

"2021 Current Affairs-ब्रह्मास्त्र" MPPSC Prelims English

A Complete Coverage of Current Events
January 2020 to February 2021



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Important News: MP Specific

➤ **Sanchi Stupa selected in 4th phase of Swachh Iconic Places**

- Ministry of Jal Shakti has identified 12 sites across India, which are to be transformed into “Swachh Tourist Destinations” under the the 4th phase of “Swachh Iconic Places” Initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
- SIP Initiative was launched in 2016 by PM Narendra Modi to achieve cleanliness at 100 sites across India.
- Until Now 30 sites have already been selected in the previous phases.
- From Madhya Pradesh, in the 4th phase Sanchi Stupa has been selected for the mission.
- The project is a collaboration between Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Culture.
- Along with Sanchi Stupa the following sites have been selected in the 4th phase of Initiative:

Iconic Site	State
Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra
Sanchi Stupa	Madhya Pradesh
Kumbhalgarh Fort	Rajasthan
Jaisalmer Fort	Rajasthan
Ramdevra	Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
Golconda Fort	Hyderabad, Telangana
Sun Temple	Konark, Odisha
Rock Garden	Chandigarh
Dal Lake	Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
Banke Bihari Temple	Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
Agra Fort	Agra, Uttar Pradesh
Kalighat Temple	West Bengal

➤ **First Fossil of “Dickensonia” found in Bhimbetka**

- Geological Survey of India has found 3 fossils of the world’s oldest animal, Dickensonia (dated

570 million years ago) in the roof of Auditorium cave at Bhimbetka rock shelters in Madhya Pradesh.

- The cave is a UNESCO World Heritage site for Paleolithic and Mesolithic cave art.
- Bhimbetka caves are located at Raisen District of Madhya Pradesh.

➤ **Hoshangbad to be renamed as “Narmadapuram”**

- Chief Minister of MP Shivraj Singh Chauhan has announced that the city of Hoshangabad will be renamed as Narmadapuram to pay tribute to the river Narmada.
- Narmada is one of the major rivers of the state. Its major tributaries are Burhner, Banjar, Tawa, Kajan, Orsang etc.
- Famous attractions in Hoshangabad: Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, Hill station- Pachmarhi , Satpura Tiger Reserve (STR) also known as Satpura National Park.

➤ **3 out of 8 toy manufacturing clusters announced in Madhya Pradesh.**

- Under the National Action Plan for Indian Toy Story, the central government has announced 8 manufacturing clusters at a cost of 2300 crores.
- Out of the 8, 3 are to be developed in Madhya Pradesh, 2 in Rajasthan and one each in Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- National Action Plan for Indian Toy Story aims to reduce dependence on the Toy Imports from china and Taiwan.
- Under the scheme 35 such clusters are to be developed.

➤ **47th Khajuraho Dance Festival begins**

- The week-long (20th -26th February) 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival began in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh which is based on the Indian classical dance tradition.
- The festival is being organized by the Culture Department through



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Ustad Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy Bhopal.

- **Note:** The ceremony is being held once again in the temple premises after a gap of 44 years.
- The Khajuraho Temples were built during the chandela rule, between 950 to 1050 AD.

➤ **Mandu Festival**

- On 13th February, Madhya Pradesh's Culture and Tourism Minister Usha Thakur inaugurated the Mandu Festival in Dhar district of MP.
- Mandu is an ancient fort city in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. It's also known for its Afghan architectural heritage.
- The Festival is aimed at showcasing local handicrafts, wood cloth and food items in the spirit of Vocal for Locals and to familiarize the people around the world with the local culture of Madhya Pradesh.
- The theme of the Festival this year is: "Khojne me Kho Jao" which means Feel lost in discovering.
- During the event, inauguration of Dino Adventure Park and Fossil Museum, construction of Astro Park was also done.

➤ **Former Indian Cricketer from MP, Naman Ojha retires**

- Former Indian Wicketkeeper – Batsman Naman Ojha from Madhya Pradesh announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket at the age of 37.
- He has represented India in all three formats and holds the record for the most dismissals (351) by a wicketkeeper in Ranji Trophy.
- Naman Ojha debuted in 2000-01, representing Madhya Pradesh.

➤ **Jal Abhishekam Project**

- In first of a kind initiative, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 57000 Water structures in the state of Madhya Pradesh in the presence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan.

- These water structures under the Jal Abhishekam Campaign were developed at a cost of more than Rs. 2000 Crore.

➤ **First Asian Online shooting Championship, India bagged the highest number of medals**

- 24 Member Indian shooting team bagged the highest number of medals (11- 4 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze) in the first ever Asian Online Shooting Championship.
- It was organized by the Kuwait Shooting Federation on January 29-30.
- Manisha Kheer from Madhya Pradesh won the Bronze medal in the women's Trap Event.

➤ **Bhuri Bai of Madhya Pradesh invited as Chief Guest at Foundation Day celebrations of Bharat Bhavan**

- The tribal painter Bhuri Bai of Madhya Pradesh was invited as the Chief Guest at the Foundation Day celebrations of Bharat Bhavan.
- When the construction of this building started, she used to work here as a labourer on a daily wage of Rs six.
- Bhuri Bai's award: Shikhar Samman-Government of Madhya Pradesh in 1986, Ahalya Samman in 1998, Rani Durgavati Award in 2009, Padma Shri Award in 2021

➤ **Madhya Pradesh launches 'SAANS' campaign to reduce infant mortality**

- The health department in Madhya Pradesh has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) campaign with the aim of reducing infant mortality due to pneumonia.
- About SAANS campaign: It was launched by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in 2019 to child mortality due to pneumonia.
- Under SAANS, the government is targeting a reduction in pneumonia-caused deaths by 2025 to less than 3 deaths out of 1000 live births.



➤ **Justice Sunil Kumar Awasthi tenders his resignation from office of Judge of MP High Court**

- Shri Justice Sunil Kumar Awasthi has tendered his resignation from the office of Judge, Madhya Pradesh High Court, in pursuance of proviso (a) to clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution.
- He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on October 13, 2016 and as Permanent Judge on March 17, 2018.

➤ **Madhya Pradesh CM launches 'PANKH Abhiyan'**

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'PANKH Abhiyan' under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme in order to aid in empowerment and growth of the girl child on the occasion of National Girl Child Day (24 January).
- **PANKH:** 'P' stands for protection, 'A' for awareness of their rights, 'N' for nutrition, 'K' for knowledge and 'H' for health. The abhiyan will go on for a year.
- **Facts about Madhya Pradesh:** Recently, UNESCO has allotted Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh 'Biosphere Reserve' status.

➤ **MP government and IIM Indore signed a MoU to build a roadmap for "Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh"**

- Under the MoU IIM Indore will help the MP government to develop a new industrial policy as well as help in improving the ease of doing business ranking of the state.
- Strategic campaigns will be framed by IIM Indore for "Brand Madhya Pradesh" as "Atmanirbhar evam samridh Pradesh".
- Further IIM Indore will provide support and consultancy in the Global and National levels summits that are conducted by the state government.

➤ **WIPRO Group to act as knowledge partner to MP government**

- WIPRO will act as a knowledge partner to Madhya Pradesh in reference to the New Education Policy at the implementation level. WIPRO will establish a university in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- WIPRO has been allotted 50 acres of land to develop the university which is expected to start in the next 18 months.
- To develop opportunities to the youth of MP in the IT sector, WIPRO will also develop a "Software Development Center" in Bhopal.
- Azim Premji Foundation is active in 5 districts of Madhya Pradesh and is set to establish "Adarsh Anganwadi at Jawahar Bal Bhawan in Bhopal.

➤ **Northern Coal fields in MP, Central Coalfields in Jharkhand and western coalfields in Maharashtra awarded.**

- Northern Coal Field Limited in Madhya Pradesh was awarded for its performance in Coal production and productivity in the "Coal Minister's Award 2020".
- The award was presented by Mr. Prahalad Joshi, Union Minister for Coal and Mining.

