy's (MNRE) capital subsidy scheme for Government Buildings. The installation of solar plants will help in making institutions energy independent, reduce their electricity bills and generate additional income through sale of surplus power. Oakridge has set a target to solarise 1, 000 schools & educational institutions by 2022.
- The TRIFED has signed a memorandum of understanding with Akhil Bhartiya vanvasi Kalyan Ashram to setup TRIFOOD parks in **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between the two organisations to work together for setting up of TRIFOOD Parks in 5 districts in Madhya Pradesh. The two organisations will work together by undertaking various initiatives all aimed at improving the livelihood of tribal people



and implementation of the Van DhanYojana through the mobilization of Self Help Groups (SHGs) / VanDhanVikas Kendra (VDVKs) / VPCs / TRIFOOD Parks.

5. **Delhi** government has set up a Tamil academy to promote the South Indian language and culture in the state.
Note: It also appointed former municipal councillor and member of the Delhi Tamil Sangam N. Raja as vice-chairman of the academy. It is diversity that forms Delhi's vibrant and cosmopolitan culture as people from all parts of the country come to settle in the Capital for work.
6. **Uttar Pradesh** won the "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Awards-2019" in the Best Performing State category.
Note: The PMAY(U) awards were instituted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2019. Uttar Pradesh (UP) won the award in the best performing state followed by Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Andhra Pradesh (AP).
7. **Madhya Pradesh** government has rolled out a 'Launch Pad Scheme' to provide such a platform to the youth, through which they will be able to become self-reliant by continuing their education and training.
Note: The objective of this scheme of the Women and Child Development Department is to provide such a platform to these youth, through which they will be able to become self-reliant by continuing their education and training. Under the launch pad scheme, 52 districts of the state have been divided into 5 clusters. Five divisional headquarters are being started in Indore, Sagar, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Bhopal.
8. **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' for farmer welfare and to double the farmers income of the state.
Note: Uttar Pradesh government has launched a special program named as Kisan Kalyan Mission for farmer welfare and to double the farmers income of the state. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will launch the Kishan Kalyan Mission from Sarojininagar development block of state capital Lucknow.
9. The World's Largest Floating Solar Energy Project (600 MW) is being built in **Madhya Pradesh** that is set to begin power generation by the year 2022-23.

Note: The production of electricity will be in about 2000- hectare water areas and the Floating panels will be installed in the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam. Estimated Investment of the project stands at INR 3, 000 Crore. International Finance Corporation, World Bank & Power Grid have granted consent to provide funds for the development of the project.

10. **Punjab** government has launched E-Daakhil portal to streamline grievances redressal system.
Note: The E-Daakhil has been developed under the new Consumer Protection Act 2019 envisages aass
11. **Kerala** government has waive entertainment tax and reduce the fixed charges on electricity during the post-COVID-19 outbreak period for Cinemas to help the film industries in the state.
Note: In 2019, the Kerala government had issued an order allowing local self-governing institutions to collect entertainment tax from cinema halls upto 8.5% from the sale of movie tickets. The order was issued in order to compensate for the loss of revenue incurred by the state due to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
12. An annual Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was celebrated in **Manipur**.
Note: The Mao area of Senapati district in Manipur is known for Cherry Blossom, a plant which is popularly known as Sakura in Japan. It was jointly organised by the Department of Tourism and Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Shillong in association with the Organising Committee Flower Festival, Mao.
13. **Punjab** government has approved the 'One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for Recovery of Outstanding Dues - 2021' for Traders to clear their Pending Arrears.
Note: The OTS will help Traders to settle their Pending arrears under the Punjab Value Added Tax Act, 2005 & Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. It will cost around INR 121.06 Crore to the Punjab Government. Will benefit Small & Medium Business Dealers/Traders who suffered due to COVID-19. Dealers who have filed assessments upto December 31, 2020 can apply under the scheme till April 30, 2021

December 2020

1. **Uttar Pradesh** state government has launched a special 10-day campaign to identify people suffering from tuberculosis (TB) in the state.

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to make India TB-free by 2025. Under the door-to-door campaign, which will end on November 11, health



- workers will reach out to 81 lakh people, identify those suffering from TB, screen them and help them avail treatment at no cost.
2. The foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for vegetables Protected Cultivation has been laid down in **Assam**.
Note: The centre will provide exposure to the latest Israeli technologies to the farmers of the state. It will help them in maximising their production. The centre is to provide a major boost to agricultural and horticultural production in Assam. The aim is to double farmers' income in the region through infusion of technology in agribusiness, agriculture and food processing.
 3. **Rajasthan** is going to ink an MoU with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to establish 8000 MW Ultra Mega Renewal Energy Power Park of in border area with Pakistan _____ **Rajasthan**.
Note: The state government will soon ink an MoU with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to establish Ultra Mega Renewal Energy Power Park. The park to be set up near borders areas will be of 8,000 megawatts (MW) capacity, which will comprise 4,310 MW of wind energy; 3,760 MW of solar energy and 120 MW of power from biomass. Currently, Rajasthan's solar generation capacity is 4,883 MW.
 4. India's first solar-powered miniature train launched in **Kerala**.
Note: The train is first of its kind in the country. The train, which would be an attraction for children especially, was part of a string of projects totally worth Rs 60 crore taken up to elevate the facilities at the panoramic destination to international standards.
 5. **Tamil Nadu** state government has granted 100% motor vehicle tax exemption for Electric Vehicles.
Note: The State Government's order says after careful examination it has decided to grant 100 per cent tax exemption for all battery-operated transport and non-transport vehicles. The State has been taking various initiatives to boost the EV system in the state. Tamil Nadu is planning to set up the country's first park exclusively for the electric vehicle production eco-system.
 6. **Maharashtra** state government has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth around Rs 35,000 crore with 15 companies to develop state as data and logistics hub in India.
Note: The MoU was signed by 10 Indian and 5 global companies at the 'Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0' investor meet in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The event was attended by the state's Chief Minister (CM) Uddhav Bal Thackeray. The MoUs were signed with the state-run Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) in the presence of Industries Minister Subhash Desai and Minister of State (MoS) for Industries Aditi Tatkare.
 7. Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated the "Tourist Facilitation Centre" facility in **Kerala**.
Note: The facility has been constructed under the project "Development of Guruvayur, Kerala" under PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, at the cost of Rs. 11.57 Crores. The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) were launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15.
 8. Tata Technologies has signed an agreement with **Karnataka** state government to modernise 150 state-run ITIs.
Note: The project cost includes investment from the state govt and also from the consortium of 20 companies led by Tata Technologies. The project is expected to bring qualitative improvements in the field of industrial training and education to create an enhanced learning environment for training youth.
 9. **Kerala** state's tourism has been bestowed the coveted 'Highly Commended' Award by World Travel Mart London.
Note: Kerala tourism was recognised for its remarkable activities aimed at promoting Responsible Tourism (RT) during the challenging times of COVID-19 pandemic. Kerala's Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission received this recognition in the category of 'Meaningful Connections.' This is the 5th International Award for the Responsible Tourism Mission since its formation in 2017.
 10. India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) was launched in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: The solar-based lift water supply project is 'first of its kind' in the country, and has been commissioned at a cost of Rs 28.50 crore. However, such projects will be carried out in other parts of the country too. The project would provide drinking water to 17,480 people in 39 villages of Lower Dibang Valley district in Arunachal Pradesh.
 11. **Kerala** state government has launched a pioneering eco-sustainable programme called 'Parivarthanam', to improve the livelihood of the fishing community.



- Note:** The scheme aims at improving the livelihood skills of youngsters along the coastline and also enable socio-economic uplift of the fishermen community. Parivarthanam, which means change, will be headed by Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC). The scheme will promote the processing and marketing of clean fish and its fresh products.
- 12.** Hornbill Festival is celebrated in **Nagaland**, to be celebrated online this year amidst COVID-19.
Note: This festival is also called the Festival of Festivals. It is held every year from December 1 to 10, showcases the culture, heritage, food and customs of Naga tribes. 16 tribes come together to celebrate their traditions with dance performances. Tourists from across the globe attend the 10-day gala.
- 13.** The International Bird Festival will be organized in **Uttar Pradesh** in February 2021.
Note: Gorakhpur is developing in the tourism and ecotourism sector and it is set to have a zoological park in 2021. The International bird festival will attract international level tourists for Gorakhpur lake and bird watching. The forest department of Uttar Pradesh has been instructed to materialize this bird festival.
- 14.** According to the 6th edition of United Kingdom India Business Council's (UKIBC) Doing Business in India Report 2020 Maharashtra came out as the state with maximum incremental improvement for third year in a row.
Note: The UK Perspective" was virtually launched by the UK Investment Minister Lord Gerry Grimstone at a roundtable with Indian industrialists during his virtual visit to India. In accordance to the report, 66% of the surveyed UK businesses found it easier to do business in India due to progressive reforms and improvements in components such as the availability of support and service providers, skilled labour, and supply chain.
- 15.** Odisha state government has launched 'Secha Samadhan' app for farmers.
Note: Farmers would receive all irrigation-related information from the Water Resources Department through the mobile application.
- 16.** Haryana state government has launched 'Project Air Care' through a public-private partnership.
Note: He also inaugurated a project for the beautification of the Gateway of Gurugram on the Mehrauli-Gurugram Road. The Air Purifiers have been developed by CSIR-NEERI, IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Bombay.
- 17.** Under chairmanship of **Sandip Bhagat** the SEBI, set up a 7-member expert group to review the frameworks of the share based employee benefits & issue of sweat equity and recommend policy changes.
Note: The expert group will revisit the framework of the sweat equity regulations against the companies act and suggest required policy changes. The expert group will make suggestions on whether it is advisable to combine both the regulations. If the norms of these regulations can be combined, the panel will provide draft rules in this regard.
- 18.** Jharkhand state government has passed a resolution on 'Sarna Code' seeking separate Identity Code for Tribal.
Note: The resolution seeks inclusion of Sarna as a separate religion in the 2021 census. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren tabled the proposal in the Jharkhand Assembly. he bill will now be sent to the Central Government for approval.
- 19.** Asia's First Solar Power-Enabled Textile Mill to come up in **Maharashtra**.
Note: The Textile Mill is spread across Thirty acres of land and will process cotton to cloth. Once Functional, the mill will provide jobs to many women in the district. Ginning, Pressing, Weaving and Spinning of cotton will be done in the mill itself. It is being set up at a cost of INR 100 Crores and will add momentum to the industrial sector in the district.
- 20.** **Assam** state received the best state award under the category of best hilly and North Eastern State in Fisheries.
Note: Assam has got the best state award under the category of best hilly and North Eastern state. Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Limited (FISHFED) has been selected under the category of best hilly and North eastern government organization.
- 21.** **Odisha** state bagged the eminent 'Best Marine State' award which was announced by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
Note: The award will be bestowed on 21st November, which is World Fisheries Day by the department. Along with recognition, 10 lakh amount will be given. The awards are a great boost to fisheries sector, especially during the COVID-19 times. In 2019, India exported Rs 47,000 crores of fisheries.
- 22.** **Madhya Pradesh** state government has decided to set up a 'Gau Cabinet' for the protection, conservation and promotion of cows in the state.
Note: The Cabinet will comprise of the departments of animal husbandry, forests, panchayat and rural development, revenue, home and farmers welfare. The first meeting of the Cabinet will be held at 12 pm on



- 'Gopashtami' on November 22 at the Cow Sanctuary in Agar-Malwa district named 'Kamdheni Gau Abhyaranya'.
- 23. Punjab** state government has launched Divyangjan Shaktikaran Yojana' to empower persons with disabilities in a virtual meeting.
Note: The Scheme will be implemented in Two Phases. Phase-I will strengthen the existing programmes to ensure that benefits reach people with disabilities. Phase-II will introduce 13 new interventions proposed to be undertaken for empowerment of such persons.
- 24. Gwalior** city of Madhya Pradesh a digital Museum has been opened for the public.
Note: It is the first center of its kind in Gwalior and Bundelkhand area and will play a role in educating school students. In the Digital Museum, the architectural styles, objects, costumes, lifestyle, musical instruments, jewelry, handicrafts, cultural tradition, painting and many genres of paintings have been digitally displayed in a modern way.
- 25. Manipur** state introduced award for civil servants to promote good governance.
Note: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched "Scheme for Chief Minister's Award for Good Governance" to recognise and reward progressive and extraordinary work executed by authorities officers that promotes good governance.
- 26. Puducherry** has rolled out a free breakfast scheme for school students.
Note: The scheme is named after the late DMK President M Karunanidhi, for government and government aided school students at Jeevanandham Government Higher Secondary School. The scheme was an apt tribute to Karunanidhi who championed the cause of down-trodden and poor people and was keenly interested in the development and welfare of people of Puducherry while taking efforts to ensure the rights of states.
- 27.** The International Cherry Blossom Festival hosted every year by **Meghalaya** state that has been cancelled this year due to COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: It is the only Cherry festival being conducted in India. The India International Cherry blossom festival is organised by the Government of Meghalaya every year.
- 28.** India's First Moss Garden was inaugurated in **Uttarakhand** state.
Note: The Garden has been set up for the purpose of conservation of different species of moss. It will also serve the purpose of generating awareness among people regarding the importance of Moss in the environment
- 29.** First cow hospital of North East inaugurated in **Assam**.
Note: A cow shelter in Assam's Dibrugarh inaugurated Northeast's first-ever cow hospital, on the occasion of Gopashtami. The hospital, Surbhi Aarogyashala, is set up by Shree Gopal Gaushala at a cost of Rs 17 lakh. The hospital will provide services in 30 km radius. There are 368 cows in the shelter.
- 30.** Prime minister Narendra Modi launched 'Har Ghar Nal Yojna' to provide tap water for every household in **Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: Government was committed to solving the water scarcity problem and hence the scheme of worth ₹5,555 crores was launched in the state. The scheme will benefit 21,87,980 villagers in Mirzapur. In Sonbhadra, 19,53,458 families will be benefitted by the scheme. Rs 3212.18 crore and Rs 2343.20 crore will be spent under the scheme. The total cost of the scheme is Rs 5555.38 crore.
- 31. Karnataka** state has set a target to become a USD 50 billion biotechnology market by 2025.
Note: The government released its first draft of the Bio-economy Report 2020 at the Bengaluru Tech Summit, highlighting achievements and earmarking targets for the next five years. The report also claims that the same has grown by 14-17 per cent in the previous two years and that the state contributes 10.3 per cent to the gross state domestic product (GSDP) of USD 221.82 billion.
- 32. Himachal Pradesh** has launched the 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan' to collect real-time data on the health profile of entire state.
Note: Under this Abhiyan about 8000 teams comprising of Health, Ayurveda, Women and Child Development, Panchayati Raj Departments, District Administration and NGOs would be involved in this campaign. It would ensure door to door data collection of health parameters of the people.
- 33.** The 10th edition of prestigious National science film festival was organized by Vigyan Prasar, Department of Science and Technology (GoI) and Council of Science and Technology of **Tripura**.
Note: The science film festival offers a unique platform to showcase the science films made by professionals, amateur and student filmmakers under various themes, to promote science films in India. A total of 372 films in different languages were received for participation, of which 115 films have been shortlisted by the ten-member jury to be screened during the festival. These films are in Hindi, English, Urdu,



Malayalam, Kashmiri, Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi and Tamil languages.

- 34. West Bengal** government has launched “Government At Doorstep” scheme.

Note: To run until Gandhi Jayanti on January 30, the initiative will attempt to ship pending companies to folks. From 11 am to 3 pm every day from December 1, government camps will be held in every block in the state where people can come and demand any service they have not received yet.

- 35. Tamil Nadu** state government has launched ‘Thee’, a mobile phone-based application for the benefit of the general public to reach out to the Fire and Rescue Services when in need.

Note: The application has been designed to help the general public in case of fire accidents, floods, mishaps

in deep wells, rescue of wildlife, chemical or gas leaks, among other accidents. Arrangements have been made to facilitate people in need getting help within 10 seconds of their using the app.

- 36. Rajasthan** government has signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) for proposed participation to achieve food and nutritional security goals.

Note: On the basis of the signed MoU, WFP authorities have signed the LoU with various government departments to develop a partnership with them. The Civil Supplies Department of Rajasthan had signed an MoU with the UN to achieve sustainable goal development.

November

- 1. Uttar Pradesh** state government has launched a special 10-day campaign to identify people suffering from tuberculosis (TB) in the state.

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to make India TB-free by 2025. Under the door-to-door campaign, which will end on November 11, health workers will reach out to 81 lakh people, identify those suffering from TB, screen them and help them avail treatment at no cost.

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Note: The centre will provide exposure to the latest Israeli technologies to the farmers of the state. It will help them in maximising their production. The centre is to provide a major boost to agricultural and horticultural production in Assam. The aim is to double farmers’ income in the region through infusion of technology in agribusiness, agriculture and food processing.

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Note: The state government will soon ink an MoU with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to establish Ultra Mega Renewal Energy Power Park. The park to be set up near borders areas will be of 8,000 megawatts (MW) capacity, which will comprise 4,310 MW of wind energy; 3,760 MW of solar energy and 120 MW of

power from biomass. Currently, Rajasthan’s solar generation capacity is 4,883 MW.

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Note: The train is first of its kind in the country. The train, which would be an attraction for children especially, was part of a string of projects totally worth Rs 60 crore taken up to elevate the facilities at the panoramic destination to international standards.

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Note: The State Government's order says after careful examination it has decided to grant 100 per cent tax exemption for all battery-operated transport and non-transport vehicles. The State has been taking various initiatives to boost the EV system in the state. Tamil Nadu is planning to set up the country's first park exclusively for the electric vehicle production eco-system.

- 6. Maharashtra** state government has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth around Rs 35,000 crore with 15 companies to develop state as data and logistics hub in India.

Note: The MoU was signed by 10 Indian and 5 global companies at the ‘Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0’ investor meet in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The event was attended by the state’s Chief Minister (CM) Uddhav Bal Thackeray. The MoUs were signed with the state-run Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) in the presence of Industries Minister Subhash Desai and Minister of State (MoS) for Industries Aditi Tatkar.



7. Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated the “Tourist Facilitation Centre” facility in **Kerala**.
Note: The facility has been constructed under the project “Development of Guruvayur, Kerala” under PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, at the cost of Rs. 11.57 Crores. The ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive’ (PRASHAD) were launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15.
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Note: Kerala tourism was recognised for its remarkable activities aimed at promoting Responsible Tourism (RT) during the challenging times of COVID-19 pandemic. Kerala’s Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission received this recognition in the category of ‘Meaningful Connections.’ This is the 5th International Award for the Responsible Tourism Mission since its formation in 2017.

October

1. Nagaland state government launched “Livelihood Generation Programme for Returned Migrant Workers”.
Note: The state government, with support from the North East Council, will initially train around 100 such returnees under the “Livelihood Generation Programme for Returned Migrant Workers”.
2. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the YSR Jala Kala Scheme under which farmers will be provide free borewells.
Note: The government said that about three lakh farmers will be profited from the scheme and will cover five lakh acres of land under cultivation with an estimated cost of Rs 2,340 crore in four years. The eligible farmers can apply either online or through the village secretariats. The applications will be approved after hydrogeological and geophysical surveys.
3. Yuddh Pradushan Ke Virudh campaign has been launched by Delhi government.
Note: Under the campaign separate detailed plans have been prepared for each of the 13 pollution hotspots identified in the city. The chief minister said one of the major reasons for high levels of pollution in Delhi and nearby areas is stubble burning.
4. Goa state government has launched an action plan to support agriculture and animal husbandry under its “Aatmanirbhar” programme.
Note: The government has announced a series of initiatives under the ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat Swayampurna Goa programme’ (ABSGP) including promoting dairy and poultry farming. It talks about checking ‘menace’ of wild animals and cattle at agriculture fields. To help farmers, crop insurance and fencing will be availed. Horticulture cultivation, procurement of agricultural equipment, and sustainable harvesting of medical plants will also be assisted with it.
5. Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda launched the home delivery facility of fertilisers for farmers in Andhra Pradesh.
Note: Gowda launched POS 3.1 software, SMS Gateway and home delivery facility of fertilisers for farmers in the state Farmers will be able to purchase fertiliser without touching fingerprint sensors. The states govt. has launched 10,641 Rythu Bharosa Kendralu in all gram panchayats to provide farmers with quality inputs and allied services.
6. West Bengal government has launched ‘Pathashree Abhijan’ scheme for road repair.
Note: It is a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometres across the state will be repaired. West Bengal govt has collated a list of the roads that will be repaired under the new scheme after the people of the state reached out to her through the ‘Didi Ke Bolo’ initiative of the government.
7. Assam government launched a portal ‘Kritagyata’ an online pension submission and tracking system.
Note: With the help of the portal, the retired government employee, besides submitting pension related papers on line will get opportunity to check the status of his pension. The portal has been created in line with the ‘Bhabhisya’ portal of Government of India.
8. Gujarat state government has announced a ‘Digital Seva Setu’ programme to ensure optimum utilisation of technology for public welfare in rural areas.