➤ **Madhya Pradesh became the first state to provide electricity subsidy through DBT**

- MP in the month of January 2021 became the first state to provide the electricity subsidy through Direct Benefit Transfer, hence successfully implementing one of the three aimed reforms in the Power sector.
- This achievement of Madhya Pradesh has made it eligible to receive borrowing equivalent to 0.15% of its Gross State Domestic Product.
- Hence, Finance Ministry has already approved Rs 1423 crores through open market borrowings to the state.

➤ **MP has signed MoU with Kerala to replicate responsible tourism.**



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- The responsible tourism concept was started by Kerala government in 2017 to make sure that tourism brought economic well-being, stability to the society and to ensure environment protection.
- About the Memorandum of Understanding:
 - ✓ Its objective is to replicate the same concept in MP by using tourism as a tool to develop rural communities in MP.
 - ✓ Under the Agreement Kerala will provide services under a 16-point program.
 - ✓ With the RT mission, the rustic beauty, life and heritage of Madhya Pradesh will be highlighted.

Fact Check: Vembanad Lake in Kerala is the longest lake in India.

➤ **World's largest floating Power Plant in MP**

- The world's largest floating power plant with capacity to generate 600 MW of power is being built at Omkareshwar dam on Narmada river in the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.
- It will begin power generation of electricity by 2022-2023.
- Estimated investment of Rs 3000 Crore has been made by International Finance corporation, World Bank and Power Grid.

➤ **MP and Andhra Pradesh first to complete 3 out of 4 reforms stipulated by Ministry of Finance.**

- The two states have been recognized to complete the following three reforms: Urban Local bodies reforms, One Nation One Card reforms and Ease of doing Business reforms. The fourth reform stipulated by the Ministry of Finance is Power Sector reforms.
- Because the two states have completed these reforms, they are now eligible to receive special assistance of INR 1004 Crores

from Ministry of Finance under the newly launched "Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure" scheme.

- The amount can be used by the states in implementation of projects in sectors like Health, Power, Transport, Education etc.
- The scheme "Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure" was launched by the finance minister to boost Capital Expenditure by the states who are facing shortage in Tax Revenue due to COVID-19.

➤ **TRIFOOD Parks in Madhya Pradesh**

- Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India and Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram have signed an MoU to set up 5 TRIFOOD Parks in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

❖ **What is a TRIFOOD Park?**

- Such Parks make procurements of raw materials from Van Dhan Kendras and then through Tribes India Stores, the products are sold across the country.
- The focus of such parks is to boost the Tribal Income by value addition to Minor Forest Produce that is collected by Tribal Forest gatherers.
- **Van Kalyan Ashram** under the mentorship of TRIFED will form new Van Dhan Kendras in tribal areas to identify SHGs, provide training, infrastructure, and other support.

➤ **96th Tansen Sangeet Samaroh**

- The 5 day long 96th edition of Tansen Sangeet Samaroh was held in Behat village in Gwalior near the tomb of Tansen.
- The event was jointly organised by Ustad Allaadin Khan Kala evam Sangeet Academy and Department of Culture, Madhya Pradesh.
- Pt. Satish Vyas, a Santoor virtuoso, was awarded the Tansen Samman 2020. The award carries a sum of



Rs 1 Lakh and given in the field of Hindustani Music.

- “Abhinav Kala Parishad”, an institution from Bhopal was conferred with Raja Man Singh Tomar Award 2020. The institution has been working in the field of culture for 52 years.
- **“Elements of Quantitative Genetics: A Conceptual Approach” book released by CM Shivraj Singh Chahuhan**
- CM of Madhya Pradesh released the book “Elements of Quantitative Genetics: A Conceptual Approach” which is written by **Prof. Dr. Stuti Sharma** of Jawahar Lal Nehru Agricultural University, Jabalpur.
 - The co-author of the book is **Manoranjan Biswal**.
 - The book is based on plant breeding genetics which will present the subject with ease to the students of BSc, MSc, PhD students and also to the students preparing for competitive examinations.
- **Dharm Swantatrya(Religious Freedom) Bill, 2020 approved by MP Cabinet.**
- MP Cabinet approved Dharm Swantatrya (Religious Freedom) Bill, 2020 which aims to outlaw the inter religious marriages which take place with the only motive of religious conversion.
 - Any Conversion of a minor or woman or a person belonging to SC/ST category against their will, will attract a fine of Rs. 50,000 and jail term extending to 2-10 years.
 - Mass forced conversions will attract a fine of up to Rs. 1 lakh and a jail term of 5-10 years.
 - The Act will replace the existing law under Freedom of Religion Act, 1968.
- **“Raag-Bhopali” Exhibition**
- To promote the craft of “Zari-Zardozi”, a one of its kind exhibition called “Raag-Bhopali” is being organized by the Madhya Pradesh government.
- The exhibition is aimed at keeping the traditional art alive and also to develop opportunities for employment for the artisans involved in the craft.
- **MP has the highest number of leopards according to the report “Status of Leopards in India”**
- Union Minister of MoEFCC, Prakash Javadekar has released the **“Status of Leopards in India” 2018**, which states that India has recorded a 60% rise in leopard population with the total number of leopards being 12,852.
 - MP has the highest number of leopards in the country at 3421 followed by Karnataka (1783) and Maharashtra (1690).
 - The study has been conducted by Wildlife Institute of India and National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- **Veteran Congress Leader Motilal Vohra passed away at the age of 93.**
- Two-time chief minister of Madhya Pradesh and veteran congress leader has passed away due to post COVID complications.
 - He was the 13th CM of MP from 1985 to 1989.
 - He also served as the governor of the Uttar Pradesh between 1993 and 1996.
- **Mallakhambh is one of the four indigenous sports chosen for 4th Edition of Khelo India Youth Games.**
- Ministry of youth affairs and sports has decided to include four indigenous sports in the 4th Khelo India Youth Games. The Chosen sports are as follows:
 1. **Mallakhamba:** In this athlete performs gymnastics on a wooden pole or a rope.
 2. **Kalaripayattu:** Martial Art from Kerala.
 3. **Gatka:** practised by Nihang Sikh Warriors as self-defence sport.
 4. **Thang-Ta:** Martial Art from Manipur.



➤ **FICCI Indian Sports Awards 2020**

- Madhya Pradesh won the award for the “Best State Promoting Sports” in the **FICCI Indian Sports Awards 2020**.
- Wrestler Bajrang Punia and shooter Elavenil Valariven won the Best Sportsman of the year Male and Female, respectively.
- **FICCI** established in 1927 and its current President is Uday Shankar.

➤ **First virtual Aadi Mahotsava launched in Madhya Pradesh by Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda.**

- Aadi Mahotsava or the National Tribal Festival is held to promote the tribal culture, products etc, which in turn increases the income of Tribal people.
- Festival is organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED).

➤ **Madhya Pradesh: India's 1st tiger reserve hot air balloon wildlife safari launched**

- India's first hot air balloon wildlife safari in a tiger reserve was launched in the world famous Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve by Madhya Pradesh.
- The state was planning to introduce this service in Pench, Kanha and Panna tiger reserves as well.
- The service is being operated by Jaipur-based Sky Waltz.

➤ **Gwalior and Orchha included in UNESCO's world heritage cities list**

- The historical fort cities of 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: Gwalior was established in the 9th century and ruled by Gurjar Pratihar Rajvansh, Tomar, Baghel Kachvaho and Scindias. Gwalior is known for its palaces and temples.
- Orchha is popular for its temples and palaces and was the capital of the

Bundela kingdom in the 16th century.

➤ **Honey FPO by NAFED in Morena, MP**
Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare virtually inaugurated Honey Farmer Producer Organizations program of NAFED across 5 states.

- Morena district in Madhya Pradesh has been chosen to develop one out of 5 FPO under the scheme.
- The other areas which are chosen across the country under the scheme are sundarban in West Bengal, East Champaran in Bihar, Mathura in UP and Bharatpur in Rajasthan.
- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) has been chosen as the implementing agency for the scheme.

➤ **“Gau Cabinet” formed in Madhya Pradesh**

CM of MP, Shivraj Singh Chauhan has established a “Gau Cabinet” in the state for the protection of cattle. 6 departments (Animal husbandry, Forest, Panchayat and Rural development, Revenue, Home and Farmers' welfare) of the state will be part of the the “Gau Cabinet”.