- Note:** Under the 'Digital Seva Setu' program, public welfare services will be made available in all the 14,000-gram panchayats in the state by connecting village panchayats through an optical fibre network.
9. Assam state government has launched a mobile app "Kisan Rath" that connects more than 10,000 farmers, 50 farmer-producer organizations and 1,000 verified agricultural traders on its interface.
Note: The app has been customized by National Informatics Centre (NIC) Assam to suit the requirements of the state. It is available in 3 languages- Assamese, Hindi and English. PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Fasal Bima Yojana, KCC etc., have strengthened agricultural ecosystem in the country and made agriculture a dignified calling.
 10. Uttarakhand state government has launched "Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarogjar Yojana".
Note: The scheme is aimed at promoting self-employment of the youth and promoting the production of Green Energy. The targeted beneficiaries include youths and migrant workers, who returned home after leaving jobs in various parts of the country due to pandemic.
 11. Delhi state government has exempted road tax on its battery-operated vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle Policy.
Note: The Delhi government has exempted road tax on its battery-operated vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle Policy. The Transport department, in its notification issued stated that the Lieutenant Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi exempted the tax levied upon all battery electric vehicles with immediate effect.
 12. Haryana state government has launched "Lab on Wheels" to test the water quality in the state under Jal Jeevan Mission.
Note: The water quality of Haryana is mainly affected by fluoride, iron, nitrate and alkalinity. Lab on wheels is a mobile laboratory. The mobile laboratory has been launched under Jal Jeevan Mission. The mobile laboratory will test for alkalinity, hardness, chlorine, nitrate, zinc, turbidity, PH and other microbiological tests.
 13. Kerala state becomes the first state in the country to make public education completely digital.
Note: The project of making public education completely digital in Kerala was implemented by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education. Around 3,74,274 digital services were distributed in 16,027 schools in Kerala. The project also set up high-tech labs in more than 11,275 schools at primary and secondary levels.
 14. Kerala state government has become the first in the country to decide to form a Welfare Fund Board for the uplift of farmers in the state.
Note: The state cabinet decided to set up the board to be known as 'Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board'. For the farmers to become a member of the Board, they need to pay Rs 100 as registration fee and a monthly fee of Rs 100. The government will provide an equivalent share of upto Rs 250 to the members of the Welfare Fund.
 15. A toll-free government helpline for mental health "Mann Samvad" was launched Rajasthan.
Note: The helpline 1800-180-0018 launched by the state government to continuously strengthening mental health services during the coronavirus period. The facility of free tele-counselling is being provided to patients with mental health issues that through the helpline.
 16. In the country's first and unique drive the agriculture department of Goa has collaborated with the Postal Department to get farmers enrolled in the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN) scheme.
Note: Three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months are transferred into the farmers account. The scheme defines family as husband, wife and minor children. The local postman who we are used to seeing bringing mail to our doorstep so far will come to fill the form for the 11,000 farmers in the state who are eligible for this scheme as per the department records.
 17. The multi-national food and beverage major PepsiCo is setting up a greenfield potato chips production unit in Uttar Pradesh.
Note: The unit is being set up in Kosi - Mathura on 35 acres of land provided by UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA). The unit, which is expected to commence commercial production by middle of the next year, will facilitate direct and indirect employment to about 1,500 patrons.
 18. Hollongi airport which a greenfield airport is being built Arunachal Pradesh.
Note: The new domestic airport, with an area of 4,100 square metres, the Hollongi Airport will be able to handle 200 passengers during peak hours. The terminal will be an energy efficient building provisioned with Rain Water Harvesting system and sustainable landscape. The tentative date for completion of the project is November, 2022.
 19. Gujarat state government has announced to has signed a pact with Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) to set up a greenfield zinc smelter in the state.
Note: This facility will entail an investment of Rs 5000-10,000 crore in phases, creating more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs and will be operational by 2022. The



- proposed 300 (kilo tonnes per annum) production capacity project would provide big employment opportunities to the local youths in this tribal area.
- 20. Rajasthan** state police has launched 'AAWAJ' — 'Action Against Women-related crime and Awareness for Justice' the campaign to spread awareness among woman about the crime against them.
Note: Named 'AAWAJ' — Action Against Women-related crime and Awareness for Justice the campaign was launched by Civil Rights and Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the police and will run across the state to generate gender equality and curb crimes against women. In the first month of the campaign from October 13 to November 12, special efforts will be made to curb rape incidents, besides spreading awareness about the laws related to women safety.
- 21. Odisha** government has launched "Sujal", 'Drink from Tap Mission' scheme, to provide round the clock supply of quality tap drinking water in all urban areas of the state.
Note: The state has set the target to provide piped water connections to all urban areas in the state by March 2022. Odisha government has set Rs 1300 crore for this scheme which will benefit over 15 lakh people in 15 towns in a phased manner.
- 22. Odisha** government signed an agreement with Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) to sponsor the Indian national rugby teams till 2023 and facilitate high-performance training and conditioning of the players.
Note: Odisha government signed an agreement with Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) to sponsor the Indian national rugby teams till 2023 and facilitate high-performance training and conditioning of the players. The agreement was signed at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Mou was signed by R Vineel Krishna, Director of Sports & Youth Services Department, Odisha and Maneck Unwala, President of IRFU.
- 23. In Uttar Pradesh** state the 'Safe City Project', a 180-day-long campaign has been launched under which the police and other departments will work towards safety of women.
Note: The 'Safe City Project', a 180-day-long campaign under which the police and other departments will work towards safety of women. The central government has approved the project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs 194 crore with an aim to strengthen security of women in public places.
- 24. Asan Conservation Reserve** has become the India's 38th Ramsar site located in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: The Reserve is located on the banks of Yamuna river near Dehradun district in Garhwal region of the Himalayan state. Ramsar declares Asan Conservation Reserve as a site of international importance. With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 38, the highest in South Asia.
- 25. According to the Indian Tourist Statistics 2020 Uttar Pradesh** state attracted the highest number of domestic tourists in the country in 2019.
Note: According to the Indian Tourist Statistics 2020, 53,58,55,162 domestic tourists visited the state in 2019. The state bagged the third spot in terms of the arrival of foreign tourists. As many as 47,45,181 foreign tourists visited UP in the same year.
- 26. Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari** laid the foundation stone for India's first Multi-modal Logistic Park (MMLP) in **Assam** state.
Note: The park will be developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Government of India. It is being created by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL), owned by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH).
- 27. Odisha** government has launched the electricity consumer service portal "Mo Bidyut" and mobile application, over a virtual platform.
Note: The portal was developed by the Energy Department and dedicated to the public under the 5T (Team work, Transparency, Technology, Time leading to Transformation) mechanism, an initiative of the government of Odisha. The electricity services provided by the Mo Bidyut will be governed and monitored under the "Mo Sarkar" (My Government).
- 28. Tamil Nadu** state government will implement the smart blackboard scheme in more than 80,000 Government schools.
Note: The smart blackboard scheme aims to use audio visual teaching material that can be integrated along with digital classrooms. It will create materials that can be fed into computer screens using pen drives. The Tamil Nadu State government has also decided to reduce the syllabus of 2020-21 by 40 percentage.
- 29. Uttar Pradesh** state government has decided to establish women help desks in each and every police station of state.
Note: The women police personnel deputed on helpdesk will not only listen to the complaints of women but will always be ready to help them anytime. The Chief Minister has also directed the state police force to personally visit the site of crime against women and children and ensure timely investigation.
- 30. Jammu and Kashmir** has signed an historic **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with online store Flipkart to provide a platform for local artisans, craftsmen, weavers to reach customers across the globe.



Note: This partnership will provide an appropriate opportunity for the momentous growth and development of the respective sectors. This e-marketing channel shall involve and benefit artisans and weavers both in organized and unorganized sector and for the first six months, Flipkart will not charge any fee from the artisans and weavers.

- 31. Andhra Pradesh** state government has launched a BIMA scheme to provide financial assistance through insurance cover to the beneficiary in case of death or accident of their family members.

Note: All families with white ration cards are eligible for YSR Bima scheme. Village/ward volunteers will visit the families and enrol the names of the primary householders. The claim amount will be directly credited into the beneficiary bank account within 15 days of making the claim.

- 32. Uttar Pradesh** government has secured first rank in loan disbursement under PM SVANidhi Scheme.

Note: UP has been ranked first in all the categories like Applications, Sanctions and Disbursements of the loans under PM SVANidhi scheme.

- 33. Arunachal Pradesh** state has been recently included under ESI Scheme for the first time.

Note: It will be applicable to all the factories located in Papum Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh employing 10 or more persons, along with other benefits. ESI Scheme has been implemented in 568 districts in all the States and Union Territories, except Lakshdweep.

- 34. Arunachal Pradesh** state has built a war memorial in Bum La.

Note: A war memorial has come up in at Bum La in Arunachal Pradesh. Joginder Singh of 1st Battalion the Sikh Regt received the highest gallantry award, 'Param Vir Chakra' in the Eastern Theatre during the 1962 Sino-India War. Indian Army organised the Inauguration Ceremony of Joginder War Memorial at Bum La on October 23 coinciding with the day on which the Battle of Tongpen La (Bum La) took place in 1962.

- 35. Kerala** became the first Indian state to fix Minimum Support Price for sixteen agriculture items.

Note: The scheme is to support farmers and increase agriculture sector. Sixteen different varieties of vegetables will be covered in the first phase. There is also a condition to revise the MSP price on a regular basis.

- 36. The Young Advocates Welfare Fund** has been launched in **Tamil Nadu**.

Note: It provides monthly financial assistance of three thousand rupees each for two years to the lawyers who just come out of law colleges. Normally a fresher from law colleges takes three to four years to begin practice as an advocate in the court as the registration in the Bar Council, and the mandatory practicing under a senior advocate takes time.

- 37. Uttar Pradesh** state government has decided to establish anti-human trafficking Police Stations in each and every district in a major step towards the security of women and children.

Note: These Police Stations will be given enough powers to register the case and investigate the matter independently. The state government is going to establish 40 new anti-trafficking units which will work like police stations in districts and will conduct the investigation after registering the cases.

- 38. Odisha** state government has launched 'State Scholarship Portal' to help eligible students of the state to avail scholarship benefits in a seamless and transparent manner.

Note: According to a government release, 21 scholarships would be offered by eight state departments and more than 11 lakh beneficiary students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and educationally backward classes would benefit from the scholarship portal.

- 39. Odisha** state government has launched 'Sumangal Portal' to help people avail inter-caste marriage incentives.

Note: The Chief Minister said while inaugurating the Sumangal portal that inter-ethnic marriages increased social unity and it reduced racial discrimination while promoting equality and peaceful coexistence in society. The CM added that Rs 2.5 lakh can be availed by beneficiaries within 60 days of applying at the portal.

September

- 1. Madhya Pradesh** government has launched 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo' campaign.

Note: During the campaign over 7 lakh, people took the oath to maintain cleanliness and eight lakh 70 thousand people were approached to make compost from wet waste. Four lakh 65 thousand masks were

distributed with the help of citizens under the mask awareness campaign.

- 2. According to the J&K official languages Bill 2020, Bhoti** is not an official of Jammu and Kashmir union territories.

Note: The J&K official languages Bill 2020 will be introduced in Parliament in the upcoming Monsoon



- Session. This bill will include Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri as official languages of the Union Territory. Bhoti is spoken in Ladakh region
3. **Odisha** government has launched AMA SAHAR and SWACHHA SAHAR web app.
Note: With the launching of web app, the urban local bodies (ULBs) will be able to submit utilisation certificate online which will bring better fiscal management.
 4. Under Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Programme, Goa is paired with **Jharkhand**.
Note: Stalls of Jharkhand displayed delicacies from that state and Goans enjoyed savouring the same. Folk dances presented by Jharkhand artistes also were appreciated by Goan artistes. Later Goan artistes also visited Jharkhand and presented Goan folk dances.
 5. **Andhra Pradesh** government has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) to set up a Bulk Drug Park (BDP).
Note: The objective of the MoU is to develop a collaborative partnership between the State government and CSIR-IICT to establish Bulk Drug Pharma park in the State. It seeks financial support from the Centre.
 6. **Punjab** government has launched 'I Rakhwali' app for Environment Protection.
Note: With this new initiative, the state govt aims to safeguard the state forest area by making people a stakeholder in this process. The state govt came up with the concept of the app to encourage people to come forward and contribute to the protection of the environment.
 7. **Uttar Pradesh** is all set to create the Udyog Bandhu-like body for farmers to assist Farmer Producer organizations.
Note: Uttar Pradesh (UP) is all set to create a dedicated body, on the lines of Udyog Bandhu, to assist enterprising farmer producer organisations (FPOs) in investing in projects for post-harvest infrastructure management and community farming assets with the help of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) that the Centre had announced in August.
 8. First ever Cannabis medicine project will be setup in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
Note: Cannabis Medicine Project will be set up in collaboration with Canada and Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in Jammu. It is the first major foreign investment in Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union Territory (UT).
 9. **Tamil Nadu** state constituted a seven-member high-level committee to study the National Education Policy of the Centre and to make recommendations.
Note: Vice-Chancellors of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University K. Pitchumani; Alagappa University N. Rajendran; Madurai Kamaraj University M. Krishnan; and Thiruvalluvar University S. Thamarai Selvi are among the members in the panel.
 10. **Haryana** government has launched Educational WhatsApp Chatbot "Apka Mitra" and Online Admission Platform for Undergraduate courses in government-aided and self-financed colleges for the new academic session 2020-21.
Note: 'Apka Mitra' is the first-of-its-kind educational WhatsApp Chatbot to resolve admission related queries of the students. Students can send a message on Whatsapp chatbot number 7419444449 to get information regarding admission & scholarship.
 11. **Andhra Pradesh** government has launched Sampurna Poshana Yojana scheme for providing food to lactating mothers and pregnant women so as to fulfil their nutritional requirements.
Note: The scheme aims at providing food to lactating mothers and pregnant women so as to fulfil their nutritional requirements. The scheme will bring down malnutrition among the vulnerable section of state.
 12. **Delhi** government has inaugurated an online portal for e-filing of consumers' complaints.
Note: Accessible via delhistatecommission.nic.in, the software has been developed by National Informatic Centre (NIC) in coordination with State Bank of India, which is providing payment gateway for payment of fees digitally. The Delhi State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DSCDRC) decided to launch the portal for the convenience of consumers especially due to the pandemic.
 13. **Assam** government has launched Kitchen Garden to promote nutritious food, as part of the Poshan Maah.
Note: Kitchen Garden or Nutri garden will be set up at Anganwadi Centres and Government Primary Schools across the state. Poshan Maah is India's flagship programme, launched in March 2018 to improve the nutritional status of children up to 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
 14. **Tamil Nadu** government has launched a portal for eye donation.
Note: He also pledged to donate his eyes as part of the National Eye Donation Fortnight. The portal will enable persons who wish to pledge to donate their eyes - www.hmis.tn.gov.in/eye-donor.



15. Karnataka Chief Minister, B.S. Yediyurappa inaugurated a flyover named after historic personality **Veer Savarkar**.
Note: The inauguration of the 400-metre long flyover built on Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road in the city. The Bengaluru's civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) built the flyover at the cost of Rs 34 crore.
16. Robotic Process Automation (RPA) software company, UiPath has partnered with **Andhra Pradesh** Skill Development Corporation to bridge the growing skill requirements.
Note: The programme is designed to bridge the growing skill requirements and build RPA resiliency in more than 50,000 students, in the next one year. In line with this, APSSDC will act as the regional center for all UiPath Academic Alliance activities in the State. To start off, UiPath will onboard 100 APSSDC institutes.
17. From which state country's second and South India's first "Kisan Train" was flagged off- **Andhra Pradesh**
Note: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy & Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar flagged off the train, via a video link from New Delhi and Amaravati. This train, loaded with 14 parcel vans, will cover a distance of 2,150 km in 40 hours.
18. An Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (IGRAMS) has been launched in **Jammu & Kashmir**.
Note: The system will replace the current portal launched by the government in 2018. This is the first UT that will be linked to the central government system—CPGRAMS.
19. **Odisha** state government has launched 'GARIMA' scheme to ensure the economic safety and social dignity of core sanitation workers in the state.
Note: State Housing and Urban Development department will be the scheme's implementing agency in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha. The scheme will benefit around 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families.
20. India's largest piggery mission was launched at **Meghalaya**.
Note: With funding of Rs 200 crore, the mission will have a transformative effect benefitting over 20,000 enterprises in Meghalaya. The Meghalaya State Piggery Mission was launched with the support of NCDC.

August

1. **Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched a public awareness campaign "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" from August 1-15.
Note: The Scheme will spread awareness about wearing masks as prevention from Covid-19 infection. Establishment of Mask Banks, where people can donate masks which in turn will be distributed free to poor people. Citizens can also donate masks through NGOs in every district/urban body.
2. **Maharashtra** government approved MagNet project worth Around Rs 1,000 crore to Help Farmers.
Note: The project aims to help farmers across all districts in the state for the next 6 years. This will boost the fruit and vegetable production and will improve processing and minimise the losses in the sector of perishables.
3. **Andhra Pradesh** state government has signed an MoU with Hindustan Unilever Ltd, P&G and ITC to Support Economic Empowerment of Women.
Note: The MoU was signed in the presence of Y S Jaganmohan Reddy at his camp office in Tadepalli. The state government of Andhra Pradesh is set to launch two schemes YSR Cheyutha and YSR Asara to support the empowerment of women.
4. Union territories **Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu** has launched E-Gyan Mitra mobile application for online education.
Note: Through the app, the students from primary till the higher secondary can take online classes along with attempting. The app will have lectures and quizzes posted by teachers along with a system of monitoring in which teachers can monitor students' progress
5. 'Thenzawl Golf Resort' project has been inaugurated in **Mizoram**.
Note: The project will develop Golf Tourism attracting both national and international tourist in the country. It will have an international standard of 18 holes Golf Course with a total cost of Rs 92.25 crore. Designed by: Canadian based Golf Course Architect Firm Graham Cooke & Associates and 30 Eco Log Huts.
6. 'E-Raksha Bandhan' awareness programme launched by Andhra Pradesh is related to **Cybercrime**.
Note: It is a month-long online campaign that will create awareness on Cyber crimes across the State with slogan 'Let us make August a month of e-freedom and e-safety. It will be organised by various organisations including Crime Investigation Department (CID), FM Radio, Cyber Crime Prevention



- Against Women and Children (CCPWC), Cyber Peace Foundation and other organisations.
7. **Haryana** state government has launched “Parivar Pehchan Patra” to enable the citizens to get the benefits of various central and state government schemes.
Note: This is to monitor each family (around 54 Lakh) living across Haryana. PPP each family will be considered as a single unit and will be allotted a 8 digit unique identification number. The 8-digit number will enable seamless delivery of state government services.
 8. **Andhra Pradesh** state government has entered into an MoU with the Indian School of Business (ISB) for setting up a Policy lab to spur growth with special focus on economic development and job creation.
Note: The MOU will nurture a think tank by setting up a Policy lab called the GoAP-ISB Policy Lab, a public policy laboratory to drive evidence-based policy decisions.
 9. **Uttarakhand** state is set develop India’s first Snow Leopard Conservation centre.
Note: The main aim of the centre is to conserve and restore Himalayan ecosystems. It also aims to conserve elusive snow leopards and other endangered Himalayan species. A number of snow leopards have been spotted in the districts of Pithoragarh and Uttarkashi. However, the actual figures are unknown. So far, the state government has concluded that there are 86 snow leopards in the state.
 10. **Haryana** state government has launched “Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana” to provide free sanitary napkins to girls and women of below poverty line (BPL) families.
Note: This scheme was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar through video conferencing. This scheme focusing on adolescent girls and women between 10 to 45 years of age of about 11,24,871 BPL families will provide a 6 piece packet of free sanitary napkins every month for a year.
 11. **Haryana** state government has launched “:Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphar Yojana” to provide fortified flavoured skimmed milk powder to women and children.
Note: This scheme was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar through video conferencing. This scheme was initiated under the aegis of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).
 12. **Chhattisgarh** government has launched “Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahaak Samajik Suraksha Yojana” for tendu leaves collectors.
Note: Used for making bidis (leaf-wrapped cigarettes), these are collected by forest dwellers and from them it is purchased by the state government. Mahendra Karma was popularly known as Bastar tiger for his tough stand against Naxals. He was among 29 people, including senior Congress leaders, who were killed in a Naxal attack in Jhiram valley of Bastar district on May 25, 2013.
 13. **Maharashtra** became the first state in India to collaborate with Google India for state-wide distribution of G suite for Education and Google Classroom.
Note: Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray announced the partnership with Google which will blend google’s learning programmes that integrate the classroom approach with online learning, over a virtual launch event. The aim of the partnership is to progress Maharashtra in education with effective use of online resources, platforms and technology and to bridge the gap in education amid COVID-19 pandemic.
 14. India’s homegrown e-commerce marketplace, Flipkart has signed an MoU with One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme of **Uttar Pradesh** government.
Note: The MoU will bring the artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme into the scope of the “Flipkart Samarth” initiative. This will provide artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme a momentum to expand their business online as they face social and economic challenges.
 15. The Ministry of Railways has inaugurated a dedicated museum for railways in **Hubballi, Karnataka**.
Note: This is the first of its kind museum in Northern Karnataka and second in South Western Railways after the historic railway museum at Mysore, Karnataka. The main objective of the museum is to preserve and portray the glorious heritage of various branches of Railways and displays the gradual evolution of advanced systems in all spheres of Railway.
 16. US Based IT Firm “Boston Group” has signed an MoU with **Andhra Pradesh** government to set up an IT company.
Note: The new IT company stated to be installed in the state according to the MoU is expected to create 250+ jobs in the IT sector. The employees of this centre would be deployed in the R&D on Learning platforms and leverage advanced technologies such as Artificial



- Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Cyber Security and Human Resources.
17. **Gujarat** state government has launched Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana.
Note: The yojana has been announced for the current Kharif season and all farmers of the state will be covered under this scheme. Farmers would not have to pay any premium or registration process for the scheme.
 18. **Goa** state government has signed an MoU with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) for setting up a World-Class Skill Development Institute to provide Advanced Skills Training under “Skill India Mission”.
Note: The institute is proposed to be set up at the heritage building of Old Asilo Hospital, Mapusa, North Goa. The institute will provide Advanced Skills training in highly specialized areas across sectors like healthcare, tourism and hospitality and other emerging business domains to meet industry demands.
 19. **Assam** state government has started “Orunodoi Scheme” for women’s empowerment.
Note: Under the “Orunodoi” scheme, Rs 830 per month aid would mean an additional annual income of Rs 10,000 to the poor households to meet their medical, nutritional, and academic needs besides to meet the additional spending during various festivals.”.
 20. **Arunachal Pradesh** government has formed a nine-member committee to discuss and arrive at a possible solution to the touchy issue of creation of two autonomous councils in the State.
Note: The panel headed by Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein has seven Cabinet colleagues, including Home Minister Bamang Felix and Tribal Affairs Minister Alo Libang, as members. The ninth member is Home Commissioner Kaling Tayeng.
 21. The Madhya Pradesh state government has announced to name Gwalior-Chambal Expressway after **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
Note: The Gwalior Chambal Expressway is a 6 lane expressway connecting Madhya Pradesh with Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, through the ravines of Chambal region. The expressway will go parallel to the Chambal river via Shivpuri, Bhind, Morena to Kota (Rajasthan).
 22. **Nagaland** state government has launched “YellowChain” centralized e-commerce platform.
Note: Yellow Chain will act as an integrated platform for the people of the state, where any Seller/Service Provider/Individual/Group can register themselves and upload their products, trades, skills, services etc. to enable the citizens/buyers to have access to their Service or Product.
 23. **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched a student centric scheme named as “Padhai Tuhar Para” .
Note: Chhattisgarh government has announced to launch a student centric scheme named as “Padhai Tuhar Para”. The scheme will enable the school students to study with the help of community in their localities and villages, in view of the suspension of classes due to coronavirus outbreak.
 24. **Madhya Pradesh** state top in implementing PM SVANidhi Scheme.
Note: Madhya Pradesh is the leading state in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma-Nirbhar Scheme (PM SVANidhi). The state has sanctioned interest free loans of Rs 10000 to more than 58000 street vendors, so far. Identity cards are distributed to the registered vendors.
 25. **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the ‘Ek Sankalp – Bujurgo ke naam’ campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.
Note: This unique campaign is proving to be a boon for the **Elderly People** living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.
 26. **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the ‘Ek Sankalp – Bujurgo ke naam’ campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.
Note: In this campaign, the police are taking care of the elderly people from the food to their health. Renowned social activist Anna Hazare has also praised this initiative of Chhatarpur Police.
 27. **Delhi** state government has launched the Niranman Mazdoor Registration Abhiyan for construction workers from August 24 to September 11.
Note: Special camps would be set up for construction workers to register themselves and take advantage of nearly 18 different assistance schemes. Delhi government will set up camps at 70 schools—one each in all the 70 assembly constituencies of Delhi—to help workers who are not tech-savvy.
 28. Uttar Pradesh government has signed a ‘plan of cooperation’ with **Israel** to resolve water crisis in Bundelkhand region.
Note: The partnership between the two governments seeks to address water crisis in drought hit regions of Bundelkhand. It will support regional farmers with latest farming technologies such as drip irrigation, meant for water deficient regions like Bundelkhand



- 29. Odisha** government is working on a mobile-based application to enable farmers to upload picture of grievances such as water availability in canals and their redressal in a fixed timeframe.
Note: The application being developed through Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) will use command area of projects as geo-fencing region to forward the grievance to the authority concerned.
- 30. Maharashtra** government has extended a ₹50 lakh insurance cover to private doctors who die of COVID-19.
Note: The Maharashtra government has extended ₹50 lakh insurance cover to private doctors who die of coronavirus infection during the pandemic. In a circular issued, director of state Health Services Dr Sadhana Tayde said the insurance cover, which is being given to doctors in government and semi-government services, has now been extended to private medical practitioners who succumb to the infection.
- 31. Kerala** is to host the first-ever State Dragonfly Festival 2020.
Note: The festival has been christened as Thumbimahotsavam 2020. 'Pantalu' is the official mascot of the festival. As part of the festival, various programmes will be rolled out in the coming months to reach out to various sections of society.
- 32.** The longest river ropeway of India has been inaugurated in **Assam**.
Note: The ropeway will be operated from Kachari Ghat in Guwahati to Dol Govinda temple in North Guwahati. The new ropeway service empowered with state-of-the-art technology will decrease the travel time between Guwahati and North Guwahati.
- 33. Odisha** has launched a new scheme for promoting intensive aquaculture through Biofloc technology in fisheries.
Note: The scheme will provide livelihood support to entrepreneurs, unemployed youth and interested progressive fish farmers and will also increase fish production in the state.
- 34.** Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 45 highway projects in **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: He also announced that Rs.700 crore from the Central Road Fund (CRF) will be utilised for the road sector of Madhya Pradesh. The aim was to complete projects worth Rs 50,000 crore out of Rs 1.25 lakh crore by 2023.
- 35. Haryana** government has inked an MoU with the M3M Foundation to facilitate online preparation, training and mentoring for government jobs to students.
Note: Through this MoU, a program will be implemented to select 50,000 candidates for online training based on their past performance in government examinations in the state. Under the MoU, M3M Foundation will finance the initiative, identify, select and hire suitable students and undertake a periodic review of the implementation of the program.
- 36. Kerala** state will establish the first international women's trade centre (IWTC) of India.
Note: The IWTC seeks to accelerate the women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity. It will also offer a safe place away from home to women to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.
- 37. Uttar Pradesh** government has launched 'Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana' scheme under which 19 International Players will get road connectivity to their homes.
Note: The initial list includes 19 International Players from the state, and later on more players are expected to be added to the list. The list includes Indian Cricketers Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Piyush Chawla and Mohammad Kaif.

Important News - World

January (1st to 14th) 2021

- The Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) has named 4 Asian Tea Cultivation Sites from **China, Japan and South Korea** as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.
Note: The Pu'er Tea Agroecosystem in Yunnan is the world's largest area of tea forest plantations established by village ancestors thousands of years ago. The Fuzhou Jasmine and Tea Culture System developed over more than 2000 years is rich in biodiversity. GIAHS is an initiative started by FAO in 2002 for the identification & conservation of traditional agricultural systems all over the world. These sites also represent models of sustainable agriculture production



2. **Japan** is developing wooden satellites to reduce the space debris.
Note: The partnership will begin experimenting with different types of wood in extreme environments on Earth. Wooden satellites would burn up without releasing harmful substances into the atmosphere or raining debris on the ground when they plunge back to Earth.
3. **China** has deployed a fleet of underwater drones called Sea Wing Glider in the Indian Ocean region.
Note: These sea gliders, which the Chinese are deploying "en masse", are a type of Uncrewed Underwater Vehicle (UUV) which were launched in mid-December 2019. According to the defence expert, reports from December last year suggested that 14 would be employed in the Indian Ocean mission but only 12 were used.
4. **USA** Parliament has passed the "Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act" which will expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women to receive higher education.
Note: Passed by the House of Representatives in March 2020, the bill was passed by the United States Senate by a voice vote on January 1. The bill now heads to the White House for US President Donald Trump to sign into law. The bill requires the US Agency for International Development to award at least 50 per cent of scholarships under a Pakistan-based higher education scholarship programme to Pakistani women, from 2020 to 2022, across a range of academic disciplines and in with existing eligibility criteria.
5. **India** will co-chair the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP), a regional forum to conserve wildlife habitats for three years.
Note: India will replace South Korea which held this position for three years till November, 2020. Notably APAP is chaired by IUCN Asia and co-chaired by an APAP country member. India got this opportunity after successfully increasing the population of wild animals such as tigers, lions and leopards through protecting their habitats.
6. **Pakistan** has successfully test launched Fatah-1, the indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system.
Note: The rocket system is capable of delivering a conventional warhead up to a range of 140 kilometres.
The weapon system will give Pakistan Army the capability of precision target engagement deep in enemy territory.
7. **Japan** has decided to assist India by providing a loan of up to INR 2,129 Crore for its efforts to mitigate socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.
Note: The Exchange of Notes for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Support Loan for Social Protection were signed by SUZUKI Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India and Dr C. S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs. This yen loan is the latest addition to Japan's supports to India in its fight against COVID-19.
8. **Bangladesh** will be the Country in Focus for the 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held in Goa from 16th to 24th January.
Note: According to an official release by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), the Country in Focus is a special segment that recognizes the cinematic excellence and contributions of a particular country. In addition, the 51st Edition of IFFI has announced a line-up of programmes that will be showcased on the OTT platform during the festival.
9. **France** has organised the fourth 'One Planet Summit', through videoconferencing, which aimed at protecting the world's biodiversity.
Note: The Summit was organised in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank. The theme of the Summit was "Let's act together for nature!" It was inaugurated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres, French President Emmanuel Macron, and President of the World Bank Group David Malpass.
10. **Germany** topped in the Arton Capital Passport Index 2021.
Note: Sweden, Finland and Spain all ranked second, with a mobility score of 133. While all the passport holders of all the three countries require visas for 65 countries, the Swedish passport holders can go to 99 countries without requiring a visa, and to 34 countries on a visa-on-arrival arrangement. Passports of Denmark, Norway, Switzerland and New Zealand ranked at the third place, with all the countries having a mobility score of 132, requiring a visa for 66 countries.

December 2020



1. **Kazakhstan** will chair the incoming 20th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government in 2021.
Note: The Summit ended with the adoption of the Joint Communiqué. During the meet he launched the first ever SCO Online Exhibition on Shared Buddhist Heritage. It was launched during the 19th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government.
 2. According to air pollution data released by the US Air Quality Index 2020 **Lahore** has topped the list of world's most polluted cities.
Note: According to the index, Lahore reported a particulate matter (PM) rating of 423. Pakistan's financial capital Karachi ranked at 7 on the AQI. New Delhi came in second with a PM of 229, while Nepal's capital Kathmandu ranked the third-worst city with a PM of 178.
 3. **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** has published a flagship report titled "The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2020 – Overcoming Water Challenges in Agriculture".
Note: The report states that around 1.2 billion people across the globe are under high levels of water stress, which means that one out of every 6 people in the world are facing a severe water stress or scarcity in agriculture with more than 15% of the rural population at risk. The State of Food and Agriculture 2020 report addresses two prime water challenges that affect agriculture and food production, Water Shortages and Scarcity.
 4. According to the world Malaria report, 2020 prepared by the World Health Organisation, India is the largest contributor of Malaria cases in the south-east Asia region.
Note: As per the report, India recorded the largest reduction in malaria cases in South East Asia. The case count has reduced from 20 million in 2000 to around 5.6 million in 2019. However, India is the largest contributor of Malaria cases in the south-east Asia region. Around 88% of Malaria cases in the region are from India.
 5. **Singapore** becomes the first country to allow the sale of cultured meat.
Note: The meat is created from animal cells without slaughtering chickens. Eat Just Inc., a maker of meat and egg substitutes, has been approved to sell its laboratory-created chicken in Singapore
 6. Bangladesh has signed its first Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with **Bhutan**.
Note: Under the PTA, 100 Bangladeshi products will get duty free access to Bhutan, while 34 items from Bhutan will get duty free access into Bangladesh.
- Further items can be added in the list later on the basis of discussion between the two countries.
7. **Singapore** will host the Special Annual Meeting 2021 of WEF in 2021.
Note: For the first time the WEF Special Annual meeting is taking place in Asia and the second time that meeting is being held outside Davos, Switzerland. The first meeting outside Davos, Switzerland was held in 2002 in New York.
 8. **UNICEF** has decided to introduce a prestigious ward "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman" International Prize in the Field of Creative Economy".
Note: The name of the award is "UNESCO-Bangladesh "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman" International Prize in the Field of Creative Economy." The award will be given every two years and the prize money will be US \$50,000. It will be given for the first time in November next year at the 41st General meeting of UNESCO.
 9. India decided to establish a task force on energy with **Qatar**.
Note: This was announced after a telecall between Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan, and Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs and President and CEO Qatar Petroleum. Qatar is a reliable supplier of Liquefied Natural Gas and Liquefied Petroleum Gas.
 10. The joint air force exercise "Shaheen (Eagle)-IX" was conducted between **Pakistan and China**.
Note: Shaheen-IX is the ninth in the series of Joint Air Exercises which is conducted each year in both countries on alternate basis. The first such drill was held in Pakistan in March 2011. China and Pakistan share close military ties. China helps Pakistan to jointly produce JF-17 fighter jets and other armaments.
 11. According to 11th Edition of Emissions Gap Report 2020 (Annual report) released by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Carbon Dioxide Emissions are set to fall by **7 per cent** in 2020 owing to Pandemic.
Note: The report states that emissions of the richest 1% of the Global Population (Countries like United States of America (USA), European Union (EU), Australia and New Zealand) account for more than twice of the share of poorest 50% of countries. Global GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions continued to rise in 2019. 52.4 GtCO_{2e} (Gigatonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide) without land-use change (LUC) and 59.1 GtCO_{2e} including LUC.



12. United Nations Education Scientific & Cultural

Organization (UNESCO) has released the 2nd edition of "State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)".

Note: Over 400 representatives were participated that includes from the government, civil society, academia, partners and youth. The second edition of the State of Education Report focuses on technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

13. Oman becomes the first Arabian country to establish Friendship Association with India.

Note: Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al Busaidi held detailed dialogue with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar on giving further momentum to strategic ties. The aim of the association to provide a platform that promotes friendship, understanding and matters of mutual interest between Oman and India business and social communities in the Sultanate.

14. Chile finds top position in Bloomberg New Energy Finance's (BNEF) 2020 Climatescope survey ranking.

Note: India has dropped to the second position in Bloomberg New Energy Finance's (BNEF) 2020 Climatescope survey ranking from first last year, as a result of a decline in clean energy investment, which fell 12 per cent in 2018-19 to \$8.5 billion and has plummeted 32 per cent since 2017.

15. Virtually co-hosted Climate Ambition Summit 2020 -- UN and France.

Note: Climate Ambition Summit marked 5 years of the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It is a major step to the next UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), which will be hosted by UK in 2021.

16. 'Swadhinata Sarak' is to be opened in 2021 between India and Bangladesh.

Note: It will be inaugurated by March 2021. It will remain functional on the Indian side while it will be connected through Mujibnagar, Meherpur district in Bangladesh.

17. India is planning to work with United Kingdom on the academic and research collaborations and also set up a joint task force which would work towards mutual recognition of academic qualifications.

Note: Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, Dominic Raab hailed India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as visionary and expressed the resolve of strengthening India-UK collaboration on deepening engagement in the field of education and research. Raab held a bilateral talk with India Education Minister

Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" during which he said that the proposed reforms of NEP 2020 will open up opportunities for students, economy and for deeper engagement and collaboration between the two countries.

18. International organization UNESCO has released the 2nd edition of "State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)".

Note: India's often cited demographic dividend, the aspirations of its youth and the skill requirements of the growing economy – all hinge on a well-functioning TVET system for achieving an inclusive and equitable growth that will propel the country to the next phase of socio-economic development. The Report aims to support the Government of India which has already announced skills development as a key national priority under the Skill India Mission.

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20. Russia has been banned from using its name, flag and anthem at the next two Olympics or at any world championships for the next two years.

Note: The Court of Arbitration for Sport's ruling also blocked Russia from bidding to host major sporting events for two years. Russian athletes and teams will still be allowed to compete at next year's Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing, as well as world championships including the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, if they are not implicated in doping or covering up positive tests.

21. Pakistan has approved the chemical castration of rapist in its new Anti-Rape legislation.

Note: New laws approved by President Arif Alvi will see rape cases expedited through the courts and create the country's first national sex offender register. Pakistan is a deeply conservative and patriarchal nation where victims of sexual abuse often are too afraid to speak out, or where criminal complaints are frequently not investigated seriously.

22. Singapore's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres has been recognised by UNESCO for its cultural significance.



- Note:** The UN cultural agency added the city-state's "hawker culture" to its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Singapore's hawker centres were set up to house former street vendors, or "hawkers" in an effort to clean up the island in the 1970s
- 23.** The second Bangladesh-India Cotton Fest 2020 was held in **Dhaka**.
Note: Bangladesh Cotton Association (BCA) jointly organized the festival, in cooperation with Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), Indian Cotton Association Ltd. (ICAL), India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI).
- 24.** **Russia** successfully test-launched its heavy lift Angara A5 space rocket for the second time.
Note: First test-launched in 2014, it is being developed to replace the Proton M as Russia's heavy lift rocket, capable of carrying payloads bigger than 20 tonnes into orbit. A launch pad for the new rocket is due to open in 2021.
- 25.** The 20th edition of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
Note: The theme of the meeting was "Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean". The Indian delegation was led by V. Muraleedharan, MoS, Ministry of External Affairs. Sri Lanka has assumed the charge of Vice-Chair of IORA for the period 2021-23.
- 26.** India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Israel** for cooperation in the fields of Health and Medicine, sharing expertise in building climate resilient infrastructure & support to 'Green Healthcare'.
Note: The MoU was signed by Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabi Ashkenazi & Sanjeev Kumar Singla, India's ambassador to Israel. On November 4, 2020, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved the signing of MoU between India & Israel.
- 27.** **UNICEF** organization has launched 'COVID-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard'.
Note: The dashboard, in this 1st release offers a routinely updated overview of the global research and development pipeline, the projected production capacity, the bilateral and multilateral supply agreements, that were announced publicly and the reported price points. The dashboard will be expanded to see the progress towards the goal of the COVAX Facility to achieve 2 billion vaccine doses by the end of 2021.
- 28.** **China** has successfully launched a new remote sensing satellite 'Yaogan-33' into space.
Note: The satellite, Yaogan-33, was launched aboard a Long March-4C rocket and entered the planned orbit successfully. It was the 357th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series, the report said. The mission also sent a micro and nano technology experiment satellite into orbit. The two satellites will be used for scientific experiments, land resources survey, crop yield estimation and disaster prevention and reduction.