- The first meeting of the “Gau Cabinet” was held virtually at Kamdhenu gau abhyaranya in Agar-malwa district which is also the first cow sanctuary in India.
- A resolution to start 2000 gaushalas was passed in the meeting.

➤ **Madhya Pradesh becomes the first state to release a roadmap to make the state self-reliant.**

CM of MP Shivraj Singh Chauhan virtually released a 3-year roadmap- “AtmaNirbhar Madhya Pradesh 2023” to make the state self-reliant.

- The roadmap focusses on Transparent governance, farm welfare, job creation and boosts to the industry and healthcare.

Key Points:



- ✓ Ensuring 100% domestic tap water connection.
- ✓ Local purchasing of goods and equipment.
- ✓ Setting up of Green corridors.
- ✓ MSME corridor along the Chambal and Narmada Expressway.
- ✓ Boosting on Energy and Tourism Infrastructure.

➤ **Tribal Pride Day 2020 in Madhya Pradesh.**

State government in MP has decided to celebrate 15th November as the Tribal Pride Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of freedom fighter **Birsa Munda**.

Other key announcements:

- ✓ The tribal welfare department will be renamed to Tribal Affairs department.
- ✓ The Tribal Pride day will be celebrated every year on 15th November.
- ✓ “**Samras Hostels**” will be established across to state for the accommodation of children from all communities.
- ✓ **10%** of seats in the tribal hostels will be reserved for the children of non-tribal communities.
- ✓ CM also released short films “Ranbankure” which are based on the self-esteem of Tribal heroes.

➤ **Best District Award at 2nd National water awards 2019.**

Under the aspirational district category **Khandwa of Madhya Pradesh** and **Vizianagram of Andhra Pradesh**, won the prize for Water conservation at the 2nd National Water Awards, 2019.

➤ **Madhya Pradesh among top 5 in MSME employment generation amid COVID-19**

According to a report of RBI Madhya Pradesh is among the top 5 states which have generated highest MSME Employment during the COVID-19. The other states in top 5 are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

➤ **WWF report on water risk.**

According to Water risk filter, an online tool developed by WWF, 30 Indian cities are going to face increased water risk by 2050.

- Indore in Madhya Pradesh was placed 2nd in the list which was topped by Jaipur, Thane was placed at the 3rd position.
- Globally, populations in high water-risk areas could rise from 17% in 2020 to 51% in 2050.

➤ **Forest produce based Food-park will be developed in Umaria district.**

- It will be a first ever Food-park established in Shahdol sub-division of Umaria, Madhya Pradesh. All forest villages will be transformed into Revenue villages.

➤ **UNESCO allots Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh ‘Biosphere Reserve’ status**

- This is 12th Biosphere Reserve from India and after Panchmarhi and Amarkantak, this is 3rd from Madhya Pradesh which are a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- Panna National Park to Tiger Reserve
- The Panna ‘National Park’ was initially set up in 1981. It received the status of a tiger reserve in the early 1990s under “Project Tiger.”
- Note: There are currently 714 biosphere reserves across the world, located in 129 countries, which form the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

➤ **Panna Biosphere Reserve**

- International coordinating Council of UNESCO’s Man and Biosphere program has recognized 3 sites in India and Maldives including Panna Biosphere Reserve in MP.
- Union Ministry of Environment, forest and climate change had declared Panna as a Biosphere reserve in August this year.
- Panna Biosphere Reserve is a critical tiger habitat.
- The other two sites are in Maldives- Fuvahmulah Biosphere

Reserve and Addu Atoll Biosphere Reserve.

- About UNESCO: Its headquarters is located in Paris, France.

➤ **Rescue Centres for Vultures**

- Bhopal is one of the 4 centres in country where Vulture rescue centres have been proposed.
- Other locations for rescue centres are Pinjore (Haryana), Guwahati (Assam) and Hyderabad (Telangana).
- These are to be established in accordance with the Action Plan for Vulture conservation 2020-25 which has been approved by the National Board of Wildlife.
- Under the plan 5 states which have been chosen for Conservation and Breeding centres for Vultures are Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

➤ **PM SvaNidhi Scheme**

- Madhya Pradesh has ranked 2nd in the disbursement of loans under Pradhan Mantri Street vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi with over 1.25 lakh beneficiaries.
- Uttar Pradesh has been the top performer with over 3 lakh beneficiaries, followed by MP and Telangana.

➤ **"Life in Miniature" Project**

- Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel virtually launched the "Life in Miniature" Project in collaboration with National Museum and Google's Art and Culture.
- The Project enables the miniature paintings kept at national museum to be viewed virtually through Google Arts and Culture App.
- Prahlad Singh Patel is Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha from Damoh Constituency in Madhya Pradesh.

➤ **Pravir Krishna won the CEO of the year and Visionary leadership of the year award.**

- Pravir Krishna who is MD of TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative marketing development federation of India) has been awarded CEO of the year and Visionary leadership of the year by World Human Resource Development Congress at virtually held National Awards for Excellence-PSU.
- Pravir Krishna is a 1987 batch IAS Officer from Madhya Pradesh Cadre.

➤ **Physical distribution of Property cards under PM SVAMITVA Scheme**

- PM Modi launched Physical Distribution of Property card, a legal document for owning houses under Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in rural areas Scheme to make rural India self-sufficient.
- The property cards have been handed over to more than 1 lakh beneficiaries across the state of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

➤ **Delhi-Mumbai e-way to have India's first 5 Animal Bridges**

- Projected to be completed in 2024, The 1320 Expressway will have India's first 5 Animal overpasses.
- The Expressway will pass through the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana.

➤ **Swachh Bharat 2020 Awards:**

- Khachrod block in Ujjain district in Madhya Pradesh was awarded the first position and Chinnanur Village in Tamil Nadu bagged the top slot at Gram Panchayat level.
- The Government had earlier launched three missions under Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya, Samudayik Shouchalaya Abhiyan and Gandagi Mukth Bharat.
- Under the Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya category, Gujarat bagged the first position at state level whereas Tirunelveli in



Tamil Nadu got the Award for cleanliness at District Level.

➤ **“Gandagi Bharat Chhodo Madhya Pradesh” Campaign**

- MP Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh launched the “Gandagi Bharat Chhodo Madhya Pradesh Campaign to from Sagar in MP.
- The campaign was aimed at spreading the awareness about cleanliness and to ban the use of plastics in markets.
- Over 35 lakh people participated in the campaign.

➤ **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Rasoi Scheme relaunched in MP**

- Deen Dayal Antyodaya Rasoi scheme was relaunched with the aim of providing nutritious food to the needy at a highly subsidized rate.
- Departments of Food and Civil Supplies and Urban Development is the implementing body for the scheme.
- Funds will be arranged for the scheme through Corporate social responsibility.
- The scheme was originally launched in 2017 but was discontinued in March 2019, and with the government change in the state, again, the scheme has been restarted.

➤ **Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojna**

- CM of MP Shivraj Singh Chahukan has launched the mukhyamantri kisan kalyan yojna on the lines of PM-Kisan.
- Under the scheme apart from the RS. 6000 that is transferred in the farmers’ account under PM-Kisan scheme, and additional Rs. 4000 will be transferred.

➤ **State Business Reform Action Plan Rankings**

- Department of Industrial Promotion and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of commerce and industry released the BRAP Ranking for 2018-19 year recently.
- Madhya Pradesh was the best performer in the “west” region, while it ranked 4th in the overall ranking which was topped by Andhra Pradesh.
- BRAP ranking represent the Ease of doing business in the State with increased transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the government regulatory functions with respect to the business enterprises.