November

- 1.** **Russia** chaired the recently held BRICS Business Forum to increase trade and investment among the member countries of BRICS.
Note: The council was formed in 2013 summit in Durban. Since its establishment, the primary task of BRICS Business council is to increase trade and investment among the member countries of BRICS. Russia chaired the meet as it is currently holding the rotating leadership of BRICS. Around 90 speakers from the member countries participated at the forum. One of the main tasks of the council is to update the Strategy for Economic Partnership of BRICS.
- 2.** Once completed world's longest immersed tunnel, Fehmarnbelt Tunnel will link **Denmark and Germany**.
Note: After more than a decade of planning, work has begun on the world's longest immersed tunnel. Descending up to 40 meters beneath the Baltic Sea, Fehmarnbelt Tunnel will link Denmark and Germany, slashing journey times when it opens in 2029. The tunnel, which will be 18 kilometers (11.1 miles) long, is one of Europe's largest infrastructure projects, with a construction budget of over €7 billion (\$8.2 billion).
- 3.** **Qatar** to go for first national election.
Note: Qatar's ruler announced that a vote to review the policy of the country is to be held in October 2021. This is the first of its kind in the region. Currently, unelected Shura Council advises the absolute ruler, Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. Laws in Qatar can be overruled by a simple decree.
- 4.** **Bangladesh** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Serum Institute of India for priority delivery of 3 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses.



Note: This COVISHIELD Vaccines was developed by AstraZeneca and University of Oxford. According to the agreement, initially 1.5 crore people will be vaccinated as each person requires two vaccine doses. Currently there are three COVID-19 vaccines under trial in India.

- The Oil India Limited is decided to brought a new technique snubbing unit from **Canada** to control the oil well blowout in Assam's Baghjan.

Note: The Oil India Limited owned Baghjan well erupted on May 27, 2020. It has been burning for more than five months now. The fire damaged the highly sensitive ecosystem in the region. It displaced more than 9,000 people. The fire is still uncontrollable even after five months of continuous efforts. In order to put off the fire, a snubbing unit is being brought from Canada.

- In coordination with **Andhra Pradesh** the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has launched "Go Electric" campaign.

Note: The Andhra Pradesh State Government is to set up 400 Electric Vehicle charging vehicles all over the state to promote the usage of electric vehicles. This is to be achieved in coordination with the "Go Electric" campaign of BEE. The main of the step is to attract investment in the EV sector by setting up charging stations and electric vehicle infrastructure.

- USA become the only country to formally pull out of the Paris climate accord since it was adopted in 2015.

Note: With this, the US has now become the only country to formally pull out of the deal since it was adopted in 2015. The landmark Paris climate agreement was signed in 2015 to protect the planet from the worsening impacts of the climate crisis. As per the rules of the agreement, a country cannot officially leave before one full year of notifying the UN of its intent to withdraw.

- The governor of Reserve Bank of India chaired the 40th Meeting of the SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group was held virtually.

Note: The meeting was attended by the Governors from SAARC central banks. During the meeting, Mr Das also inaugurated the SAARCFINANCE Sync, a closed user group secure communication network. The group took stock of the macroeconomic situation in the SAARC region; discussed the current SAARCFINANCE initiatives; and the way ahead. The Governors reaffirmed their commitment to continued co-operation and sharing of central bank experiences.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: This was the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format and the third meeting that India participated



- after becoming a full member in 2017. It should be noted that President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan will assume the chairmanship of SCO in 2021.
15. The theme of the 12th BRICS summit that is to be hosted by Russia -- **“Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”**.
Note: The summit is to be held under the theme “Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”. The BRICS members to participate in the meeting are China, India, Brazil, Russia and South Africa.
 16. Two countries **Japan and Australia** have signed the “Reciprocal Access Agreement” to counter the growing influence of China in the South China sea and in the Pacific Island Nations.
Note: The defence agreement has taken six years of negotiations. This will bring the countries closer amidst militarization in South China sea and series of disputes over islands in East China sea. This is the first agreement of Japan to allow foreign military presence in its sovereign territory since 1960.
 17. **United Nations** organization in association with “the Vaccine Confidence Project” of University of London launched “Team Halo” to counter misinformation around COVID-19 vaccines.
Note: More than 100 scientists from different parts of the world have come together under the project. Team Halo aims to tackle misinformation on safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. Under the initiative, the scientists will create social-media friendly videos on COVID-19 vaccine science based on their personal experiences.
 18. **London** city emerged as the best city in the “World’s Best Cities for 2021” list released by the Vancouver-based Resonance Consultancy Ltd.
Note: London was followed by USA’s New York. Only one Indian city Delhi, made it to the list, taking the 62nd position. Paris (France), Moscow (Russia), Tokyo (Japan), Dubai (UAE), Singapore, Barcelona (Spain), Los Angeles (USA), and Madrid (Spain) took the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth rank respectively. The other cities that were named are Rome (Italy) and Toronto (Canada).
 19. The 15th East Asia Summit held virtually was chaired by **Vietnam**.
Note: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) on behalf of the PM. The Summit Meeting discussed ways and means to strengthen the EAS platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary.
 20. The Guadalajara of **Mexico** named World Book Capital for the year 2022 by the Director-General of UNESCO.
Note: The city was selected for its comprehensive plan for policies around the book to trigger social change, combat violence and build a culture of peace. Tbilisi (Georgia) was named as the World Book Capital 2021 and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) for 2020.
 21. The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the global strategy to fast track the eradication of cervical cancer by -- **2050**.
Note: For the first time, 194 countries, including India, committed to eliminate cancer, following the adoption of a resolution at the World Health Assembly 2020 in Geneva. The countries should vaccinate 90% of girls aged 15 years with the HPV vaccine by 2030, while 70% of women up to the age of 35 years should be screened using a high-performance test and 90% of women of up to 45 years diagnosed with cervical cancer must receive treatment.
 22. The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was recently hosted by **Malaysia**.
Note: The Summit was attended by the US President Donald Trump as well. The next APEC meeting is to be hosted by New Zealand. The APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 was adopted during the Summit. It envisions and open, resilient peaceful Asia Pacific community by 2040.
 23. According to the **Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL)** annual report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) which group of cities emerged as the most expensive cities of the world --- **Hong Kong, Paris and Zurich**.
Note: According to the Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL) annual report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) revealed that Singapore and Osaka, which were joint first in 2019, have slid down the rankings to fourth and fifth place respectively. Cities in the Americas, Africa and eastern Europe have become less expensive since 2019, whilst western European cities have become pricier.
 24. **Finland and India** signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of biodiversity conservation and environment protection.
Note: The agreement was signed by the Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and his counterpart Krista Mikkonen of Finland. According to the Memorandum of Understanding, the countries will exchange their best practices in areas such as prevention of air and water pollution, waste management, low carbon solutions, sustainable management of natural resources and promotion of circular economy. Also, it



will help the countries to develop technological, scientific and management capabilities.

- 25. United Arab Emirates** is all set to become the first Arab Gulf country, and probably the last, to generate electricity from coal.
Note: In this regard, the company has already inked a long time agreement with Japan's Jera Co under which the latter will supply coal. The capacity of the plant will be 600 megawatts (MW) initially which will be increased to 2,400 MW by 2023.
- 26.** India has revived the Indian Ocean troika with two countries **Maldives and Sri Lanka** to promote the "meaningful cooperation" in the Indian Ocean region on maritime security.
Note: Mauritius and Seychelles joined as observers through virtual mode. In a shift from the past, the National Security Advisors of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives decided — after their in-person trilateral meeting in Colombo — to broad-base the maritime security dialogue and include "terrorism", "radicalisation", "extremism", "drugs", "arms and human trafficking", "money laundering" and

"cybersecurity" as they decided to cooperate in these areas of common concern. This is the first time that NSA Ajit Doval participated in the trilateral dialogue as the group has not met since March 2014.

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

October

- 1.** Human rights organization, **Amnesty International** has announced that it has decided to halt its operations in India after a successful eight-year run alleging that its bank accounts were frozen as part of government's "witch-hunt".
Note: The decision which came after the recent move by the Enforcement Directorate to freeze the organisation's accounts will impact about 150 employees.
- 2.** India with France to launch a constellation of maritime surveillance satellites to monitor illegal spillage of oil in the Indian Ocean Region.
Note: In August 2020, the ISRO and the French Space Agency CNES agreed to develop and build a constellation of satellites. CNES is Centre National d'études spatiales, the National Centre for Space Studies. The satellites will carry optical-remote sensing instruments, telecommunication and radar instruments.
- 3.** China is all set to send the world's **first mining robot named 'asteroid mining robot'** into space by November 2020 to identify and extract resources.
Note: The mining robot will be launched into space by a Chinese Long March series rocket. The 30-gram spacecraft, NEO-1, is likely to be launched as a secondary payload on a Chinese Long March rocket. This company also has another mission, Yuanwang-1
- (‘Look up-1’), nicknamed ‘Little Hubble’, which is to be launched by late 2021 or early 2022.
- 4.** Google announced the launch of its nationwide campaign 'Make Small Strong' in order to help support small businesses and drive demand through customer support.
Note: "Make Small Strong" campaign is meant to rally support from the citizens for small businesses. The citizens can help small businesses by buying locally, leaving reviews and ratings and by promoting their favourite retailers on social media.
- 5.** USA committed \$1.9 million to India to support informal sector workers, micro enterprises.
Note: The financial assistance from US Agency for International Development (USAID), extended generously by the American people to partners in India, will support efforts to rebuild local economies and improve the livelihoods of Indians who have been hit hardest by this pandemic.
- 6.** India will build a 100-bedded cancer hospital and a 22,000-seater cricket stadium in Maldives.
Note: This project will build on the already close bilateral cooperation in the health sector and include a robust component of human resource development. Projects covered under the LoC include several infrastructure development projects.



7. Russia will chair the 12th BRICS Summit to be held on 17th November 2020 via video conference.
Note: The theme of the Meeting of the Leaders of BRICS countries is “BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”. The Summit this year is being held under the Chairmanship of Russia and aims at a multifaceted cooperation between the member countries.
8. World Economic Forum will jointly establish country's first of its kind Advanced Manufacturing hub (AMHUB) in association with Guidance.
Note: AMHUB is Advanced Manufacturing hub and is first of its kind in the country. Guidance is the nodal investment promotion agency of the state of Tamil Nadu. AMHUB will help the state in the sectors of solar energy, electronics, electric mobility and textiles. It will help boost production sector of Tamil Nadu by identifying regional opportunities brought by Fourth Industrial Revolution.
9. Russia has successfully tested a new hypersonic anti-ship cruise missile Tsirkon.
Note: The Tsirkon missile was fired from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate in the White Sea in the Russian Arctic and successfully hit its target. Russia boasts of developing a number of "invincible" weapons that surpass existing systems and include Sarmat intercontinental missiles and Burevestnik cruise missiles. The first Avangard hypersonic missiles were put into service in December last year.
10. The Union Cabinet approved signing of an agreement with Japan that is aimed at enhancing cooperation in emerging technologies, protection of critical infrastructure, cyberspace and to mitigate threats to communication networks.
Note: The approval to the pact by the cabinet comes in the midst of growing concerns over cyberattacks from China, particularly after India banned over 100 mobile apps with Chinese links.
11. As per the latest report of FIS India has become the global leader in real-time financial transactions with 41 million transactions per day.
Note: The Covid-19 pandemic has seen India doubling its every day real-time transactions at 41 million, says the latest report from FIS. FIS is a leading provider of technology solutions for merchants, banks and capital markets firms globally. According to the report released, six other countries also saw more than doubling of their real-time payment transactions year-over-year, while four saw at least a twofold increase in transaction value.
12. Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Kuwait.
Note: He took charge as the PM in 2019. He started his career in 1978, joining the ministry of foreign affairs, where he worked at various capacities, including being a member of Kuwait's permanent mission to the United Nations (1983-1989).
13. The Blue Flag programme is operated under the auspices of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), its headquarter is located in **Copenhagen, Denmark**.
Note: The beaches which got International Blueflag Certification are Shivrajpur beach in Dwarka Gujarat, Ghoghla beach in Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden Beach in Odisha and Radhanagar beach in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised voluntary awards for beaches, marinas.
14. As per the announcement made by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Pakistan will continue to remain under “grey list”.
Note: The Asia-pacific group of FATF submitted a report titled “Follow up report on mutual evaluation of Pakistan”. The report is first of its kind. The decision of putting Pakistan under grey list was taken based on this report.
15. Bangladesh has introduced the death penalty for rape.
Note: Demonstrations have broken out across the country after harrowing footage of a group of men stripping and attacking a woman went viral on social media. The clip sparked outrage in the South Asian country, where activists say only a tiny percentage of sexual assault victims see justice. Previously, the maximum punishment for rape was life imprisonment
16. The annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) 2021 will be organized in Lucerne.
Note: The World Economic Forum (WEF) said it will hold its Annual Meeting 2021 in Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland, from May 18 to 21, as against the traditional venue of ski resort town Davos in January-end. The change in schedule and venue was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
17. Argentina become the first country in the world to approve genetically modified wheat.
Note: The drought-resistant HB4 wheat variety was developed by Argentine biotechnology company Bioceres, working with the National University and Conicet. Bioceres' HB4 wheat is resistant to drought and tolerates the herbicide glufosinate sodium, a combination the company says can help boost yields on dry years.



- 18.** Sooronbai Jeenbekov has resigned from the post of prime minister of **Kyrgyzstan**.
Note: Kyrgyzstan President, Sooronbai Jeenbekov has resigned from his post, following 10 days of unrest caused by protesters who have demanded his removal from office. On 4th October 2020, he was re-elected as the President in Parliamentary election, causing political turmoil throughout the country.
- 19.** Two Asian countries **Pakistan and Nepal** have been re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council.
Note: Pakistan and Nepal have been re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council, while China won a seat by the smallest margin showing a drastic drop in standing. Established by the UN General Assembly in 2006 as the principal United Nations entity dealing with human rights, the Human Rights Council consists of 47 elected Member.
- 20.** Two countries **India and France** have been re-elected as the President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), for a term of two years.
Note: Four new Vice-Presidents were also chosen to represent the four regions of ISA. The representatives of Fiji & Nauru for Asia Pacific Region; Mauritius & Niger for Africa Region; UK & Netherlands for Europe and others Region, and Cuba and Guyana for Latin America and Caribbean Region assumed the vice presidency.
- 21.** According to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index for 2020, **USA** is the most powerful nation influencing the Asia-Pacific.
Note: China is closing in on the U.S. as the most powerful country influencing the Asia-Pacific, as America's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic tarnishes its reputation. While America retained its place as the region's top superpower, its 10-point lead on China two years ago has been halved, according to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index for 2020, which ranks 26 nations and territories.
- 22.** Japan has signed an agreements with **Vietnam** country to ensure "free and open Indo-Pacific".
Note: Recently, the QUAD grouping held in Tokyo, reaffirmed the significance of "free and open Indo-Pacific" and raised concerns over increasing Chinese influence in the region. The agreement between Japan and Vietnam will add to QUAD decisions in the region. The United States has invited the ASEAN countries to join QUAD grouping.
- 23.** **Israel** will have a first separate 'Water Attache' in India from January 2021 which will share the its best practices and technologies for advancements in India's water management and agriculture sectors.
Note: Notably, water is one of the biggest challenges in India post-COVID. Apart from this, Israel will also nominate an honorary Consul in the North-East with the aim to increase its presence and collaboration in that region. These announcements were made by Israeli Ambassador to India Ron Malka.
- 24.** The North Atlantic Treaty organisation is to setup a new Space Centre in **Germany**.
Note: The new Centre will gather information about possible threats to satellites. The centre is to be developed into a command centre of defensive measures in near future. The centre is being setup based on Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty organisation.
- 25.** India has contributed to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Near East --**one million dollars**.
Note: India has contributed one million dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Near East. This aid will support the Agency's programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services.
- 26.** Intergovernmental organization **World Economic Forum** has released the third edition of "The Future of Jobs Report 2020", according to which the covid-19 and its impacts will disrupt more than 85 million jobs by 2025.
Note: According to the report the covid-19 and its impacts will disrupt more than 85 million jobs by 2025. The report is based on the future of jobs. The report has been prepared by the forum based on the projections of Senior Business leaders from more than 300 Global firms.
- 27.** World famous UNESCO Heritage sitecou, Nazca lines is located in **Peru**.
Note: The Nazca lines consists of hundreds of gigantic geoglyph that date back more than 2000 years. The newly discovered cat Geoglyph is older than the ones discovered earlier.
- 28.** India-assisted with Hydroelectric project **Mangdechhu** (in Bhutan) has been awarded the Brunel Medal-2020, UK's top engineering body award.
Note: The 720-MW Mangdechhu run-of-river power project is built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan at a cost of Rs 4,500-crore. The project was jointly inaugurated by the prime ministers of the two countries in August 2019, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Bhutan.
- 29.** **Andorra** country has joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to become its 190th member.



- Note:** Andorra is a microstate situated between France and Spain. IMF's Membership allows the Andorran government to benefit from IMF policy advice, especially as the country tackles the crisis caused by COVID-19 and can now receive an annual review or "health check" of its economy by the IMF.
- 30.** The United States approved the potential sale of three weapon systems, as well as missiles and artillery to **Taiwan**.
Note: The United States also approved 11 truck-based rocket launchers created by Lockheed Martin Corp called a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System for an approximately cost of USD 436.1m. It also approved 135 AGM-84H Standoff Land Attack Missile Expanded Response (SLAM-ER) Missiles & associated instruments created Boeing, for an estimated cost of USD 1.008bn.
- 31. Bangladesh** has announced 'no mask, no service' policy.
Note: The Bangladesh government has decided that no service will be provided to people who don't wear
- masks. The cabinet meeting Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina decided that no one will be allowed to enter offices without the mask.
- 32. Sudan** became 3rd Arab Nation to normalise relations with Israel.
Note: The new agreement between Sudan and Israel will establish economic and trade links, with an initial focus on agriculture. United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain were the other Arab nations to establish formal ties with Israel.
- 33. India** has hosted the 19th SCO foreign trade and economic ministers meet 2020.
Note: During the meet, the Minister remarked that countries have to leverage their Economic Strength to enhance trade and investment in the region. This according to the Minister will help in enhancing the speed of recovery from the covid-19 pandemic.

September

- 1.** The publication of "Ease of Doing Business" report has stopped by **World Bank** to probe data collection irregularities in the annual ranking of countries' business and investment climates.
Note: According to World Bank "A number of irregularities have been reported regarding changes to the data in the Doing Business 2018 and Doing Business 2020 reports, published in October 2017 and 2019". World Bank would conduct a systematic review of data changes in the last five Doing Business reports, and independent auditors will probe data collection and review processes.
- 2. Japan** is providing an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of an amount of approx. Rs. 3,500 crores to India to fight COVID-19.
Note: Japan has committed the loan for the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support in order to fight the COVID-19 crisis. The ODA loan will support India's efforts in its fight against COVID-19. It will also assist the country to prepare the health system to handle future epidemics. It will also increase the resilience of India's health systems against infectious diseases.
- 3. UAE** has launched Agriota, a new technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing e-market platform that will bridge the gap between millions of rural farmers in India.
Note: It has been launched by Dubai's free-zone Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) and the government of Dubai's authority on commodities trade and enterprise. This initiative will enable Indian farmers to connect directly, bypassing intermediaries, with the entire food industry in the UAE, including food processing companies, traders and wholesalers.
- 4. Togo** becomes the first African country to eliminate sleeping sickness.
Note: Togo has not reported any cases in the past 10 years. There are two forms of sleeping sickness. The first, due to Trypanosoma brucei gambiense, is found in 24 countries in west and central Africa and accounts for more than 98% of cases. The second form, due to Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense, is found in 13 countries in eastern and southern Africa and represents the rest of cases.
- 5.** Three countries **India-Australia-Japan** have to launch a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in the Indo-Pacific region.
Note: The initiative will help in building a resilient supply chain with focus on free, transparent trade & investment environment in the region. Proposed by Japan and to reduce the dependency on China.
- 6.** Google has partnered with **Bangladesh** to bring the flood warning services to the country.
Note: Announcing this on its official blog Google said that it currently covers more than 40 million people in Bangladesh and it is working to expand its coverage to the whole of the country. More than 65 per cent of people who receive advance flood warnings take action to protect themselves and their assets. The company is



- also partnering with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to build to deliver alerts to people who don't have smart phones to receive the alerts directly.
7. **Bhutan** chaired the 35th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC 35) held virtually. **Note:** The Conference was held under the Chair of the Host Country, Bhutan. The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Parshottam Rupala represented India in the conference. The conference focused on regional priorities and issues such as COVID 19, the state of agriculture, natural resources management, food security and nutrition.
 8. Social Media platform Whatsapp has partnered with **CyberPeace Foundation** to create awareness on cyber safety among students. **Note:** The facebook-owned messaging platform noted in a press release that "this is an effort to build on their earlier partnership with WhatsApp under the "e-Raksha" program that reached thousands of students. With the collaboration, the platforms aim to reach nearly 15,000 students across five states including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra by the end of 2020.
 9. International organization **UNEP** has launched a new publication, "The Little Book of Green Nudges" for university students. **Note:** The books aimed to inspire up to 200 million students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles. The book is UNEP's first on behavioural science and nudge theory, which focuses on human actions and how to change them and was drafted with The Behavioural Insights Team and GRID-Arendal.
 10. **Saudi Arabia** will host the G20 Education Ministers Meeting to be held at the end of 2020. **Note:** The Saudi Arabian Presidency has selected the following theme for the G20's 2020 activities: Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All. The meet was chaired by Saudi Arabia's Education Minister Dr Hamad Al-Asheikh where India was represented by Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, in the virtual mode.
 11. **The Netherlands** and eight companies of that country the Andhra Pradesh government has signed MoUs in the food processing sector. **Note:** Representatives of seven companies from across the country and the Netherlands government signed the MoU in the presence of chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. These companies would help farmers through the state government in the food processing sector, including harvesting, processing and packaging of fruits, vegetables, fish and aqua products.
 12. Zolfaghar-99 is an annual three-day naval exercise of **Iran** that was held near the strategic Strait of Hormuz. **Note:** Units from the navy, air force and ground forces participated in the maneuver in the Gulf of Oman. Iranian submarines and drones were used during the exercise. The annual maneuver dubbed as Zolfaghar-99 was aimed at improving readiness in confronting foreign threats and any possible invasion.
 13. With a focus on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region **India, France, Australia** have held the first trilateral dialogue. **Note:** The three countries also had an exchange on the priorities, challenges and trends in regional and global multilateral institutions, including the best ways to strengthen and reform multilateralism. The trilateral dialogue helped underscore the goal of guaranteeing peace, security and adherence to international law in the Indo-Pacific.
 14. India and **Japan** signed the Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services agreement boosting the interoperability between the armed forces of the two countries. **Note:** The agreement was signed by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Ambassador of Japan Mr Suzuki Satoshi. This agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Japan in the reciprocal provision of supplies and services while engaged in bilateral training activities, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian International Relief and other mutually agreed activities

August

1. India collaborated with **Israel** country to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds. **Note:** They have started to conduct trials at a special testing site at Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya (RML) Hospital on a large sample of patients for 4 different kinds of technologies namely, Voice test, Breath analyser test, Isothermal testing and Polyamino acid testing. The rapid testing has been developed jointly in cooperation with the Directorate of Defence Research and Development



- (DDR&D) of the Israeli Ministry of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. Former king of **Spain** Juan Carlos decided to leave his country to protect the monarchy after a barrage of corruption allegations surfaced against him.
Note: The once-popular, now scandal-ridden, king left Spain before Monday's announcement, local media said, with no indication of where he may have gone. The bombshell move stunned Spaniards and left them divided over whether the 82-year-old, who keeps the title of King Emeritus, was right to depart or should have stayed to face justice.
 3. **Great Britain** is considering minting a coin to remember Mahatma Gandhi.
Note: Rishi Sunak Britain's current Finance Minister issued an order in a letter to the Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC) to pursue recognition of individuals from the BAME community. Taking a step ahead in following the order RMAC will mint a coin to commemorate Gandhi.
 4. Barakah Nuclear Plant of **UAE** has achieved first criticality and successfully started up is located in which country.
Note: The announcement, coinciding with the Muslim holiday of Id al-Adha, comes hot on the heels of the UAE's launch of the Arab world's first probe to Mars. The new plant is part of the UAE's graph to become less reliant on oil and gas, the current source of the vast majority of its energy. UAE is among the world's biggest fossil fuels producers.
 5. **Russia** becomes the first country to officially register a coronavirus vaccine and declare it ready for use.
Note: The Russian vaccine will be called "Sputnik V" in homage to the world's first satellite launched by the Soviet Union. The vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Institute in Moscow uses a different virus -- adenovirus -- that's been modified to carry genes for the "spike" protein that coats the coronavirus, as a way to prime the body to recognise when a real COVID-19 infection comes along.
 6. Indian origin senator **Kamala Harris** named as US Vice Presidential candidate for Democratic party.
Note: In the United States, Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden has named Indian-origin senator Kamala Harris as his Vice-Presidential running mate. Joe Biden made history by selecting the first black woman to compete on a major party's presidential ticket. Kamala Harris is currently the US Senator from California. Former US President Barack Obama has often described her as a trailblazer.
 7. **Reliance Foundation** has launched the "W-GDP Women Connect Challenge" across India in association with US Agency for International Development (USAID).
Note: The "W-GDP Women Connect Challenge" has been launched to bridge the gender divide as well as the digital divide in India. The Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) challenge supports private sector-led approaches that close the gender digital divide, expand business opportunities and empower women.
 8. India announced a \$500 million package to fund a project in **Maldives**.
Note: An air connectivity "bubble" for travel, a direct ferry service, a submarine cable for telecom connectivity; and assistance for the Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP) to connect Male to three neighbouring islands. India has sought to regain diplomatic influence in the islands after a new administration led by President Ibrahim Solih took power following the defeat of the pro-China strongman Abdulla Yameen in elections in 2018.
 9. The Dragon Endeavour is the spacecraft of space company **SpaceX**.
Note: NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley are aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon Endeavour spacecraft as it is lifted onto the SpaceX GO Navigator recovery ship shortly after landing in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Pensacola, Florida, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020.
 10. **Israel** has successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, "Arrow-2" ballistic missile interceptor.
Note: The Missile test was conducted in the test site in Central Israel over the Mediterranean Sea. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) of the United States of America along with Israeli Air Force and Israel Aerospace Industries conducted the testing.
 11. Intergovernmental organization **European Union** has launched project 'Nirmanshree' for enhancing the women skill towards housing construction sector.
Note: This is the first-of-its-kind sustainable housing on a large scale in India with 1-million-euro. The project will be implemented in Beed and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra and the Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts of Odisha.
 12. **United Kingdom** has launched £3 million "Innovation Challenge Fund" in India to support scientists in academic arena and industry to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.
Note: The fund invites tech innovators with connections to the AI-Data cluster in Karnataka and the future mobility cluster in Maharashtra to submit research and development proposals for tackling COVID-19 or which promote a greener planet.



13. Recently, India has signed a cultural agreement with **Israel** that outlines a three-year programme of cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations.
Note: India and Israel signed a cultural agreement that outlines a three-year programme of cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations today. It aims to promote greater people-to-people exchanges.
14. **UAE** became the first Gulf Arab country to have active diplomatic ties to Israel.
Note: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates, have agreed for the Israel–United Arab Emirates peace agreement, or the Abraham Accord to establish full diplomatic ties. It is expected that the peace accord will be signed in the White House, US in early September, 2020.
15. The first meeting of the National Coordination Committees for monitoring implementation of mutually agreed projects between India and **Uzbekistan**.
Note: Both nations reexamined the activities of bilateral economic and trade cooperation which are in operation or planned for the future. The Committee was set up under the supervision of the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.
16. Tech giant **Google** has launched ‘The Anywhere School’ initiative in more than 250 countries around the world.
Note: Under the initiative, Google will roll out over 50 new features across products like Google Meet, Classroom, G Suite and other products. Google will launch custom and blurred backgrounds in Google Meet to provide ‘extra privacy’ to the users.
17. **China** has launched its New Optical Remote-Sensing Satellite “Gaofen-9 05” along with 2 Smaller Payloads.
Note: The satellite, Gaofen-9 05, was sent into orbit by a Long March-2D carrier rocket. A multifunctional test satellite and another satellite named Tiantuo-5 were also launched via the rocket.
18. A pair of gold-rimmed spectacles worn by Mahatma Gandhi were sold in an auction for £260,000 (over Rs 2.5 crore) in **UK**.
Note: The iconic spectacles were sold to an American collector within six minutes of bidding at an auction in Bristol. The glasses had been dropped in their letter box by a man who claimed that they were originally gifted to his uncle by Gandhi himself.
19. Indian Institute of Technology’s (IIT) Alumni Council has signed an agreement with **Russia** to build the world’s largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India.
Note: The most promising areas for Indo-Russian joint projects are Information and Communications Technology, space exploration, climate change, quantum technology and data security.
20. Global telecom company **Ericsson** has partnered with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to help map school internet connectivity in 35 countries by the end of 2023.
Note: This joint initiative is a part of the Giga initiative launched by UNICEF and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in September 2019 to provide internet connection to every school and their surrounding communities.
21. **Singapore** will offer free coronavirus tests to community groups such as taxi drivers, food delivery workers and hawkers as part of efforts to expand the COVID-19 testing regime.
Note: Singapore will offer free coronavirus tests to community groups such as taxi drivers, food delivery workers and hawkers as part of efforts to expand the COVID-19 testing regime.

Honour & Awards

Nobel Prizes and Laureates 2020		
Nobel Laureates	Field	Contribution



Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice	Medicine	Discovered Hepatitis C virus
Roger Penrose	Physics	Discovered that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity
Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez		Discovered supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy
Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna	Chemistry	Discovered the method for genome editing
Louise Glück	Literature	For her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal
World Food Programme (WFP)	Peace	For its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.
Paul R. Milgrom, Robert B. Wilson	Economic Sciences	For improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.

National Sports Awards 2020

1. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2020

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Rohit Sharma	Cricket
2.	Shri Mariyappan T.	Para Athletics
3.	Ms. Manika Batra	Table Tennis



4.	Ms. Vinesh	Wrestling
5.	Ms. Rani	Hockey

2. Dronacharya Awards 2020

Life- Time Category

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	Shri Dharmendra Tiwary	Archery
2.	Shri Purushotham Rai	Athletics
3.	Shri Shiv Singh	Boxing
4.	Shri Romesh Pathania	Hockey
5.	Shri Krishan Kumar Hooda	Kabaddi
6.	Shri Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar	Para Powerlifting
7.	Shri Naresh Kumar	Tennis
8.	Shri Om Parkash Dahiya	Wrestling

Regular Category

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	Shri Jude Felix Sebastian	Hockey
2.	Shri Yogesh Malviya	Mallakhamb
3.	Shri Jaspal Rana	Shooting
4.	Shri Kuldeep Kumar Handoo	Wushu
5.	Shri Gaurav Khanna	Para Badminton

3. Arjuna Awards 2020

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson (Shri)	Discipline
1.	Shri Atanu Das	Archery



2.	Ms. Dutee Chand	Athletics
3.	Shri Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy	Badminton
4.	Shri Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty	Badminton
5.	Shri Vishesh Bhriguvanshi	Basketball
6.	Subedar Manish Kaushik	Boxing
7.	Ms. Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing
8.	Shri Ishant Sharma	Cricket
9.	Ms. Deepti Sharma	Cricket
10.	Shri Sawant Ajay Anant	Equestrian
11.	Shri Sandesh Jhingan	Football
12.	Ms. Aditi Ashok	Golf
13.	Shri Akashdeep Singh	Hockey
14.	Ms. Deepika	Hockey
15.	Shri Deepak	Kabaddi
16.	Shri Kale Sarika Sudhakar	Kho Kho
17.	Shri Dattu Baban Bhokanal	Rowing
18.	Ms. Manu Bhaker	Shooting
19.	Shri Saurabh Chaudhary	Shooting
20.	Ms. Madhurika Suhas Patkar	Table Tennis
21.	Shri Divij Sharan	Tennis
22.	Shri Shiva Keshavan	Winter Sports
23.	Ms. Divya Kakran	Wrestling



24.	Shri Rahul Aware	Wrestling
25.	Shri Suyash Narayan Jadhav	Para Swimming
26.	Shri Sandeep	Para Athletics
27.	Shri Manish Narwal	Para Shooting

4. Dhyan Chand Award 2020

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Kuldip Singh Bhullar	Athletics
2.	Ms. Jincy Philips	Athletics
3.	Shri Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe	Badminton
4.	Ms. Trupti Murgunde	Badminton
5.	Ms. N. Usha	Boxing
6.	Shri Lakha Singh	Boxing
7.	Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu	Football
8.	Shri Ajit Singh	Hockey
9.	Shri Manpreet Singh	Kabaddi
10.	Shri J. Ranjith Kumar	Para Athletics
11.	Shri Satyaprakash Tiwari	Para Badminton
12.	Shri Manjeet Singh	Rowing
13.	Late Shri Sachin Nag	Swimming
14.	Shri Nandan P Bal	Tennis
15.	Shri Netarpal Hooda	Wrestling

January(1st-14th) 2021



- 1. Department of Post** has won the gold icon award in the category, 'Excellence in Digital Governance Ministry/Department (Central)' in the 6th Digital India Awards (DIA) 2020.

Note: President of India, Ram Nath Kovind conferred 6th Digital India Awards (DIA) 2020 through video conferencing in a virtual awards ceremony. 24 digital governance initiatives/ products by Government entities under 7 categories received Digital India Awards 2020. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) organized the awards online. The Department of Post won the gold icon award in the category, 'Excellence in Digital Governance Ministry/Department (Central)' for implementing an IT application in the land registration system in India, named as a National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS).
- 2. India's richest man Mukesh Ambani**, the chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries limited (RIL) dropped down to **12th** position in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021.

Note: The net worth of Ambani dropped from 90 billion USD (around Rs. 6.62 lakh crore) (in early 2020) to 76.7 billion USD (around Rs. 5.6 lakh crore). The drop in the net worth of Mukesh Ambani was due to the correction in the shares of RIL which has fallen to Rs.1995.50 on 30th December 2020, which is 16% from its all-time high of Rs.2369.35. Zhong Shanshan, referred to as "Lone Wolf", has replaced Ambani as
- Asia's richest person, he is one of the fastest in the history to achieve the feat.

3. Elon Musk has become the world's richest person according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index surpassing Amazon's Jeff Bezos.

Note: Musk had a net worth of more than \$188.5 billion, \$1.5 billion more than Bezos \$1.5 billion more than Bezos. Mukesh Ambani is now 13th richest in the world. Zhong Shanshan, chairman of Chinese bottled-water company Nongfu Spring, become Asia's richest person and 6th richest person in the world.
- 4. Medical Institution JIPMER** was awarded the second prize under the Kayakalp Awards scheme in category 'Group A' Central government health facilities.

Note: These awards are meant for health facilities with the highest standards of sanitation and hygiene and are given annually by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. Union Minister for Health Harsh Vardhan, along with Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey, presented the awards via video conferencing.
- 5. Medical Institutions AIIMS, Bhubneswar** has received the best central government hospital under Category B of the Kayakalp Awards for cleanliness for the third consecutive time.

Note: The Rairangpur Sub Divisional Hospital of Mayurbhanj district was felicitated as the best Sub-divisional hospital community health centre category. Rani Durgavati Hospital received the award for the fourth time consecutively

December 2020

- 1. Ranjitsingh Disale** has won the Global Teacher Prize 2020 in recognition of his efforts to promote girls' education.

Note: He is a primary school teacher from Solapur of Maharashtra. The Global teacher prize is awarded by the Varkey Foundation. The 31-year-old Ranjitsingh Disale generously declared that he will split half of the prize money of USD 1 million with his top ten fellow finalists.
- 2. Gitanjali** has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever 'Kid of the Year' 2020 for her works using 'technology to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to opioid addiction and cyberbullying'.

Note: The 15-year-old from Colorado, US was selected from 5,000 nominees and was interviewed by Academy award-winning Hollywood actor Angelina Jolie for TIME. At the age of 11, Rao won the Discovery Education 3M Scientist Challenge and was listed by
- Forbes in "30 Under 30" list for her innovations. Her latest discovery is an app called, Kindly, that detects cyberbullying at an early stage, based on artificial-intelligence technology.
- 3. Invest India** has won the United Nations Investment Promotion Award 2020.

Note: The award ceremony took place at UNCTAD Headquarters in Geneva yesterday. The Award recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements of the World's best-practice investment promotion agencies. The evaluation was based on UNCTAD's assessment of work undertaken by 180 national Investment Promotion Agencies across the world.
- 4. Raj Kamal Jha** has won the 3rd Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 for his novel, "The City and The Sea".