➤ **Madhya Pradesh in NCRB Crime Report:**

- Maharashtra (18,916), Tamil Nadu (13,493), West Bengal (12,665), Madhya Pradesh (12457) and Karnataka (11,288) accounts for 49% of the suicides in India.
- MP accounted for 5.3% of Farmer suicides in India, which was highest for Maharashtra.
- Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest road crash deaths with 15% of total deaths followed by Maharashtra with 9.4% and Madhya Pradesh with 7.7%.
- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report titled ‘missing women and children in India’ stated that the highest number (33,964) of women who went missing in the country are from the state of Maharashtra & the number of missing children are maximum (10, 038) in the State of Madhya Pradesh (MP) in the year 2016, 2017 & 2018.
- Madhya Pradesh was the second worst performer in the report titled **“The State of Young Child in India”** with an index score of 0.526.
- The report is prepared by Mobile Creches.
- Madhya Pradesh targets household tap connections in all rural areas under **Jal Jeevan Mission** by 2023
- Public Health Engineering Department is constructing water infrastructure so that rural families of Madhya Pradesh can be provided with clean drinking water through tap connection. The target for completion of this scheme in the rural areas of the entire state is by the year 2023 under the Jal Jivan Mission.
- Note: Jal Jeevan Mission-Government of India has restructured and subsumed the ongoing National Rural Drinking Water Programme(NRDWP) into Jal Jeevan Mission(JJM) to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household i.e., Har Ghar Nal Se Jal (HGNSJ) by 2024.
- **MP celebrates 'Gharib Kalyan Week' as ' Vanadhikar Diwas':**
- In Madhya Pradesh, Gharib Kalyan Week is being organized from 16th to 23rd September to mark the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



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- On the fourth day of the week, 'Vanadhikar Diwas' was celebrated in the State. And more than 23,000 forest rights pattas were distributed in 47 districts of the State.
- **e-office system of Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company**
- Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Bhopal is the first power distribution company in the country, in which the e-office system is being operated from the corporate office to local circle level offices.
- There is no physical movement of the file and Corona infection is also being avoided as human contact is minimum.
- MP is one out of the 9 states where **Bamboo clusters** have been announced for the development of bamboo related industry.
- Other states that are included are Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka.
- **New DRDO research lab in Madhya Pradesh**
- In Madhya Pradesh, a Research lab of DRDO at a cost of 2 thousand crore rupees will be opened in Kailaras-Jaura region of Morena district for which around 350 hectares of land has been acquired by the government.
- Foundation Stone of 'Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior' to be Laid on 26 September 2020
- The foundation stone of 'Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh' will be laid at a function organized by Department of

2. The Gwalior Chambal Expressway is to be renamed as Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chambal Progress way. A grand statue of Vajpayee will also be set up in Bhopal.

- In honour of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, 25th December is celebrated as Good Governance Day.

3. Madhya Pradesh Urban Development and Housing Ministry has launched a public awareness campaign "Ek Mask-AnekZindagi" from August 1-15.

- The Scheme is aimed at spreading awareness regarding masks for the prevention from Covid-19 infection.

Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment through video conferencing on 26 September 2020.

- At present no training facilities are available in the country for sports person with disabilities. The proposed Centre will make available the specialized training facilities for Persons with Disabilities

Mobile Applications launched for digital education in various states:

Assam	Biswa Vidya Assam Mobile App
Bihar	Vidyavahin app, Mera Mobile Mera Vidyalaya for students and Unnayan Bihar Teacher App
Chandigarh	Phoenix Mobile app
Madhya Pradesh	Top Parent App
Maharashtra	Learning Outcomes Smart Q Mobile App
Punjab	iScuela Learn Mobile App
Sikkim	Edutech App
Tripura	EmpowerU Shiksha Darpan
Uttar Pradesh	Top Parent app

- Mask Banks will be established, where people can donate masks which in turn will be distributed free to poor people.

4. Chhatarpur Police of Madhya Pradesh is running a unique campaign 'Ek Sankalp – Bujurgoke naam' (a commitment for elders) in the middle of lockdown situation.

- The campaign is specially for the elderly people above the age of 60 years.
- Facilities like medicines, vegetables, milk, essential goods telephone, TV recharge, online application are being provided to the house of the elderly people.

5. In the latest 5th Swachh Survekshan 2020 Indore has been declared India's Cleanest City 4th

1. Asia's Largest Solar Power Project – Rewa Solar Project in Madhya Pradesh

- The 750 MW ultra-solar power plant spread over 1,590 acres.
- It comprises multiple (3) solar generation units of 250MW which are located on around 500-hectare area within the 1500-hectare solar plant.
- The project has been built by Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL) which is a joint venture between Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (MPUVN).

2. Indian Railways has set up Solar Plant in Bina, MP. It is now the 1st Organization in the World to Directly Supply Power to Railway Overhead Line.

3. World bank and central government have collaborated to convert the ravines of Chambal area into tillable land.

4. "Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya" scheme

- The scheme provides a school like environment to the children taught at their home through online classes. iii. Under the scheme the school bells will be heard in the student's house and the teachers will begin the class of the students after the bell.

1. Madhya Pradesh topped in the list of number of tigers (526) in the country and also reported the highest number of casualties- 173. 38 succumbed to poaching, 94 died due to natural causes, 19 are still under scrutiny, 6 died due to various unnatural causes and 16 due to seizures.

- Maharashtra has reported the second highest deaths of tigers in the country followed by Karnataka and Uttarakhand.

2. Western Coalfields Ltd opened 3 new coal mines for Rs 849 cr; 100 MT coal production target by FY26-27 Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL), the subsidiary of Coal India Ltd (CIL) has started 3 new coal mines in the state of Maharashtra and MP with total capital expenditure of around Rs 849 crores. These will generate direct employment for 647 people.

- The three mines namely-Adasa Mine, an underground to open cast mine, in Nagpur Area of Maharashtra, Sharda underground

Time in a Row, followed by Surat and Navi Mumbai

- The class timing will be for 3 hours from 10.00am to 1.00pm with 1 hour class for each subject.
- The scheme aims to provide the subject enhancement for the teachers of primary and secondary classes until class 8th.

5. Madhya Pradesh has started "Intzaar Aap Ka" Social Media Campaign to Attract Tourists.

- Intzaar Aap Ka which literally means waiting for you, is the campaign to promote the tour packages prepared by the tourism board with various guidelines regarding the pandemic situation.
- The board invites tourists on a safe trip to various religious and adventure tourist locations in the state of MP.

6. MP Govt has Launched 'Roko -Toko', a Campaign for those who do not Wear Masks in the ongoing pandemic situation.

7. Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon died at age of 85.

- He was the 28th Governor of Bihar.
- He was the 22nd Governor of Madhya Pradesh and he took charge of the office on July 20, 2019.
- He was elected to the 15th Lok Sabha from the Lucknow constituency in May, 2009

He remained the Leader of the Opposition Party from 2003 to 2007. v. Served as MLA

Mine in Kanhan Area and Dhankasa underground mine in Pench Area of Madhya Pradesh.

3. Centre approved funds for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand & West Bengal

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to provide "Functional Household Tap Connection" (FHTC) to 18 Crore households in the rural areas of the nation by the 2024.

4. MP becomes India's largest wheat procurer for the year 20-21 surpassing Punjab. MP was also the highest producer of wheat this year with production of about 30 million tonnes.

5. Mukhyamantri Shahri Path Vyavasayi Utthan Yojana

- Shehri Path Vyavasayi Utthan Yojana has been launched by the PM which aims to provide Rs. 10,000 capital to the small businesses and vendors.



6. MP government has started a plantation drive under the name “**Thank Mom**” on the premises of its Social Justice and Disabled Welfare Directorate on World Environment Day.

7. Madhya Pradesh Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Limited (MPMKVVCL) introduced the Nishtha Vidyut Mitra Scheme for women empowerment. Under this scheme, women SHGs at Gram Panchayat level will work as Nishtha Vidyut Mitra.

- It has been implemented in the Gram Panchayats of all 16 districts of Bhopal,

1. Madhya Pradesh becomes the 1st state in the country to provide mid-day meal ration.

- Since the schools have been closed during the ongoing pandemic situation it was decided to deliver mid-day meal rations to children’s doorsteps.

2. FIR AapkeDwarYojna

- It is a Pilot project to be implemented in 11 divisions of the state, under which citizens can contact the police control room over the phone, and a head constable who is trained for the purpose will arrive at the complainant’s home to register the FIR.

3. Sanjeevani a unique vehicle developed at the local level in Madhya Pradesh

A unique vehicle Sanjeevani, has been developed at the local level in the initiative of Rajnagar administration of Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh to help the healthcare workers.