- Note:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the winner of the \$5,000 prize was announced online in Copenhagen, Denmark. Jha's book, which is based on the December 2012 Nirbhaya rape and murder case, was chosen from ten shortlisted books including Amitav Ghosh's Gun Island, Nirmala Govindarajan's Taboo and Ranjit Hoskote's Jonahwhale.
5. Mondo Duplantis is associated with **Sweden** who has been named the male World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Awards 2020.
Note: Duplantis broke the world record in the pole vault twice, topping 6.17m and 6.18m on back-to-back weekends in February just a few weeks before the global coronavirus pandemic ground the sporting world to a halt. When competition finally resumed, Duplantis capped his season and produced the highest outdoor vault of all time (6.15m) and finished the year undefeated in 16 competitions.
 6. Yulimar Rojas of **Venezuela** has been named the female World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Awards 2020.
Note: Rojas broke the South American indoor triple jump record in her first competition of the year, reaching 15.03m in Metz, France. In her next competition, at the World Athletics Indoor Tour meeting in Madrid, she leaped 15.43m in the final round of the competition to break the world indoor record by seven centimetres.
 7. **Angela Merkel** grabbed the No. 1 slot in the Forbes' ranking of 100 most powerful women in the world.
Note: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, Biocon Founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and HCL Enterprise CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra have been named among the world's 100 most powerful women by Forbes. Sitharaman is ranked 41st on the list, Nadar Malhotra comes in at the 55th spot, Mazumdar-Shaw — described as "India's richest self-made woman" — is ranked 68th and chairwoman of Landmark Group Renuka Jagtiani is ranked 98th.
 8. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been ranked at **41st** in the Forbes' ranking of 100 most powerful women in the world.
Note: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is among the Forbes' ranking of 100 most powerful women in the world. German Chancellor Angela Merkel grabbed the No. 1 slot for the 10th consecutive year, with European Central Bank head Christine Lagarde coming in second for the second year in a row. US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris made the list for the first time—debuting in the No. 3 spot.
 9. Dr. Carolina Araujo belongs to **Brazil** who has been conferred with '2020 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians' for her significant work in algebraic geometry.
Note: She is the first non-Indian women mathematician to receive this prize. She is from Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics, Brazil. Ramdorai Sujatha from India was the first women to receive this award in 2006. It is given every year to young mathematicians who conducts outstanding research in developing nation.
 10. **Ashraf Patel** has won the Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Award – India 2020 instituted by the Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation.
Note: It is the 11th edition of the annual award, instituted by the Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation in 2010. The award was presented by Union Minister of Women & Child Development & Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani.
 11. **Joe Biden and Kamala Harris** have been named the Time magazine's "Person of the Year-2020".
Note: U.S. President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris were jointly named Time magazine's 2020 "Person of the Year" chosen from a list of finalists that included President Donald Trump. The US president was named as Person of the Year in 2016 by Time.
 12. **Sonu Sood** become the number one South Asian celebrity on the Eastern Eye's 50 Asian celebrities in the World list published by UK based Eastern Eye newspaper.
Note: The 47-year-old talented Bollywood star has been honoured for his inspiring philanthropic work throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, especially helping migrant workers reach their hometowns. Canadian YouTuber, social media star, comedian and TV personality Lilly Singh came in second and Half-Indian British pop superstar, Charli XCX, was third in the list.
 13. **Bajrang Punia** has been named as the FICCI 2020 Male Sportsperson of the Year.
Note: He has won silver in 2018 World Wrestling Championships and bronze in 2019 World Wrestling Championships and 2013 World Wrestling Championships. The award is an attempt by FICCI to acknowledge and recognise the contribution of sportspersons and various stakeholders who deliver excellent results throughout the year.
 14. **Elavenil Valarivan** has been conferred with the 2020 Female Sportsperson of the Year by FICCI.
Note: At the 10m air rifle Asian Air Gun Championships in Taoyuan, Taipei, she clinched her first individual gold medal in the senior category with a score of 250.5. She



- also won two junior World Cup gold and a silver at juniors' 2018 World Championships.
15. **Ashraf Patel** has been conferred with the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award – India 2020.
Note: She is the founder member and Board member of Pravah and ComMutiny – The Youth Collective (CYC). Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award – India 2020 is the 11th edition of the annual award, instituted by the Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation in 2010.
 16. **Steel Authority of India Limited** has been awarded the prestigious Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020 in the Steel Sector.
Note: The company has been the winner of this award for successive 2yrs. This award is one of the most coveted awards in the category. Considering various environmental issues leading to global warming and climate change, this encourages corporates to enhance their environmental performance.
 17. **Ratan Tata** has been honoured with 'Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace'.
Note: He will be honoured by the Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce for promoting innovation that supports sustainability and peace in the region, including with the Palestinians. He will be awarded during the launch of the Federation of Indo-Israel Chamber of Commerce's international chapter in Dubai.
 18. India conducted 35th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) with **Indonesia**.
Note: As part of Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with countries in the Indian Ocean Region. The CORPAT being conducted since 2002 to ensure the safety and security of shipping and international trade in the region.
 19. **Robert Lewandowski** has won the FIFA men's player of the year 2020.
Note: The 32-year-old Lewandowski, the top scorer in Europe and winner of the Champions League with Bayern, came out ahead of the other two nominees, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo
 20. **Lucy Bronze** has been named as FIFA Women's player of the year 2020.
Note: It is the first occasion for both Lewandowski and Bronze to win the award, with the Pole only the second player after Luka Modric in 2018
 21. **Kylie Jenner** has been crowned the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes.
Note: The top-earning stars in the world earned a combined of \$6.1 billion in 2020 with Kylie Jenner and Kanye West at the top of the list. In addition to Tyler Perry, Howard Stern, and Dwayne Johnson, A-listers like Roger Federer, Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, Neymar and LeBron James helped round out the top 10.
 22. Indian entrepreneur **Vidyut Mohan** has been among the seven winners of the prestigious "Young Champions of the Earth" 2020 prize given by UNEP.
Note: Vidyut Mohan, an engineer, is the co-founder of "Takachar", a social enterprise enabling farmers to prevent open burning of their waste farm residues and earn extra income by converting them into value-added chemicals like activated carbon on-site.
 23. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020.
Note: The 35-year-old driver, who last month equalled Michael Schumacher's record of seven F1 titles, overcame Jordan Henderson and Hollie Doyle to win the British broadcaster's prestigious prize in a public vote. England midfielder Henderson led Liverpool to its first Premier League title in 30 years.
 24. **Amar Singh College Srinagar** has bagged a prestigious award of merit in the 2020 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific awards for cultural heritage conservation.
Note: The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) chapter in the union territory has been administering the conservation work at the 80-year-old building. Seven conservation projects have been awarded by an international panel of jury members, which reviewed 48 nominees from nine countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
 25. Indian boy **Siddhant Gumber** (12-years) in the UAE has entered into the Guinness Book of World Records by identifying the most aeroplane tails in a minute.
Note: Siddhant Gumber, an Abu Dhabi-based homeschooled boy who identified 39 aeroplane tails in 60 seconds, is also the youngest Indian to identify top 100 tallest buildings. His name also features in the India Book' for being the youngest to identify the top 100 tallest buildings of the world with their respective heights and locations.
 26. **NTPC Ltd.** has been conferred "Excellence" in the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020 in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Domain at the 15th CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020.
Note: NTPC has been honoured in the Corporate Excellence Category, Commendation for Significant Achievement. This is the highest award conferred by CII-ITC in CSR domain. NTPC is the only PSU to receive the award in the Corporate Excellence category. NTPC wins the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Awards in



Corporate Excellence category second time in a row i.e. in the year 2019 and 2020.

27. **V.K. Yadav** has been conferred with the prestigious “Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2020”.
Note: Every year Institution of Engineering and Technology, Delhi Local Network celebrates Engineers’

Day on the 15th September to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya. On this occasion, besides technical activities the Institution also presents Eminent Engineer’s Award to distinguished Engineering personalities for their outstanding services in the field of Engineering and technology.

November

- Paul Zacharia** has been selected for ‘Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2020’, the highest literary prize of Kerala.
Note: Zacharia was chosen for his contribution to Malayalam literature during the past five decades. A five-member jury, headed by Kerala Sahitya Akademi President Vyshakhan, selected him for the award. ‘Salam America’, ‘Oridath’, ‘Aarkkariyam’, ‘Bhaskara patelarum ente jeevithavum’ are among his various literary works. Zacharia also won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1979 and the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award in 2004.
- For **Gully Boy** Karsh Kale and the Salvage Audio Collective won the Best Original Music Award 2020 in 14th Asian Film Awards (AFA14).
Note: Karsh Kale and the Salvage Audio Collective won the Best Original Music Award 2020 for the film Gully Boy directed by Zoya Akhtar. Yang Ik-Joon, South Korean Actor and Director presented the Award. The film Gully Boy starring Ranveer Singh as the budding rappers who achieve his dream with his music about his life on the streets of Mumbai.
- The 14th Asian Film Awards (AFA14) held in **Busan**.
Note: Karsh Kale and the Salvage Audio Collective won the Best Original Music Award 2020 for the film Gully Boy directed by Zoya Akhtar. Yang Ik-Joon, South Korean Actor and Director presented the Award. The film Gully Boy starring Ranveer Singh as the budding rappers who achieve his dream with his music about his life on the streets of Mumbai.
- Indian Army chief General M. M. Naravane was conferred the honorary rank of General by **Nepal**.
Note: He has also presented a sword and scroll during the function held at the President’s official residence ‘ShitalNiwas’ in Kathmandu. The tradition, which started in 1950, reflects the strong ties between the two militaries. Gen. K. M. Cariappa was the first Indian Army chief to be decorated with the title in 1950.
- Indian Movie **Natkhat** has won the top prize at the third edition of Best of India Short Film Festival 2020, thus becomes eligible for 2021 Oscar qualification.
Note: By winning the festival, the film has become eligible for 2021 Oscar qualification. The film has been directed by Shaan Vyas and co-produced by Ronnie Screwvala and Vidya Balan. The film also won cash prize money of \$2,500 (approximately Rs 1,85,497) and an opportunity for a television broadcast deal on ShortsTV.
- Kerala’s tourism has been bestowed the coveted ‘Highly Commended’ Award by World Travel Mart London.
Note: Kerala tourism was recognised for its remarkable activities aimed at promoting Responsible Tourism (RT) during the challenging times of COVID-19 pandemic. Kerala’s Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission received this recognition in the category of ‘Meaningful Connections.’ This is the 5th International Award for the Responsible Tourism Mission since its formation in 2017.
- Karkhanisanchi Waar** becomes the only Indian entry at Tokyo Film Festival.
Note: Marathi film, Karkhanisanchi Waari (Ashes on a Road Trip), the 149-minute film tells the story of the Karkhanis, the last joint family of Pune. The movie was directed by Mangesh Joshi. The movie will have its world premiere at the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival. It is the only Indian entry at the festival.
- S Hareesh** has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2020 for his novel Moustache.
Note: It has been translated into English by Jayasree Kalathil & published by HarperCollins India. The JCB Prize for Literature is regarded as the richest literary prize in India. As per the norm, the Malayalam author will receive a Rs 25 lakh cash prize and the translator will receive an additional Rs 10 lakh.
- Dr Satish Mishra** has won the “Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020”.
Note: The research was focused on “Secreted Protein with Altered Thrombospondin Repeat (SPATR) which is Essential for Asexual Blood Stages but not Required for Hepatocyte Invasion by the Malaria Parasite Plasmodium Berghei”. The study was focused on the dispensability of SPATR in Plasmodium berghei sporozoite and its importance for the establishment of blood stage infection.
- Ruskin Bond** conferred with Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 for his outstanding contribution in the field of literary.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: The awardee in the organisational category is HelpAge India that works on elder care. Only two Indians have been awarded in the past four decades since the award was established in 1981: former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1983 and industrialist-philanthropist J.R.D.Tata in 1992.

- 16. Udhampur** district has been conferred with National Award for water conservation under Jeevika Project launched by the District Administration.

Note: The project aims to increase the assured irrigation of Agriculture land and conservation of water and was conceptualized by the District Development Commissioner Dr. Piyush Singla. The project envisages development of sustainable ecosystems through water conservation to enhance the livelihood for small and marginal farmers.

- 17. Dr Susanta Kar** has been awarded Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award 2020.

Note: The award is conferred in every two years. Recipient of the award should be below 50 years of age. Award is given for Biological Chemistry and Allied sciences, preferably related to parasitic infections. Awardee has to deliver an award oration at the Annual Meeting of SBC(I).

- 18. Nasiruddin Shah** has been bestowed with the 2020 Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar at annual Sangit Kala Kendra Awards.

Note: Alongside, two emerging stars, in the firmament of theatrics – Neel Choudhary and Irawati Karnik were awarded the Aditya Vikram Birla Kalakiran Puraskars. "Theatre" is the central theme, for this year's awards. The Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar and Kalakiran Puraskar awards, were instituted in 1996 by the Sangeet Kala Kendra (SKK), which was founded in 1973 by Aditya Vikram Birla (former Chairman of Aditya Birla Group), to honor excellence in theatre and performing arts.

- 19. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has received the **Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award 2020** for his contribution to the literary works of India.

Note: The award was presented to him by the Vatayan-UK organization in London, England. The Vatayan-UK felicitation ceremony organised as a virtual event by the British Institution Group in England. Along with Minister of Education, Manoj Muntashir, famous poet and lyricist won the International Vatayan Literary award 2020 at the Vatayan-UK felicitation ceremony.

- 20.** Web series **Delhi Crime** has won the best drama series honour at the 48th International Emmy Awards.

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



Sharma who cracked the case of the brutal gangrape within 72 hours.

- 21. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve** received the first-ever international award, TX2, for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years.
Note: In this regard, the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) of Uttar Pradesh (UP) under the UP Forest department has bagged the first-ever international award, TX2, for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years. The PTR had 25 tigers in 2014 which went up to 65 in 2018. The award was virtually presented to the principal chief conservator of forest (wildlife) of the state, Sunil Pandey, by UNDP's (United Nations Development Program) head of ecosystems and biodiversity, Mindori Paxton.
- 22. Indian student Vinisha Umashankar (14-years)** won the prestigious 5th Children's Climate Prize 2020 for

designing a mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power a steam iron box rather than conventional charcoal.

Note: Vinisha will receive the prize of 100,000 Swedish krona (Rs 8.64 lakh approximately), diploma, and medal from the Sweden-based Children's Climate Foundation at a digital event. This is the fifth edition of the Children's Climate Prize — one of the world's largest international climate awards for young innovators.

- 23. Neha Mahajan and Ricky Martin** bagged a Grammy Awards nomination in the Best Latin Pop or Urban Album category.
Note: Ricky Martin's album Pausa recently received a Grammy nomination in the Best Latin Pop or Urban Album category. Sitar player Neha Mahajan collaborated with the singer on the song Mi Sangre. The singer's album, Pausa was nominated by the Recording Academy.

October

- Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2020 announced by the central government recently, the award in given outstanding contribution in the field of Science and Technology.
Note: The prize is given to Indian scientists below the age of 45 for outstanding research in seven fields—Biology, Chemistry, Environment Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine and Physics. The Prize is bestowed on a person who, in the opinion of CSIR, has made conspicuously important and outstanding contributions to human knowledge and progress fundamental and applied, in the particular field of endeavour, which is his/her specialization.
- Kerala's 'Human by Nature Print Campaign' bagged the Prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing.
Note: The awards were announced during a presentation ceremony of Virtual PATA Travel Mart 2020 in Beijing. The PATA Awards are supported and sponsored by Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO). 'Human by Nature' was a marketing strategy to revive tourism that was hit by the 2018 floods and the Nipah outbreak.
- Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice** won the 2020 Nobel Prize Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
Note: The 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice "for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus," the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet announced in Stockholm, Sweden. The trio's work helped explain a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the hepatitis A and B viruses
- Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of HDFC Bank, Ravi Santhanam has been recognized in the Forbes list of 'The World's Most Influential CMOs'.
Note: Ranked at Number 39, he is the only CMO of an Indian company to be featured in the illustrious list which includes marketing heads of Apple, BMW, Lego, Adobe, Microsoft, P&G among others. This is the 8th edition of this annual list released by Forbes with research partners Sprinklr and LinkedIn. This year, 427 global CMOs were eligible for consideration. It is generated using data from news reports, websites and social networks to measure influence.
- Pro-democracy campaigner of Belarus Ales Bialiatski has been awarded with Swedish honour sometimes called "the alternative Nobel Prize along with three others.
Note: Ales Bialiatski of Belarus and his NGO Viasna, Nasrin Sotoudeh of Iran, Bryan Stevenson of the United States and indigenous rights and environmental activist Lottie Cunningham Wren of Nicaragua share the Right Livelihood Award. Although the Right Livelihood Award is promoted as an "Alternative Nobel Prize", it is not a Nobel prize.
- Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez** won the Physics Nobel Prize 2020.



- Note:** The Prize in Physics 2020 was divided, one half awarded to Roger Penrose for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity. The other half jointly to Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy.
7. **Ratan Tata** has been bestowed with lifetime achievement award by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC).
Note: The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has bestowed a lifetime achievement award to Indian business icon Ratan Tata at a closed-door meeting, owing to ongoing pandemic. Tata, who grew the revenues for India's largest conglomerate 'The Tata Group' to nearly USD 100 billion by 2011-12, remains an influential industrialist, philanthropist and humanitarian to the day.
 8. **Sanjay Singh** has been chosen for 'Gandhi' Award instituted by the Mahatma Gandhi National Foundation.
Note: He was instrumental in India's diplomatic intervention to remove Mahatma Gandhi's images on beer bottles of a private company in Israel, Mr Jose, who brought the matter into the public domain. The Award carries a sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi, cash prize of Rs 25,001 and a certificate.
 9. Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna won the Chemistry Nobel Prize 2020.
Note: The 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna "for the development of a method for genome editing". The Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.
 10. Nityanand Nayak will be conferred the prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his poetry work 'Setebelaku Nathiba'.
Note: The poet will be felicitated with a cash award of `5 lakh and a citation. Two other eminent personalities from the State – Ranjit Kumar Nag and Shyamsundar Pattanaik – will be felicitated for their contribution to fields of music and art respectively. While Nag will be awarded the Ila Panda Sangeet Samman, Pattanaik would be felicitated with Ila Panda Chitrakala Samman.
 11. Louise Glück has been awarded with the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2020.
Note: The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by The Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden. The American poet Louise Glück was born in 1943 in New York and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She has received several prestigious awards, among them the Pulitzer Prize (1993) and the National Book Award (2014).
 12. The Nobel Prize for Economics, 2020 was awarded to Paul R Milgrom and Robert B Wilson for improvement in Auction theory.
Note: They were awarded for improvements to Auction Theory and also for inventing new auction formats. The prize is also called Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The theory formulated by Milgrom allowed calculating common and private values that vary from bidder to bidder.
 13. Gautam Adani secured the second position in the Forbes India Rich list for 2020.
Note: Amid the Covid-19 pandemic which hit India hard and led to a sharp economic contraction, half of the nation's 100 richest on the 2020 Forbes India Rich List saw gains. Reliance Group Chairman Mukesh Ambani, who topped the list for the 13th year "accounted for more than half of those gains".
 14. The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 has been awarded to World Food Programme for efforts in order to Combat Hunger.
Note: The award comes with a 10-million krona (\$1.1 million) cash prize and a gold medal to be handed out at a ceremony in Oslo, Norway, on December 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel's death. This year's ceremony will be scaled down due to the pandemic.
 15. **Kani Kusuruti** bagged the award for the best actress in Kerala Film Awards 2020.
Note: Kusuruti had won the best actress award at the recently concluded 42nd Moscow International Film Festival for her performance in 'Biriyani.' Lijo Jose Pellissery, who directed 'Jallikattu' bagged the best director award, while the best movie award was given to 'Vasanthi', directed by Rahman Brothers. 'Vasanthi' also bagged the award for the best female actor in a character role.
 16. **Bank of Ghana** has won the 2020 Central bank of the year award.
Note: Apart from this, Economist Mark Joseph Carney, Governor of the central bank of the United Kingdom Bank of England, has won the 2020 Governor of the year at the Central bank of the year award. Central Banking Awards is held annually to recognize excellence in the central banking community. This was the 7th edition of the award and the ceremony was held virtually.
 17. **Aishwarya Sridhar** becomes first Indian woman to win Wildlife Photographer of the Year award.
Note: Her photo won among 50,000 entries from over 80 countries across the world. Only 100 images were shortlisted and she won the award for her photograph in the Behaviour Invertebrates category. Sridhar's



photograph titled 'Lights of Passion' bagged the coveted title at the award show organised by the National History Museum.

- 18. Japan** has won the Visvesvaraya ISA Solar Award in the Asia Pacific Region, announced for the first time by International Solar Alliance.

Note: The awards went to Japan for the Asia Pacific region and the Netherlands for Europe and other regions. The awards named after Bharat Ratna M. Visvesvaraya to the representatives of the countries of Japan, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The winners received USD 12,330 prize money.

- 19.** The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to **Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya**.

Note: It is an honour to announce that the women and men of the democratic opposition in Belarus are the 2020 Sakharov Prize laureates. A 38-year old former English teacher with no previous political experience, Ms. Tsikhanouskaya joined the race after her husband who aspired to run for president was jailed. He has remained in prison.

- 20.** Tech giant **Samsung** has bagged the first position in the Forbes' list of World's Best Employer 2020.

Note: Samsung Electronics has topped the Forbes list of World's Best Employer 2020, which features 750 multinational and large corporations, Amazon has bagged second position, followed by IBM, Microsoft and LG. From India, HCL Technologies is top industry in the list. It is placed at 30th position globally.

- 21. Global Himalayan Expedition** has won the UN Global Climate Action Award for combating climate change amid COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: The UN Global Climate Action awards are guided by the power for change drive at UN Climate Change. The declaration of awards is also a major goal to mobilize wishes and action as government work with regards to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. GHE is a corporation that manages 'Impacts Expeditions' to the Himalayan villages in native areas. These expeditions will have a valid cause. For instance, to set up solar energy in remote villages.

September

- 1. Satyendra Singh Lohia** becomes the first Divyanga sportsperson of the country to get the prestigious Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award 2020.

Note: He is also the first Asian Divyanga swimmer to cross the 42-kilometer Catalina Channel in the US in just 11 hours 34 minutes. Para-swimmer Satyendra Singh was also conferred with the Best Sportsperson National Award by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on World Divyanga Day.

- 2. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad** has won the 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' awards at the 21st National Awards for 'Excellence in Energy Management'.

Note: It was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC). The award was given during the 19th edition of 'Energy Efficiency Summit', Virtual Conference and Exposition on Energy Efficiency held from August 6-28, 2020.

- 3. NTPC Limited** has won the All India Management Association (AIMA) Chanakya (Business Simulation Game) National Management Games (NMG) 2020.

Note: AIMA Chanakya National Management Games is an online Business Simulation Game which is conducted every year. The championship aims to ensure that executives participating in the event get the onboard experience about the complexities of

running an organisation and gain expertise and skills from this event. It also enables the Corporate Managers to face the thrill of Managing Business in a competitive mode.

- 4. Sir David Attenborough** has been conferred with the prestigious Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019.

Note: He is an English broadcaster and a historian. He is popular for writing and presenting the BBC Natural History Unit. He worked to make aware to preserve and protect the biodiversity of the planet.

- 5.** American global aerospace and defence technology company, Northrop Grumman, announced to name its next Cygnus capsule after Astronaut **Kalpana Chawla**.

Note: Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defence technology company, announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named the "S.S. Kalpana Chawla", in memory of the mission specialist who died with her six crewmates aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003.

- 6.** Indian filmmaker **Chaitanya Tamhane** has won the best screenplay award at the Venice Film Festival.

Note: Chinese American filmmaker Chloe Zhao bagged the top prize of the coveted Golden Lion for her drama Nomadland. The Jury headed by two-time Oscar winner Cate Blanchett. Mr. Tamhane became the first



director from the country to compete in the main

category of a European film festival after Mira Nair.

August

1. **Sunil Ydv SS** has been conferred with the Karmaveer Chakra Award instituted by the United Nations and International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO).
Note: He received the award for his relentless contribution to society through his Telegram channel "SS Motivation."
2. **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)** has won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020, a national-level digital product building competition.
Note: It was jointly organized by MHRD and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) at Noida Institute of Engineering & Technology (NIET), Uttar Pradesh. The team of DIAT named as 'Age of Ultron' had six members under Dr. Sunita Dhavale . Prize Money: Rs 1 Lakh
3. **Moothon** film has won the Best Film Award in the 20th edition of New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) of Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC).
Note: It was conducted as a virtual event with the celebrities of the film industries and award winners participating from all across India and the United States. Nivin Pauly starring film Moothon was directed by Geetu Mohandas. The movies portrays the story of a 14-year-old who travel in search of Moothon (elder brother) Akbar who left Lakshadweep for Mumbai".
4. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recognized Venkatraipur and Noliasahi, villages of **Odisha** as "Tsunami Ready" for their overall preparedness to face the tsunami.
Note:With this recognition, Odisha became the first state in the India and India became the 1st Country in the Indian Ocean region to achieve the honour from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
5. The researchers from **IIT Kharagpur** institutions has won the Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Awards 2020 for developing a mechanism for generating electricity from wet clothes left under sunlight to dry.
Note: The work has been published in Nano Letters, a high-impact journal in the field, and the innovation has been patented by them. The same award was presented separately to another team of the IIT Kharagpur for addressing the problem of energy conservation and thermal management in wearable and flexible electronic devices.
6. **Nitin Sethi** has won the Asian College of Journalism's award 2019 for investigative journalism.
Note: The awards ceremony was conducted online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Sethi won in the investigative journalism category for his six-part series titled "Paisa Politics" published by The Huffington Post India.
7. **Shiv Sahay Singh** has won the Asian College of Journalism's award 2019 the K P Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for social impact journalism.
Note: He won the inaugural social impact journalism award for his story titled "Death by digital exclusion: On faculty public distribution system in Jharkhand" published in The Hindu.
8. **Akshay Kumar** is the only Indian actor to be listed among the top 10 world's highest-paid actors of 2020.
Note: Akshay is placed at sixth place in the list. Most of his income came from product endorsements. The list takes into account the earnings between June 1, 2019, and June 1, 2020. The list has been topped by Wrestler-turned-movie star Dwayne Johnson, for a second straight year, with the total earning of \$87.5 million. Johnson is also known by his ring name The Rock.
9. Indian origin physician **Ravi Solanki** is among 19 winners of the UK's Royal Academy of Engineering President's Special Awards for Pandemic Service.
Note: Ravi Solanki, a physician working on neurodegenerative diseases, along with Raymond Siems, an engineer working in machine learning, were awarded for their volunteer work to help build a secure and fully functioning website for a new National Health Service (NHS) charity HEROES.
10. Rohit Sharma, Vinesh Phogat, Manika Batra and M Thangavelu were recommended for **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020** award by the National Sports Awards selection committee.
Note: Rohit Sharma will be the fourth cricketer after legendary Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli to be conferred the award. Tendulkar was awarded the Khel Ratna in 1998, Dhoni got it in 2007 and Kohli received in 2018.
11. St Christopher School of **Nagaland** has won the Gold Award along with cash prize of Rs.1 Lakh from the first



ever Pallikkutam National Award for Innovation in Education instituted by Rajagiri Media.

Note: The St Christopher School won the award for ensuring a seamless class for the students with the limited infrastructure and resources in the rural area. The Prize money for Gold Award is Rs.1,00,000. The rural school provided a balanced online and offline activities for the students over the whatsapp. The award was sponsored under the CSR initiative of the Federal Bank Ltd.

- 12. Indore** city became India's cleanest city for the fourth year in a row in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards. **Note:** Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced the Swachh Survekshan 2020 result at the Award Ceremony 'Swachh Mahotsav' in the national capital being organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA). This is the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of the country. A total of 129 awards will be handed out to the top-performing cities and states.
- 13. Water technology company VA Tech Wabag Ltd.** has won the prestigious Global Water Award for its 45 million liters a day Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis Plant. **Note:** The plant has won the distinction award under the category of 'wastewater project of the year'. The plant is one of the largest and technologically advanced water treatment plants in India.
- 14. NLCI** has bagged the "Swachhta Hi Seva award" for transforming Neyveli Township into a plastic-free, green campus. **Note:** The award was conferred to three units of the PSU - Township administration office (First rank), Thermal Power Station -I (second rank) and Mines Sub-stores (third rank). NLCIL implemented the Swachhta Hi Seva programme in two phases -- the first

phase from September 11 to November 2, 2019 and the second phase from October 3 to 27, 2019.

- 15. Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash** has won the first ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations World Cup (MCWC). **Note:** Bhanu Prakash had secured the gold medal with a score of 167, Lebanese contender Mohammed El Mir secured the Silver Medal with a score 102 and Asmita Pal from the UAE bagged the Bronze medal with a score of 100 points.
- 16. Tenzin Priyadarshi and Zara Houshmand** has authored the book titled 'Running Toward Mystery: The Adventure of an Unconventional Life'. **Note:** The book provides an account of how the Dalai Lama traced his Spiritual Teacher Khunu Lama in India. Tenzin Priyadarshi is the President and CEO of The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Zara Houshmand is an Iranian American author and literary translator.
- 17. Marieke Lucas Rijneveld** has been adjudged as the winner of the International Booker Prize 2020. **Note:** The book was first published in Dutch in 2018 and eventually translated into English by Michele Hutchison. The £50,000 prize (\$66,000) will be split equally between the author and translator to give equal recognition to both.
- 18. "Nayi Disha"** is the HR initiative of SBI bank has been awarded with **Brandon Human Capital Management (HCM) Excellence Award 2020**. **Note:** The award is also known as the Academy Awards of Learning & Development 2020. The SBI has been awarded with the global recognition for its HR initiative, "Nayi Disha". The award winners will be honored at Brandon Hall Group's annual HCM Excellence Conference, January 26-28, 2021 at the Hilton West Palm Beach, Florida.

Sports News

Grand Slam Winners List -2020

Grand Slam	Mens' Singles	Womens' Singles
Australian Open 2020	Novak Djokovic	Sofia Kenin
US Open 2020	Dominic Thiem	Naomi Osaka
French Open 2020	Rafael Nadal	Iga Swiatek
Wimbledon Championships 2020	-	-

Note: Wimbledon Championships 2020 has been cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.



January (1st to 14th) 2021

1. **Claire Polosak** became the first female umpire to officiate in a men's Test match.
Note: The 32-year-old already holds the distinction of being the first woman to officiate (as an on-field umpire) in a men's ODI match. Polosak had umpired in ICC's World Cricket League Division 2 final match between Namibia and Oman in 2019. In Sydney though, Polosak will officiate as a fourth umpire.
2. **Abhishek Yadav** has been appointed as the first deputy general secretary of All India Football Federation (AIFF) after the sports body decided to create a new post in its hierarchy.
Note: The 40-year-old former international, who has played with the likes of Bhaichung Bhutia, Sunil Chhetri, Mahesh Gawli and Climax Lawrence, has been serving as national team's director since January 2018. He was the member of AIFF and has been serving as national team's director since January 2018.
3. Indian athlete who has secured fourth position in the Dhaka Marathon 2021 -- **Jigmet Dolma**.
Note: Jigmet Dolma is an SPO of Ladakh police. Two more women runners from India and a total of 8 athletes participated in the marathon. In the marathon, Hicham Lakohi of Morocco came first in the elite competition of the marathon in men's category while Angela Jim Asunde from Kenya won the women's category in the same event. The marathon was organized to commemorate the return of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from Pakistan jail to Bangladesh in 1972.

December 2020

1. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix 2020.
Note: The win, from pole position, was the 95th of seven-time world champion Hamilton's career and came with the safety car leading the field to the checkered flag. Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished second with Thai teammate Alexander Albon completing the podium in the floodlit race at Sakhir after inheriting third place from Racing Point's Sergio Perez who suffered a blown engine three laps from the end.
2. **Virat Kohli** become the fastest batsman to reach 22,000 international runs.
Note: Kohli achieved this feat during the second ODI between Australia and India at the SCG. The ODI legend scored a superb 89-run knock for India in their pursuit of 390. Notably, Kohli has become the eighth batsman overall and the third Indian to surpass 22,000 international runs
3. **Segio Perez** won the formula One Sakhir Grand Pix in Bahrain.
Note: Sergio Perez became the first Mexican victor in F1 since Pedro Rodriguez in 1970, ending a series of races dominated by Mercedes for whom Valtteri Bottas finished eighth and George Russell ninth. The 30-year-old Mexican recovered from a first-lap crash that dropped him to the back of the field in his 190th race.
4. Sri Lanka will host the Asia Cup in June 2021.
Note: As per the original schedule, the tournament was supposed to be hosted by Pakistan in 2020, however, it got postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now the event has been moved forward to June 2021, with Sri Lanka Cricket taking the hosting rights from PCB. As compensation, PCB has got the hosting rights for the 2022 edition
5. Jehan Daruvala is associated with **Formula Race** who has created history becoming first Indian to win the game recently.
Note: This was the final race of the F2 season. The Formula 2 Championship is a second-tier single-seater racing championship. The 22-year-old Jehan Daruvala is currently a member of the Red Bull Junior Team and competes for Carlin Motorsport.
6. Paul Sein Twa belongs to **Myanmar** who has won the 'Goldman Environmental Prize 2020' for Asia.
Note: Sein Twa received the prestigious prize along with five other grassroots environmental activists from the Bahamas, Ghana, Ecuador, Mexico and France. Dubbed the "Green Nobel Prize," this award is given annually to environmental heroes from each of the world's six inhabited continents.
7. **Anthony Joshua** has won the world heavyweight titles 2020.
Note: Anthony Joshua has retained his world heavyweight titles with a ninth-round knockout of Kubrat Pulev, potentially setting up an all-British fight against Tyson Fury to be undisputed champion of boxing's marquee division. Joshua had already knocked down Pulev three times when he unleashed a right hook that sent the 39-year-old Bulgarian to the canvas once again.



- 8. Max Verstappen** has won the year-ending Formula One the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020.
Note: Champions Mercedes completed the podium places in a processional race with Valtteri Bottas second and seven times world champion Lewis Hamilton third. The 23-year-old Verstappen had clinched a brilliant pole position and made a good start while Bottas comfortably held off Hamilton.
- 9. Bajrang Punia** has won the FICCI sports person of the year award 2020 in male category.
Note: Wrestler Bajrang Punia and Shooter Elavenil Valarivan received the highest honour "Sports person of the Year of Men & Female" Award respectively. Bajrang Punia, represents India in Freestyle Wrestling in 65 kg category.
- 10. Elavenil Valarivan** associated with **Shooting** who has won the FICCI sports person of the year award 2020 in female category.
Note: Wrestler Bajrang Punia and Shooter Elavenil Valarivan received the highest honour "Sports person of the Year of Men & Female" Award respectively. Elavenil Valarivan Represents India in the sport of Shooting, She won gold medal in 2018 ISSF Junior World Cup, She won Silver medal at World University Games in 2019. She won Gold medal at World Cup Suhl in 2019 & she will represent India in Tokyo Olympics 2021.
- 11. Pakistan** will host the Asia Cup Cricket Tournament in 2022.
Note: In July 2020, Asia Cup's Governing body, Asia Cricket Council (ACC) announced that the 2020 Edition of Asia Cup was cancelled due to Pandemic. The 2020 Edition was originally set to be hosted by Pakistan, as it was cancelled Pakistan were awarded to host the 2022 Edition as Compensation. Asia Cup is a men's One Day International (ODI) & Twenty20 International Cricket Tournament.
- 12. Breaking** will make its debut at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris and became a Medal Event.
Note: Breaking will make its Olympic debut at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, while 3 other sports will make their Olympic debut at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics to be held in July, 2021 (delayed due to COVID-19). The additional sports were proposed by the Paris 2024 Organising Committee.
- 13. Max Verstappen** is the winner of Formula 1 season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020.
Note: He is the racer of Red Bull and is from Netherlands. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) bagged 2nd place, followed by Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) at Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020.
- 14. Ankita Raina** has won the ITF doubles title in Dubai along with Ekaterine Gorgodze.
Note: Indian tennis player Ankita Raina won her third doubles title of pandemic-hit 2020 season, clinching the Al Habtoor challenge with Ekaterine Gorgodze. She along with Ekaterine Gorgodze won 6-4 3-6 10-6 against Aliona Bolsova Zadoinov from Spain and Slovakian Kaja Juvan in the final of the USD 100,000 hard court event.
- 15. Odisha** state will host the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023.
Note: The 2023 tournament will be held at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and Biju Patnaik Hockey Stadium in Rourkela. FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 was also hosted by Odisha. FIH 2023 tournament will be 15th edition of the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup.
- 16. Pakistan** will host the Asia Cup Cricket Tournament in 2022.
Note: In July 2020, Asia Cup's Governing body, Asia Cricket Council (ACC) announced that the 2020 Edition of Asia Cup was cancelled due to Pandemic. The 2020 Edition was originally set to be hosted by Pakistan, as it was cancelled Pakistan were awarded to host the 2022 Edition as Compensation. Asia Cup is a men's One Day International (ODI) & Twenty20 International Cricket Tournament.
- 17. The Sports Ministry** has formally recognized **Yogasana** event as a competitive sport.
Note: Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Minister of AYUSH (Ayurveda Yoga and Naturopathy Unani Sidda Homoeopathy) Shripad Yesso Naik formally promoted yogasana as a competitive sport during an event here. The move was made to encourage yoga, spread awareness about its benefits and to help improve physical and mental wellbeing of the people.
- 18. Zimbabwe** will host the qualifiers of the 2023 ODI ICC World Cup.
Note: India, the hosts of the rescheduled 2023 ODI World Cup, along with seven other top Super League teams will qualify directly for the tournament to be held in October-November. The bottom five teams from the Super League will compete in the 2023 World Cup qualifier, joining the best three teams from League 2.
- 19. Indian boxing champion Amit Panghal** has won the gold medal in Cologne World Cup 2020 among men.
Note: Veteran Satish Kumar (+91kg) had to settle for a silver after an injury forced him to withdraw from the



- finals. India finished the competition at the second spot overall after claiming three gold, two silver and four bronze medals.
- 20. Simranjeet Kaur** is associated **Boxing** sports has won a gold medal recently in an international event.
Note: Indian women boxers Simranjeet Kaur (60kg) won a gold medals with contrasting final wins in the Cologne World Cup in Germany. Simranjeet defeated German Maya Klienmans 4-1 to finish on top. India finished the competition at the second spot overall after claiming three gold, two silver and four bronze medals.
- 21. The Sports Ministry** has approved the inclusion of four indigenous games to be a part of the Khelo India Youth Games 2021, these are **Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta & Mallakhamba**.
Note: Mallakhamba has been well-known across India and Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have been the hotspots of this sport. Gatka originates from the state of Punjab and this traditional fighting style of the Nihang Sikh Warriors is used both as self-defense as well as a sport. Thang-Ta, a Manipur martial art has passed into oblivion in recent decades, but the sport will get national recognition again with the help of the Khelo India Youth Games 2021. Kuttu varisai means empty hand combat in Tamil and was first documented in Sangam literature, also called kai silambam means hand
- 22. Qatar** will host the 2030 Asian Games as per the announcement made by the Olympic Council of Asia.
Note: An executive board meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) unanimously approved the proposal to name the runner-up in the two-horse race for the 2030 games as 2034 hosts. The decision means Qatar will play host to the multi-sport event eight years after it organises the 2022 football World Cup finals.
- 23. The Indian Hockey men team** ranked at **4th** position in the latest rankings released by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) at the end of 2020.
- Note:** Belgium Men's Team will finish 2020 at the top position, while Netherlands women's team finished 1st. In January, 2020, FIH released a new method for calculation of World Ranking. The new method is based on a match-based rankings model, moving away from Tournament-based rankings followed by FIH.
- 24. Indonesia** has got the hosting right for the FIFA Under-20 Men's World Cup in 2023.
Note: The Bureau of the FIFA Council has decided to cancel the 2021 editions of the men's U-20 World Cup and U-17 World Cup and gave the hosting rights to Indonesia and Peru respectively for the 2023 editions.
- 25. Australia and New Zealand** will host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.
Note: Australia and New Zealand will host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023. The play-off tournament will be used as a test event in Australia and New Zealand for the FIFA Women's World Cup.
- 26. Russian doubles badminton player Nikita Khakimov** has received a five-year ban after being found guilty of offences relating to "betting, wagering and irregular match results."
Note: The BWF opened an investigation against Khakimov after obtaining a statement from a whistleblower, who claimed the shuttler had approached him to manipulate match results at the European Teams Championships held in February 2018. Khakimov, 32, was part of the Russian men's team that won the bronze medal at the 2020 European Team Championships.
- 27. Virat Kohli** has won the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade.
Note: The winners of the prestigious ICC Awards of the Decade including the Rachel Heyhoe-Flint for Best Female Player and Sir Garfield Sobers for Best Male Player, were announced. Virat Kohli wins the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade

November

- 1. Amit Panghal** won the gold medal in Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament in Nantes, France in 52kg category.
Note: World silver-medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) won gold medal at the Alexis Vastine international boxing tournament in Nantes. Panghal defeated American Rene Abraham 3-0. Sanjeet beat Frenchman Soheb Bouafia.
- 2. Jio** won the sponsor title of the BCCI's 2020 edition of the Women's T20 Challenge.
Note: The partnership will also have the support of Reliance Foundation Education and Sports For All (RFESA). This is a historic partnership, as for the first time a sponsor has signed with BCCI exclusively for the women's matches. The Jio Women's T20 Challenge to



- be played from 4th November to 9th November will be held in Sharjah.
3. **Lewis Hamilton** won the Formula One Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix at Imola in Italy.
Note: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the Formula One Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix at Imola in Italy. The second prize was won by another Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas. A Red Bull driver, Daniel Ricciardo, won the third prize. Mercedes won the 2020 constructors' championship.
 4. Renowned Australian cricketer Shane Robert Watson announced retirement from all forms of Cricket.
Note: He had already announced retirement from International Cricket in 2015 but was playing Franchise-based Cricket tournaments such as Indian Premier League (IPL), Pakistan Super League (PSL). He is a right-handed batsman and a right-handed fast medium bowler. He made his debut for the Australian cricket team in 2002, playing his first One Day International against South Africa.
 5. **Daniil Medvedev** has won the Paris Master 2020 title in tennis.
Note: He became the fourth Russian to capture the Rolex Paris Masters title. The World No. 5 earned his first service break at 4-4 in the second set and charged to the title from that point by winning eight of the final nine games.
 6. **Chen Meng** has won the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Women's World Cup table tennis title in held in Weihai, China.
Note: The world number one Chen Meng beat Chinese compatriot Sun Yingsha to win her maiden International Table Tennis Federation(ITTF) Women's World Cup table tennis title in held in Weihai, China. The 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup was the 24th edition of the ITTF-sanctioned event.
 7. **Mumbai Indian** team has won the 13th Edition of the Dream11 Indian Premier League 2020.
Note: A total of 8 teams participated in the event. Delhi Capitals became the runner up in the 13th edition of IPL. Jofra Archer of Rajasthan Royals won the Player of the Series. Mumbai Indians won their 5th IPL Title by defeating First-Time Finalists Delhi Capitals by 5 wickets in the Final at Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Title Winners Mumbai Indians received INR 20 Crore as Prize Money, whereas Finalists Delhi Capital received an amount of INR 12.5 Crore.
 8. **Aryna Sabalenka** won the Linz Open tennis single title for 2020.
Note: The 22-year-old Sabalenka finished the season in style with a straight-sets victory over her doubles partner Elise Mertens in final in Austria. She traded places with Williams, who dropped one spot to 11th and hasn't played since pulling out of the French Open with an Achilles injury.
 9. Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) cancelled the Women Under-17 world cup due to COVID-19 pandemic and postponed to 2021, the tournament was to be held in **India**.
Note: It has been postponed to 2021. The 2020 FIFA Women Under-17 World Cup was to be held in India. Both Under-17 and Under-20 women's World cup were to be held in India. This has been cancelled and the country has been awarded to host the 2022 cup. FIFA announced that Costa Rica will host the FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup 2022 and India will host FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2022.
 10. **Novak Djokovic** has been awarded with ATP Tour No. 1 trophy for finishing as the top ranked player for the sixth time in his career.
Note: With this, he has become the only second player in tennis history, after Pete Sampras, to receive the trophy sixth time. Earlier Djokovic had finished as world number one in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018. Before this, only Pete Sampras has managed to finish six years on top of the rankings which he did between 1993 and 1998.
 11. Sudeep Tyagi is associated with **Cricket** has announced his retirement.
Note: Indian cricketer, Sudeep Tyagi has announced his retirement from all forms of the cricket. The 33-year-old had played for the Indian national cricket team in four ODIs and a lone T20I as a fast bowler. Apart from this, the right-arm medium-fast bowler had also featured in 14 games in the Indian Premier League (IPL) for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).
 12. **Daniil Medvedev** has won the ATP tennis tournament, the second highest tier of men's Tennis Tournament after the Grand Slam held in London.
Note: The ATP tournament is the second highest tier of men's Tennis Tournament after the Grand Slam. The tournament was first held in 1970. He is a Russian tennis player at rank number 4 under ATP ranking. He was born in Moscow.
 13. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Turkish Grand Prix 2020.
Note: Sergio Perez secured the second position and Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari finished third. This was Hamilton 10th victory of the season and 94th F1 win of his career. With this win, he claimed the seventh Formula One championships title of his career to equal the record of Michael Schumacher.