- The vehicle has been developed to assist the healthcare professionals to investigate the cases and diagnose the suspected patients without direct physical contact.
- The vehicle will allow the healthcare workers with access inside an area to test the suspected individuals without stepping out of the vehicle. The healthcare workers of MP have been infected with the coronavirus and they were also attacked in different parts of the state by the locals. The vehicle will prevent healthcare professionals from getting infected with the corona virus and will protect them from physical attacks too.

4. Everybody will get employment scheme of MP government

Narmadapuram, Gwalior and Chambal divisions of the company’s jurisdiction.

8. Anandiben Patel, who is the governor of UP has been given additional charge as the governor of Madhya Pradesh as Lal ji tandon, the governor of MP has been under treatment.

- Anandiben Patel was the first chief minister of Gujarat.
- (Member of Legislative council) from 1996 to 2009. vi.Served as a member of Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Parishad from 1990 to 1996.

- The purpose of the scheme is to provide employment to all the migrant labourers and other who are looking for employment.

5. Charan paduka campaign was initiated by the MP govt so provide the barefoot migrant labourers with shoes and sleepers.

6. Rozgar Setu Yojana

- Rozgar Setu Yojana is started by the MP govt to support and provide employment to the skilled migrant workers who returned to the state in the COVID-19 situation and to meet the skilled labour requirement in various industries.
- For the same purpose a “rozgarsetu portal” was launched so that the unemployed skilled migrants can find the work related to their vocation.

7. MP has been the worst performer in infant mortality rate in the Sample registration system bulletin released by the Registrar general of India which states data related to Birth rate, Death Rate and infant mortality rate etc.

- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)- the deaths per 1,000 live births of children under 1 year of age.

8. light weight carbon foam which can replace lead batteries.

- CSIR-AMRI(Advanced materials and processes research institute) Bhopal faculty Rajeev kumar has received the Inspire faculty award instituted by Dept. of science and technology, for developing a highly porous lightweight carbon foam which can replace the lead acid batteries.



1. The West Central Railway's Coach Rehabilitation Workshop (CRWS) in Bhopal city, has developed a mobile doctor booth names "CHARAK" to eliminate the possibility of physical contact between the medical professionals and the infected patients.

2. Chief Minister COVID-19 Yoddhakalyanyojna.

- It aims to benefit Anganwadi workers and Assistants of the state. The scheme aims to provide a special health insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs.

3. Jeevan shakti yojna

- Jeevan Shakti Yojana is launched by the MP government to enable women in urban areas to earn by making masks at home,

1. Namaste orcha event held in Orcha.

- The 3-day festival is held by Tourism board of MP government to promote tourism in the heritage city of Orcha, MP.
- Orcha has won the **best heritage city national award** for 2017-18.

2. National Chambal Sanctuary in MP has been declared an eco-sensitive zone to prohibit activities which lead to pollution harming the local flora and fauna.

- It has an area of 435 square kilometres and is located across the districts Sheopur, Morena and Bhind of MP. It has a wide range of population of different fauna like upto 75% of gharial, 9 species of freshwater turtles, freshwater gangetic dolphins & more the 180 species of migratory birds.
- Ecologically Fragile Areas are come under the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC).

3. Madhya Pradesh has ranked 3rd in the country for the overall implementation of POSHAN

1. MP became the 1st state to launch unified vehicle registration card & 2nd to launch unified driving license after UP.

2. Nimad Chilli Festival 2020

- The first edition of Nimad Chilli Festival has been started in Kasrwaad by MP government to promote the chilli production in the state.
- Mascot for festival – "Chilli Chacha".

where the government will pay them Rs 11 per mask.

- The scheme is aimed at performing dual role of fighting against corona virus as well as providing employment to women in these uncertain times.

4. Jeevan Amrit Yojana

- Jeevan Amrit yojna has been launched by the MP government to boost the immune system of people to fight disease.
- Government will freely distribute an ayurvedic product called "Tirkut Churna" which is prepared by AYUSH.
- A 50-gram packet is targeted to be provided to approximately 1 crore families.

Abhiyan under the category of Large states. Andhra Pradesh topped the list.

- POSHAN Abhiyan is India's flagship programme to direct the attention of the country towards the problem of malnutrition & address it in a mission-mode. It was earlier called as National Nutrition Mission (NNM).

4. Indore has become the first city in India to sanitize the city.

- The drones will carry 16 litres of sanitizers in each flight, and are capable of spraying the chemicals in an area spanning 8-10 km & return after 30 minutes.

5. 'Ram Van Gaman Path' project.

- MP govt. has approved to form a trust for constructing Ram van gaman path project, which is the route taken by Lord Ram during his 14 years of life in the forest.
- It is proposed to be constructed from Chitrakoot to Amarkantak.

6. Iqbal Singhbains has been appointed the chief secretary of MP, by newly elected CM, Shivraj Singh Chauhan.

3. Narmada mahotsava is being organised at Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh.

4. MP government in a first will now use drones for mapping the villages replacing the land survey work which used to be done manually or through satellites.

5. Madhya Pradesh has won the first place in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru



Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). Indore has also ranked 1st the best performance in PMMVY.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana:

- The scheme is aimed to provide incentive of Rs. 5,000 to compensate for the loss of wages of working women while ensuring proper rest and nutrition during pregnancy or after delivery of the first living child. The cash transfer will be made directly to the bank account through DBT.
- Cash incentive: The incentive of Rs 5000 is given in 3 instalments.
- The first instalment is Rs 1000 and will be given on early registration of pregnancy at the Anganwadi Centre (AWC) / approved Health facility.
- The second instalment is Rs 2000 which will be given after 6 months of pregnancy

1. First e-waste clinic in India has been opened in Bhopal.

- India's first e-waste clinic has been opened in Bhopal by **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** and **Bhopal Municipal Corporation**.
- It is a trial project established for 3 months, if successful, other clinics will be opened across the country on the same lines.

2. Mukhya mantri karmachari swasthyabima yojana

- According to the scheme Rs 5 lakh for general illness and Rs 10 lakh for critical illness & Cashless treatment facility up to Rs 10,000 per annum in OPD (Outpatient Department) will be provided, also, free medicines will be distributed.
- This scheme will benefit all the current and retired employees of the state government.

3. Madhya Pradesh government has made the reading of preamble of the constitution mandatory in all schools of the state.

- MP is the second state after Maharashtra that has made reading of preamble mandatory in the schools.

4. Indore has topped the Swacchsurvekshan League 2020 among cities which have more than 10 lakh population

- Indore was followed by Bhopal.

on receiving at least one ante- natal check-up (ANC).

- The third and final instalment is Rs. 2000 will be given after the registration of child birth.

6. The National water conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- The conference is being held to finalize the guidelines of "Right to Water Act" and also to address the water crisis in the state.

7. Land records and services index 2020

- Land records and services index has been released by National Council of Applied Economic Research. (NCAER)
- Madhya Pradesh has emerged the best state in terms of digitising of land records. Odisha was at second place, and the UT of Ladakh came last.

- Swacchsurvekshan was started in the year 2016.

- West Bengal did not participate in the theswacchsurvekshan.

5. Suman kalyanpur and Kuldeep singh to get MP's Lata Mangeshkar award for 2017 and 2018 respectively

- Suman kalyanpur is an Indian singer and Kuldeep singh a music director. Both have been chosen for the award for their contribution to the field of music.

- The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh along with a shawl, a citation and a 'shreephal' (coconut).

- The award has been instituted by MP in 1984-85 in honour of renowned singer Lata Mangeshkar (90 years). MP is the birthplace of the Lata.

- Music director Naushal Ali was the 1st person to receive the award in 1984-85.

6. 63rd National Shooting championship competitions 2019 held in Bhopal, MP

- Zeenakitta of himachal Pradesh won the women's national 10m Air Rifle.

- Saurabh Chaudhary of UP won the gold medal in men's 10m Air Pistol.

7. Bhopal's titular queen Saleha Sultan passed away at 80.

- Princess Saleha Sultan also known as Dimpu, the "titular queen of Bhopal"



passed away in Hyderabad due to brain haemorrhage at the age of 80.