- 14.** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports granted the annual recognition as a National Sports Federation (NSF) to **Archery Association of India**
Note: AAI's recognition was withdrawn by the ministry on December 7, 2012 on account of its failure to conduct elections in accordance with the sports code despite the directions of the High Court. This comes after AAI's independent elections and revocation of suspension by the World Archery and Indian Olympic Association. The recognition will be valid for one year.
- 15. Avinash Sable** set a new national record in winning the 16th Airtel Delhi Half Marathon (ADHM).
Note: He specialises in 3000m steeplechase. He completed his win in 1:00:30sec to become the only Indian to finish half a marathon in less than 61 minutes. In the 2019 World Athletics Championships, Sable had clocked 8 minutes 21.37 seconds in the men's 3000m steeplechase final to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.
- 16. Belgium** country topped the FIFA Ranking in Nov 2020.
Note: Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), has released the international rankings for November 2020. Nonetheless, the top six spots remain unchanged in the rankings. Belgium has kept their place on the top, followed by France, Brazil, England, and Portugal. Mexico and Italy back in top 10 after nine and four years respectively.
- 17.** India's rank in the recently released FIFA ranking -- **104th**.
Note: Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), has released the international rankings for November 2020. Nonetheless, the top six spots remain unchanged in the rankings. Belgium has kept their place on the top, followed by France, Brazil, England, and Portugal. Mexico and Italy back in top 10 after nine and four years respectively.

October

- 1.** Visnu Shivaraj Pandian has won the Gold Medal in the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship.
Note: The second place was won by world no. 27 Etienne Germond of France while Olympic quota winner Martin Strempl of Austria, who had shot the best qualification score of 631.4, took the third place. The only other Indian in the finals Pratyush Aman Barik finished seventh
- 2.** Yashaswini Singh Deswal has won the 10m air pistol event in the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC).
Note: Indian Olympic quota winner Yashaswini Singh Deswal won the 10m air pistol event in the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC). The second place was grabbed by Ahmed Nabil of Egypt while his compatriot Yehya Shams took the third place. Sylvia Steiner, an Olympic quota winner for Austria, settled for the fourth place.
- 3.** Odisha released a picture postcard named "Jau Kandhei" on the theme of 'Traditional Toys of India' on the occasion of World Postcard Day.
Note: World Postcard Day is observed every year on 1st October. Ten other postal circles across the country have also released similar postcards on the same theme. The objective is to promote the artisans making traditional toys in Odisha and other parts of the country.
- 4.** Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the new logo of Sports Authority of India's (SAI).
Note: The new logo signifies SAI's journey of metamorphosis from identifying and nurturing grassroot level sporting talent to creating sporting excellence in the country.
- 5.** Lewis Hamilton has won the 2020 Eifel Grand Prix, held at the Nürburgring in Nürburg, Germany.
Note: This is Hamilton's 7th win of the season and 91st career race victory, which was till now achieved only by Michael Schumacher. Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second followed by Daniel Ricciardo (Renault, Australia) at third position.
- 6.** Rafael Nadal won the men's 2020 French Open Single Title.
Note: This is his 13th French Open men's singles title and 20th Grand Slam title. The Spaniard defeated Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 in 2 hours and 41 minutes at Court Philippe-Chatrier in Paris.
- 7.** Iga Swiatek won the women's 2020 French Open Single Title.
Note: The 19-year-old Swiatek, at 54 the lowest-ranked woman to capture the Roland Garros title in the modern era, is the ninth first-time Major champion in the past 14 Grand Slams. Swiatek is the youngest women's French Open winner since Monica Seles 28 years ago. Swiatek was only the second Polish woman



to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era after Agnieszka Radwanska at Wimbledon in 2012.

8. **Nihal Sarin** won the 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship.
Note: The title win earned the 16-year old Sarin \$ 8,766 and enabled him to qualify for the 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final which will feature the world's best players. Sarin had beaten American Andrew Tang, Australia's Anton Smirnov and Armenian Haik Martirosyan en route the title.
9. Los Angeles Lakers team has won the National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship 2020.
Note: This is the 17th NBA title win for LA Lakers and also their first since 2010, after late Kobe Bryant's fifth and final title a decade ago. LeBron James of the Lakers' was named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the fourth time in his career. With this, he became the first player in league history to be named Finals MVP with three different franchises.
10. **Nozomi Okuhara** won women's singles title in Denmark Open 2020 badminton championship.
Note: In Badminton, former World Champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan clinched the Denmark Open 2020 title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin in women's singles. In the men's singles final, world number seven Anders Antonsen of Denmark defeated his compatriot Rasmus Gemke.
11. **Pakistan** Pace bowler Umar Gul announced his retirement from cricket after the end of the ongoing National T20 Cup.
Note: Gul is probably most noted for his success in T20 cricket with Pakistan and he was the leading wicket-

taker at both the 2007 and 2009 World Twenty20 tournaments. From 47 Test matches, Gul took 163 wickets at an average of 34.06. He also claimed 179 wickets from 130 ODIs, besides 85 wickets from 60 T20Is

12. **Andrey Rublev** won the men's single title in St. Petersburg Open tennis tournament 2020.
Note: Andrey Rublev joined Novak Djokovic as the only men to win four tour singles titles in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season as he beat Borna Coric 7-6 (5), 6-4 in the final of the St. Petersburg Open tennis tournament. The 22-year-old Rublev added the title in Russia to trophies in Doha, Adelaide and Hamburg.
13. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the 2020 Portuguese Grand Prix, held at Algarve International Circuit, Portugal.
Note: This was the 12th round of the 2020 Formula One World Championship. This is Hamilton's 8th win of the season and 92nd career race victory. With this win, he has surpassed the record of 91 wins set by German great Michael Schumacher. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes- Finland) came second followed by Max Verstappen (Red Bull - Netherlands) at the third spot.
14. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has consented a national coaching camp for **Table Tennis**.
Note: The National Coaching camp has been allowed at an estimated cost of Rs 18 lakh (plus air travel and medical expenses). Table Tennis Federation of India has organized the camp at the Delhi Public School Sonapat. The camp consists of 11 players (5 male, 6 female) and four support staff.

September

1. **Para-Athletic** Jayanti Behera has been awarded with the Biju Patnaik sports award in Odisha
Note: Indian women's hockey team defender Deep Grace Ekka and para-athlete Jayanti Behera received the Biju Patnaik sports award for outstanding performance. Both of them received a citation along with cash award of Rs 2 lakh each.
2. The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) is all set to host the first-ever Cycling Summit in **2021**.
Note: The Cycling Summit 2021 will consist of cyclists, athletes, fitness and sports enthusiasts, cycling coaches, health and nutrition experts, and influencers. There will also be indigenous and global brands that cater to the needs of health, fitness and cycling

enthusiasts. The summit is estimated to attract around 25,000 people in each city.

3. **Sumit Nagal** becomes the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last 7 years.
Note: He went into second round of the ongoing US Open Tennis by defeating Bradley Klahn of USA 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the US Open. Prior to him, Somdev Devvarman is the last player to reach the second round of the Australian Open, French Open and US Open in 2013. He will now face Austria's Dominic Thiem in the 2nd round.
4. **P Inian** has won the prestigious Annual World Open online chess tournament.
Note: He scored 7.5 points out of a possible 9 with six victories and three draws to finish on top. The 48th



edition of the annual event was held online from August 7-9.

5. Famous cricketer, Ian Bell announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, he held from **England**.
Note: He made his debut in 2004. He played 118 Tests, 161 ODIs, and 8 T20Is for England. He retired from ODIs in 2015 to focus on Test cricket. He won five Ashes series out of seven. He was the Player of the Series in the 2013 series, where he scored 562 runs at an average of 62.44.
6. **Pierre Gasly** has won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2020 held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza, Italy.
Note: This is his first Grand Prix win. Carlos Sainz Jr. (McLaren, Spain) came second followed by Lance Stroll (Racing Point, Canada) in third place. Lewis Hamilton ended at 7th place after he earned a 10-second stop and go penalty.
7. **Poonam Khatri** has been crowned as Wushu World Champion Iran's Maryam Hashemi failed her dope test.
Note: Her medal got upgraded after Iran's Maryam Hashemi failed her dope test. Maryam won the gold medal in the Women's Sanda event at this Championship last year in October. She defeated Poonam in the 75 kg category in the final which was held in China.
8. **Dominic Thiem** has won the men's singles title at the 2020 US Open tournament.

Note: Thiem is also the first player to capture a Grand Slam title from two sets down since Gaston Gaudio at 2004 French Open. For the first time in six years, there was a first-time Grand Slam champion at the US Open.

9. Japan's Naomi Osaka has won the women's single title at the 2020 US Open tournament defeating **Victoria Azarenka**.
Note: Osaka previously won the title at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open. She is now the first Asian player to win three Grand Slam singles titles. The victory has moved up Osaka to number 3 in the world rankings.
10. The Formula one driver **Sebastian Vettel** will drive for the Racing Point in the next season.
Note: Four-time Formula One champion Sebastian Vettel will drive for Racing Point starting next season. The team, which will be renamed Aston Martin. The team said Vettel has signed for the 2021 season "and beyond" but did not reveal the length of the contract.
11. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Formula One (F1) Tuscan Grand Prix 2020.
Note: This was Hamilton's 6th win of the season and 90th F1 victory of his career. Mercedes racer Valtteri Bottas (Finland) bagged 2nd position, followed by Alexander Albon (Red Bull-Thailand) at the F1 Tuscan Grand Prix 2020. It was the 1st edition of Tuscan Grand Prix and 9th race of F1 2020

August

1. **German** Famous footballer Benedikt Howedes retired recently.
Note: He was one of the 3 players who had played every minute for the team in the tournament. Benedikt Howedes has played 44 times for German National Team from 2011-17. In September 2007, German Football Association honored him with the Fritz Walter Medal, under-19 Gold Medal which is given to the best youth players.
2. The **Indian Government** has provisionally granted permission for the 13th edition of **Indian Premier League's (IPL's) 2020** to be rescheduled in **UAE**.
Note: BCCI has also decided to host a Women's T20 Challenge to be held from November 1 to 10 in UAE. Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah will be the three venues of the tournament. No spectators to be allowed in the initial phase of the tournament
3. India has withdrawn from the women's world team **Squash championship** scheduled to be held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.

Note: India has withdrawn from the **women's world team Squash championship** scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15th to 20th December, due to lack of preparation, time and match-readiness of its players. Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has decided to withdraw from the championship.

4. **Lewis Hamilton** won the **British Grand Prix (GP) 2020**.
Note: It is officially known as the Formula 1 Pirelli British Grand Prix 2020. The tournament was held at the Silverstone Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom (UK). This is his 7th time to win this title. He is the only racer to win most in British GP.
5. **Sports Authority of India** with CISCE and CBSE, will host an online program for training of Physical Education (PE) Teachers on "Khelo India Fitness Assessment of School Going Children".
Note: The program will target 7500 participants across 2615 CISCE schools. It will assess the fitness levels of the school children and identify potential



- future champions. Khelo India Fitness Assessment through Khelo India Mobile App (KIMA) will be done. The session is titled 'Whole School Approach to Fitness'.
6. Indian umpire **KN Ananthapadmanabhan** has been included in ICC's international panel of umpires.
Note: Ananthapadmanabhan played 105 First-Class and 54 List A games for Kerala, taking 344 and 87 wickets respectively. Ananthapadmanabhan has officiated in all major domestic events including the IPL.
 7. **INOX** company will be the official sponsor Indian team for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympic.
Note: The Tokyo Olympics was rescheduled to next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be held from July 23 to August 8 in 2021. As part of the partnership the Group will also support team's promotions through its entertainment company -- INOX Leisure Limited, which owns a chain of multiplexes in the country.
 8. "Fit India Freedom Run" would be organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from **15th August to 02nd October 2020**.
Note: The ministry is organising "Fit India Freedom Run" to mark the 74th Independence Day of India on August 15 to 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2. This would be the largest country-wide run, targeted to encourage fitness among the masses while following the COVID-19 protocols.
 9. **Max Verstappen** has won the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix.
Note: His victory ended Mercedes dominant Formula 1 season. 70th Anniversary Grand Prix 2020 was the 5th race of 2020 Formula 1 season and was held at Silverstone, United Kingdom
 10. **India** will host the ICC Men's T20 World cup 2021.
Note: While the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will be held in Australia in 2022. Cricket's governing body has also decided to postpone the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 in New Zealand till February – March 2022 because of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on cricket globally.
 11. Suresh Raina announced his retirement from **Cricket** sport.
Note: He made his international debut against Sri Lanka in 2005 and represented India in 226 ODIs, 78 T20Is and 18 Tests in his cricketing career that spanned over 13 years. He scored 7,787 runs across all the formats in international cricket. He also claimed 167 catches in his international career, setting the bar high with his athleticism on field. Suresh Raina is the first Indian batsman who has scored a century in all three formats of the game.
 12. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain.
Note: Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain. This was his 4th win of the season and the 88th win of his career. Max Verstappen (Red Bull-Netherlands) came second followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) at third.
 13. The Asian Boxing Championship has been postponed to next year owing to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the tournament was scheduled to be held in **India**.
Note: India last hosted the men's Asian meet back in 1980 in Mumbai before conducting the women's event in 2003 in Hisar. The tournament became a combined event for men and women last year. The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown sporting calendars haywire the world over with several big events, including the Olympics and the T20 World Cup of cricket, postponed.
 14. **Dream 11** has bagged the title sponsorship rights of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020.
Note: Dream 11 has bagged the rights as Expression of Interest (EOI) was invited by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for IPL 2020's title sponsorship after the Chinese mobile phone brand, Vivo, pulled out of it. The title rights bagged by the fantasy gaming start-up "Dream 11" are valid till December 31, 2020.
 15. Famous cricketer Laura Marsh of **England** has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket.
Note: In her international career, Marsh played 9 Tests, 103 ODIs and 67 T20Is. She managed to score 1,588 runs across all formats and also registered 217 wickets. The 33-year-old announced her retirement from international cricket in December and has now decided to call time on her domestic career as well.
 16. **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Professional Scouting Organization



(IPSO) to conduct online Scouting Workshops throughout India.

Note: Under the agreement, IPSO will conduct online workshops which will provide a number of courses and webinars with regards to scouting in India. The workshop will be a starting point to become a scout or an analyst and will also help anyone to understand the foundations and protocols in talent identification, scouting & analysis.

17. Football team **Sevilla** has won the Europa League for a sixth time.

Note: Italy's wait for a first European trophy in a decade, and Inter's nine-year trophy drought, goes on after Lukaku could not stop Carlos's spectacular strike. It is Europe's secondary club football tournament organised by UEFA, and the 12th season since it was renamed from the UEFA Cup to the UEFA Europa League.

18. **Table tennis player** Manika Batra has been selected for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020.

Note: The government has announced the National Sports Awards 2020. Rohit Sharma(Cricketer), Mariyappan Thangavelu(Para-Athlete), Manika Batra (TT player), Vinesh Phogat (Wrestler) and Rani Rampal (Hockey) will receive the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

19. Former cricketer Lisa Sthalekar has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame, she held from **Australia**.

Note: Former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar were inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame in a virtual ceremony along with Legendary South African all-rounder Jaques Kallis and Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas. Pune born Sthalekar represented Australia in eight Tests, 125 ODIs and 54 T20s. Sthalekar is the 27th from Australia and the ninth woman player in the list, which includes five from her country.

20. **Sophia Popov** has won the Women's British Open 2020 title in Golf.

Note: German Golfer Sophia Popov won the Women's British Open 2020 title (rebranded as 2020 AIG Women's Open) by defeating Thailand's Jasmine Suwannapura by two strokes at Royal Troon in Scotland. Sophia has now become the first female

golfer from Germany to win the LPGA Tour's major title.

21. Football club **Bayern Munich** has won the UEFA Champions League 2019-20 title.

Note: Bayern Munich has become the first European Cup winners who won all their matches during the tournament. This is the sixth European Champions League title for Bayern Munich.

22. Famous all-rounder Cameron White was playing for **Australia** announced his retirement from all forms of professional cricket.

Note: He represented Australia in 4 Test matches, 91 ODIs and 47 T20Is. He also led the Australian limited-overs team in 7 international games. He amassed 146 runs in tests, 2072 runs in ODIs and 984 runs in T20Is.

23. **Table Tennis** player Poulomi Ghatak announced her retirement.

Note: Poulomi Ghatak belongs to the state of West Bengal. She won three junior national championships as well as seven senior national championships between 1996 and 2016.

24. **James Anderson** became the first-ever fast bowler to take 600 wickets in Test Match Cricket.

Note: Overall, he is the 4th bowler to take 600 test wickets after 3 spinners Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, and Anil Kumble. Anderson, who made his Test debut in 2003 against Zimbabwe, had become the highest wicket-taker among seamers in 2018 when he dismissed Mohammed Shami against India at The Oval to go past Glenn McGrath's tally of 563 Test wickets.

25. **India** will host BRICS Games 2021.

Note: This announcement came after Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju attended a meeting of Sports Ministers of the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). India will get the chairmanship of the five-nation independent international group in 2021.

26. Brothers pair, Mike Bryan and Bob Bryan have announced their retirement from the sport. They are associated with **Tennis** sport .

Note: They are the most successful men's doubles pair in tennis history. The brother's pair captured an Open Era record with 119 trophies in 26 seasons which comprises all four Grand Slams, all nine ATP Masters 1000s as well as the Olympic gold medal.



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