8. Sunita Chandra 76 years old, passed away in her hometown Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- She was an Arjuna awardee and also the captain of India's hockey team.

Important News: Other States

February 2021

Prime Minister inaugurates and lays foundation stone of key projects of power and urban sector in Kerala

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Pugalur - Thrissur Power Transmission Project, Kasaragod Solar Power Project and Water Treatment Plant at Aruvikkara in Kerala.
- 2000 Megawatt state of the art Pugalur - Thrissur High Voltage Direct Current system inaugurated, is the first HVDC interconnection of Kerala with National Grid.
- He also laid the foundation stone of Integrated Command and Control Centre and Smart Roads Project in Thiruvananthapuram.

Mamata Banerjee launches 'MAA' scheme

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched the "Maa" scheme under which her government would provide a meal at a nominal cost of ₹ 5 to poor people.
- They will get a platter of rice, dal, a vegetable and egg curry for ₹ 5 and the state government will bear a subsidy of ₹ 15 per plate.
- Self-help groups will operate the kitchens from 1 pm to 3 pm every day and such kitchens will be set up everywhere in the state gradually.

Kerala Governor inaugurates India's first Digital University

- The Governor of Kerala Arif Mohammed Khan has inaugurated the country's first Digital University in the state which has been set up in Kerala's Technocity, Mangalapuram.
- **Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (KUDSIT-Digital University)** is established by

upgrading the two-decade old state government's Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala (IIITM-K).

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates 'Narendra Modi Stadium', world's largest cricket stadium, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

- The Motera Stadium (Sardar Patel Stadium), world's largest cricket stadium, was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind, and was renamed the 'Narendra Modi Stadium'.
- The President also performed 'Bhoomi Pujan' (ground breaking ceremony) of the 'Sardar Vallabhbhai Sports Enclave'.
- **Note:** 1.32 lakh spectators will be able to witness matches at this stadium. The stadium has 11 pitches, unrivalled by any stadium in the world.
- It hosted its first ever pink ball Test match on 24 February 2021 between India and England.
- **Facts about Gujarat:**
State Bird: Greater flamingo
State Animal: Asiatic lion
State Flower: Marigold
State Tree: Banyan

Odisha hosts 17th India International Mega Trade Fair 2021

- The 11 days long International Trade Fair from February 19 to March 1 has been organised by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) in collaboration with the Odisha Chamber of Commerce and West Bengal Chamber of Commerce.
- Odisha Law Minister Pratap Jena inaugurated the 17th India International Mega Trade Fair at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar.
- **Note:** Around 9 countries and 19 states of India are participating with a total number of 250 stalls in the trade fair.



- The countries participating included Bangladesh, Dubai, Iran, Thailand, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Lebanon and Tunisia.

Asia's largest Livestock Research Centre in Salem

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami inaugurated the **Advanced Institute of Integrated Research in Livestock and Animal Science (AIIRLAS)**, the largest in Asia, near Thalaivasal in Salem district.
- The AIIRLAS, which also accommodates the State's fifth veterinary college, was constructed at a cost of Rs 1,023 crore on 1,100 acres.
- He also announced a **frozen semen station** that would be established at Karumandurai, in Salem, at a cost of Rs 100 crore soon.
- **Facts about Tamil Nadu's UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Nilgiri Mountain Railway, Brihadishwara Temple, Thanjavur, Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Jayakondam, Airavatesvara Temple, Darasuram, Shore Temple along with the collection of other monuments, Mamallapuram

Uttar Pradesh receives award for fastest implementation of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar awarded the top-performing States and Districts for their exemplary work with respect to the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme.
- Uttar Pradesh has been awarded in the category of fastest take off in year 2020-21. Nearly 1.53 crore farmers were registered during the period of Dec 2018 to Mar 2019 in state.
- **Note:** The Union Minister distributed the awards during an event in New Delhi organized to celebrate the **2nd-year completion of the PM-KISAN scheme.**
- **PM-KISAN Scheme:** This flagship scheme of the Narendra Modi government was launched on February 24, 2019. Under this initiative, ₹6,000 is disbursed to

farmers with cultivable landholdings.

Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several developmental projects worth over 8000 crore rupees in Tamil Nadu

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation, state-of-the-art Main Battle Tank Arjun Mark 1A which has been indigenously designed and manufactured by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment of Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- Among the projects inaugurated by the Prime Minister in Tamil Nadu include, the Chennai Metro Rail Phase-I extension. The Central Government has accepted their long-standing demand of DevendrakulaVelalar community to be known as DevendrakulaVelalar. They will now be known by their heritage name and not the six to seven names listed in the Schedule to the Constitution.

• **Facts about Tamil Nadu:**

Capital: Chennai

Governor: Banwarilal Purohit

Chief Minister: Edappadi K. Palaniswami

Prime Minister unveils several development projects worth Rs 6100 crore in Kerala

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled several key development projects worth 6,100 crore rupees at INS Garuda Naval Air Station at Kochi in Kerala.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated country's first full-fledged international cruise terminal, Sagarika at Cochin Port and Marine Engineering Training Institute of Cochin Shipyard Ltd., the Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project of Bharat Petroleum Corporation, the Ro-Ro Vessels at Willingdon Islands in Kochi.

Bihar signs MoU with UNEP for climate resilience and low carbon development

- The Bihar government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for climate resilience and low carbon development strategy formulation.
- UNEP will provide technical assistance to

Bihar to prepare its greenhouse gas inventory and carry out climate impact scenario and vulnerability assessments.

- It will also suggest revisions to the State Action Plans on Climate Change.
- **Facts about State symbols of Bihar:**
State Bird: House Sparrow
State Animal: Gaur
State Flower: Kachnar
State Fruit: Mango
State Tree: Peepal tree

Mandu Festival

- In Madhya Pradesh, the three-day (13-15 February) Mandu Festival was celebrated at Mandu in the historic town of Dhar district.
- Handicrafts related to handmade art have been displayed in the Mandu Utsav.
- **Mandu** is an ancient fort city in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. It's also known for its Afghan architectural heritage.
- **Note: Dino Adventure Park & Fossils Museum** was also inaugurated by the state culture and tourism minister.
- The State Minister informed that the Dinosaur Park is the country's first modern fossil park which has 24 eggs and other fossils of dinosaurs on display. The park also provides information related to the life of the dinosaurs.

Odisha government to construct 'COVID Warrior Memorial'

- Odisha is set to inaugurate the Covid warrior memorial in Bhubaneswar on Independence Day this year. The memorial will be established at the Biju Patnaik Park in the Capital city.
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had on January 1 announced the decision to construct the memorial to honour and recognise the sacrifice and selfless service of the frontline workers, who lost their lives fighting the pandemic.
- **Note:** The Odisha government also had announced Rs. 50 lakh ex-gratia to all the health personnel (public and private) as well as members of all the support services who died of the pandemic.

Bhuri Bai of Madhya Pradesh invited as Chief Guest at Foundation Day celebrations of Bharat Bhavan

- The tribal painter Bhuri Bai of Madhya Pradesh was invited as the Chief Guest at the Foundation Day celebrations of Bharat Bhavan.
- When the construction of this building started, she used to work here as a labourer on a daily wage of Rs six.
- **Bhuri Bai's award:** Shikhar Samman-Government of Madhya Pradesh in 1986, Ahalya Samman in 1998, Rani Durgavati Award in 2009, **Padma Shri Award in 2021**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' in Assam

- To mark the launch of 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra', he inaugurated the Ro-Pax vessel operations between Neamati-Majuli Island, North Guwahati-South Guwahati and Dhubri-Hatsingimari.
- He laid the foundation stone of Inland Water Transport (IWT) Terminal at Jogighopa and various tourist jetties on River Brahmaputra and launched digital solutions for Ease-of-Doing-Business.
- **Note:** 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' programme will strengthen water connectivity by Brahmaputra water through port-led development.
- **Facts about Assam:**
World Heritage Sites: Manas Wildlife Sanctuary and Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary

Prime Minister launches 'Asom Mala' and lays Foundation Stone of two Hospitals in Assam

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the Foundation Stone of two hospitals in Biswanath and Charaideo and launched 'Asom Mala', a programme for state highways and major district roads, at Dhekiajuli in Sonitpur District, Assam. 'Asom Mala' has been started in line with 'Bharat Mala Project'.
- **About Bharatmala Pariyojana:** It is a centrally-sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India. It was established on 31 July 2015.
- **Note:** The Prime Minister also dedicated to the



nation the **LPG import terminal, 348 km Dobhi – Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline section**, which is part of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.

- He also laid the foundation stone of the **second Catalytic-Isodewaxing unit of Haldia Refinery**.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attends third phase of Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar mela in Guwahati

- In the event, the Assam government distributed financial assistance of 3000 rupees each to nearly 7.5 lakh people belonging to tea garden areas.
- About Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Mela Scheme: The scheme was launched by the Assam government in Financial Year 2017-18.
- The main objective of the scheme is to incentivize and strengthen the efforts of financial inclusion of the tea tribe community.
- A sum of Rs 2,500 was transferred to 6.3 lakh bank accounts in the first phase of the Assam Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Mela Scheme in 2017-18. An additional Rs 2,500 was deposited in 7.15 lakh accounts in the second phase in 2018-19.

Himachal Pradesh becomes first State in the country to implement e-cabinet

- The new system will bring greater efficiency in the overall process of conducting a cabinet meeting by removing dependencies which arise due to the physical movement of cabinet memos.
- **Note:** On April 23, 2020, Uttar Pradesh became the first state to have the requisite infrastructure in all its courts for hearing cases through video conferencing.

Madhya Pradesh launches 'SAANS' campaign to reduce infant mortality

- The health department in Madhya Pradesh has launched the **Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS)** campaign with the aim of reducing infant mortality due to pneumonia.
- **About SAANS campaign:** It was launched by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in 2019 to child mortality due to pneumonia.

- Under SAANS, the government is targeting a reduction in pneumonia-caused deaths by 2025 to less than 3 deaths out of 1000 live births.

Arvind Kejriwal launches 'Switch Delhi' campaign

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the 'Switch Delhi' campaign to promote electric vehicles and appealed to people to buy such vehicles to combat pollution in the city.
- Under its electric vehicle policy, the Delhi government has planned extensive subsidies on purchase of electric two-wheelers and four-wheelers, besides waiving road tax and registration charges.
- **Note:** More than 6,000 electric vehicles have been purchased since the policy launch in August 2020.
- The government has fixed an ambitious target of 25 percent electric vehicles among total vehicle registrations in Delhi by 2024.

Preliminary survey shows deposits of Lithium in Mandya district of Karnataka

- Preliminary surveys on surface and limited subsurface by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) have shown presence of Lithium resources of 1,600 tonnes in the pegmatites of Marlagalla – Allapatna area, Mandya district, Karnataka.
- **About Lithium:** The well-known uses of Lithium are in Lithium ion batteries, lubricating grease, high energy additive to rocket propellants, optical modulators for mobile phones and for thermonuclear reactions.

Uttar Pradesh announces 16-Digit Unicode to Identify Landholdings

- The revenue department will be issuing the Unicode for marking all kinds of agricultural, residential and commercial land and a person will now be able to know the details of the land with a single click.
- **Unicode numbers:** The Unicode number of the land will be 16 digits with the first six digits based on the population of the land, the next 4 digits determining the unique identity of the land. The digits from



11 to 14 will be the number of the division of the land. The last 2 digits will have the details of the category, through which, the agricultural, residential and commercial land will be identified.

Delhi government approves 'Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha' scholarship scheme

- The Delhi cabinet approved "Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha" in which Rs 5,000 will be provided to 1,000 meritorious students of Class 9 in schools of Delhi as a science scholarship.
- The scholarship will provide a boost to science education in secondary classes at the school level.
- **Note:** Another decision that has been taken by the Delhi Cabinet is to digitise the education department.
- **Facts about Delhi: 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Delhi** - Qutb Complex, Red Fort and Humayun's Tomb.

Vijayanagara becomes 31st district of Karnataka

- The Karnataka state Cabinet formally approved the borders for the newly carved out Vijayanagara district from the existing Ballary district.
- Vijayanagara will now be the 31st district in the state and will comprise six taluks - Hospet, Harapanahalli, Hoovina Hadagali, Hagari Bommanahalli, Kotturu and Kudligi.
- **Facts about Karnataka:**
Capital: Bengaluru
Governor: Vajubhai Vala
Chief Minister: B. S. Yediyurappa

India's First 'Gender Park' in Kerala's Kozhikode

- The Kerala government is all set to launch Rs 300 crore three-tower 'Gender Park' in Kozhikode.
- This launch will coincide with the second edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II).
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the February 11-13 ICGE-II and the Gender Park.
- He will also lay the foundation of the International Women's Trade and Research Centre (IWTRC), a Gender Museum,

Gender Library, Convention Centre and an Amphitheatre will also be launched at the event.

Lucknow Metro becomes the first metro in the country to use ultraviolet (UV) rays to sanitise train coaches

- UPMRC got the idea from the New York Metro's experiment to sanitise trains with UV lamp rays.
- The remote operated equipment also reduces the cost by 40 times less than what comes in sanitizing the coach by sodium hypochlorite.
- **Facts about Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC):**
Founded: 25 November 2013
Headquarters: Lucknow
Managing Director: Kumar Keshav

Kerala's first Human Milk Bank (HMB) to be opened on February 5

- The HMB shall open at the Ernakulam general hospital in the city by Health Minister KK Shailaja.
- The milk bank will be set up to ensure breast milk for newborn babies whose mothers cannot breastfeed them.
- **Note:** Rotary Club of Cochin Global took the lead to bring the project to the state with two such breast milk banks - one at Ernakulam and the other at Jubilee Medical Mission Hospital at Thrissur.
- The collected milk can be stored up to 6 months safely in the bank.

PGIMER, Chandigarh launches India's first 'Amputee Clinic'

- India's **first amputee clinic** has been launched by the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. It was inaugurated by the PGIMER Director Prof. Jagat Ram.
- It has been set up to improve the care of amputee patients by providing a wide range of services under one roof and with significant coordination.
- It will comprise specialists from various departments including orthopaedics, prosthetists, PMR (physical and medical rehabilitation), psychologists, occupational physiotherapy and nursing departments.



- **Note:** PGIMER has also stated that it will run amputee schools based on the successful knee school being run at PGI.

Punjab CM launches 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' Mission

- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh launched the 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission as part of the state government's campaign to accomplish the goal of 100 percent potable piped water supply in all rural households by 2022.
- The scheme is being funded by the World Bank, Jal Jeewan Mission of GoI, NABARD, and State Budget.
- He also inaugurated one **Mega Surface Water Supply Scheme** covering 85 villages in the Moga district, 144 new water supply schemes for 172 villages, 121 Arsenic, and Iron removal plants.
- **Facts about Punjab:**
Capital: Chandigarh
Governor: V. P. Singh Badnore
Chief Minister: Captain Amarinder Singh

January 2021

Floating solar project at Omkareshwar to begin power generation by 2022-23

- 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 International Finance Corporation, World Bank and Power Grid have granted in-principle consent for providing aid for the said project development.
- Electricity will be produced in about 2000-hectare water area by installing solar panels in the dam.

4th edition of Cherry Blossom Festival

- The 4th edition of the Cherry Blossom Festival, Mao area of Senapati district in Manipur was virtually inaugurated by Chief Minister N Biren Singh.
- It was jointly organized by the Department of Tourism and Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Shillong in association with the Organizing Committee Flower Festival, Mao.
- **Note:** Manipur has been celebrating this festival every year since 2017.

- The International Cherry Blossom Festival which is celebrated in Shillong was cancelled too for the global pandemic. Japan is renowned for its Cherry Blossom Festival too.

Arunachal Pradesh can become India's prime producer of Vanadium

- In an exploration being carried out by the Geological Survey of India, the eastern Himalayan State has been placed on the vanadium map and geologists are confident of finding a deposit soon.
- **About Vanadium:** In its pure form, it is a grey, soft and ductile element primarily derived from mined iron ore, steel slag, and phyllites. It is a high-value metal that has been used in strengthening steel and titanium.
- **Note:** The largest deposits of Vanadium are in China, followed by South Africa and Russia.

India's first Fire Park comes up in Odisha

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated in Bhubaneswar the 'Fire Park', a first of its kind initiative in the country, to bring awareness on fire safety measures.
- He also launched a dynamic online portal, 'AgnishamaSeva' of Odisha Fire Service.
- Demonstrations on use of first aid fire-fighting equipment, rescue and disaster operations, visit to exhibition hall, screening of films and distribution of leaflets on fire safety will be part of the activities.

Prime Minister releases financial assistance to over 6 lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh under PMAY-G

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released financial assistance of around Rs 2,691 crores to 6.1 lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme.
- **Note: Prime Minister** had given the clarion call of "Housing for All by 2022", for which a flagship programme of **PMAY-G** was launched on November 20, 2016.
- So far 1.26 crore houses have already been built across the country under the PMAY-G.



- The beneficiaries of PMAY-G, in addition to the unit assistance, are also provided support of unskilled labour wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and assistance of Rs. 12,000 for construction of toilets through Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G).

- **Facts about Uttar Pradesh:**

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

Capital: Lucknow

Prime Minister appointed chairman of Somnath Temple Trust

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was appointed the new chairman of the trust which manages the world famous Somnath Temple at Prabhas Patan town in Gujarat's Gir-Somnath district.
- After former PM Morarji Desai, Narendra Modi is the second Prime Minister who has been appointed the chairman of the temple trust. As per trust records, PM Modi has become the eighth chairman of the trust.
- **Note:** The post of the Somnath Trust's chairman fell vacant after the death of the incumbent, former Gujarat Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel, in October last year. Patel had served as the chairman for 16 years (2004-2020).

India's first air taxi service starts from Chandigarh.

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated air taxi services from Chandigarh to Hisar under the UDAN scheme of the Central Government.
- For the first time in the country, a small aircraft in the form of an air taxi is being used for services.
- The air taxi service will be operated by AirTaxi India which was granted the Scheduled Commuter Airline Permit by the Indian aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in December 2020.

India's first Labour Movement museum to come up in Kerala

- The country's first Labour Movement Museum, showcasing the history of world labour movement, would be launched in

Kerala's houseboat tourism hub, Alappuzha.

- The New Model Cooperative Society Limited, previously run by the Bombay Company, has been converted into the Labour Movement Museum.
- It is being built as part of the Alappuzha Heritage Tourism project.
- **Facts about Kerala:** Kerala has the highest literacy rate in the country.
Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Madhya Pradesh becomes first State to give power subsidy to farmers through DBT

- Madhya Pradesh has become the first State to give electricity subsidy through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme. With this, it has fulfilled a power reform condition as proposed by the Centre and thus eligible for additional borrowing.
- Successful implementation of the reform has made the State eligible to mobilise additional financial resources equivalent to 0.15 percent of its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
- The Department of Expenditure has granted permission to the State to mobilise additional financial resources of Rs. 1,423 crore through Open Market Borrowings.
- **Note:** Recently, the historical fort cities of **Gwalior and Orchha** in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the **list of UNESCO's world heritage cities** under its urban landscape city programme.

1st small-scale LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) supply infrastructure of Shell Energy India at Hazira, Gujarat

- Union Minister for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the first small-scale LNG supply infrastructure of Shell Energy India at its LNG terminal at Hazira in Gujarat.
- This will now augment Shell's natural gas supply offerings in India to include supply of LNG via trucks.
- **Note:** The Government of India is promoting natural gas through various policy and regulatory reforms towards making India- a gas-based economy by increasing the share of gas in India's



primary energy mix to 15 per cent.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced the 'Horticulture Development Mission' (Bagayat Vikas Mission)

- The aim of this mission is to double the income of farmers involved in medicinal and horticulture farming.
- The government has included Kutch, Surendranagar, Patan, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha districts in the first phase.
- **Under this mission**, a tax on land conversion will be waived off. Lease amount applicable will be Rs 100 to Rs 500 per year per acre during 6th to 30th year. Lease holders will be able to set up solar panel, windmills to generate energy for their own use, but will not be allowed to sell it.
- **Note: Chief Minister of Gujarat also announced that the state government has decided to rename dragon fruit as 'Kamalam'.** This fruit is largely grown in Kutch, Navsari and different parts of Saurashtra.

Maharashtra government renamed Nagpur's Gorewada International Zoo as Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park

- The zoological park will come up on nearly 2,000 hectares forest land. It also said that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will inaugurate the Indian safari at the zoo on January 26.
- **Note:** Aiming to protect forests and promote tourism, Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), had announced the setting up of the 'international-standard' bio park in August 2019. The task was entrusted to the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd.

Home Minister Amit Shah attends first BTR (Bodoland Territorial Region) Accord Day celebration at Kokrajhar in Assam

- **Note:** The BTR accord was signed on January 27, 2020 in New Delhi.
- **Facts about Bodoland Territorial Region:** The Bodoland Territorial Region is an autonomous region in Assam, Northeast India.

Government body: Bodoland Territorial Council

Districts: 4

Established: 9 February 2003

Headquarters: Kokrajhar

- Union Home Minister also launched the **Ayushman CAPF** scheme in Guwahati for about 28 lakh central arms forces and their families in all the states where Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is in operation.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs virtually launches "Shramshakti" Digital Data Solution for Migrant Workers

- The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda launched "ShramShakti", a National Migration Support Portal at a programme held at Panjim, Goa.
- It would effectively help in the smooth formulation of state and national level programs for migrant workers.
- He also launched a **tribal migration cell, a tribal museum at Goa and "ShramSaathi"**, a training manual for migrant workers.
- **Note:** The Chief Minister of Goa, Pramod Sawant informed that **Goa is going to be the first destination state of India to set up a dedicated migration cell** to address diverse issues of migrant workers.

India's longest road arch bridge in Meghalaya

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma inaugurated India's longest road arch bridge, the Wahrew Bridge at Sohbar in East Khasi Hills district.
- The bridge connects Bholaganj and Sohbar to Nongjri in East Khasi Hills, bordering Bangladesh.
- **Note:** The funds for the construction of the bridge were sanctioned from the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources of the Union ministry of development of Northeastern region (DoNER).

24th "Hunar Haat" at Avadh Shilpgram, Lucknow (UP)

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs is organising the 24th "Hunar Haat" at Avadh Shilpgram, Lucknow (UP) from 22nd January to 04th February, 2021 with the theme of "Vocal for Local".
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi



Adityanath inaugurated the “Hunar Haat” on 23rd January, 2021.

- **Note:** In the coming days, “Hunar Haat” will be organised at Mysore, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Indore, Mumbai, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Ranchi, Kota, Surat/Ahmedabad, Kochi, Puducherry and other places.

Gujarat inks pact with Adani Ports for India’s largest multi-modal logistics park

- The Gujarat Government inked an agreement with India’s largest ports operator, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), to set up India’s largest multi-modal logistics park.
- The park, which will be spread across 1,450 acres at Virochan Nagar near Sanand automobile hub, will attract investments worth ₹50,000 crore in the logistics and transport space.
- This park will be directly connected with the Dedicated Freight Corridor and all major ports. The park will have a dedicated Air Cargo Complex.
- **Facts of about Gujarat:**
Capital: Gandhinagar
Governor: Acharya Devvrat
Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani

Haridwar teen Shrishti Goswami becomes Uttarakhand CM for one day

- To mark the National Girl Child Day (24 January), Haridwar teenager Shrishti Goswami took charge as the chief minister of Uttarakhand for one day.
- 19-year-old Goswami, a student of BSc Agriculture, lives in Daulatpur village of the district.
- The one-day chief minister had administered from Gairsain, the summer capital of the state.
- **Note:** She had in 2018 become the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Bal Vidhan Sabha. In 2019, she went to Thailand to take part in Girls’ International Leadership.

Madhya Pradesh CM launches 'PANKH Abhiyan'

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'PANKH Abhiyan' under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme in order to aid in

empowerment and growth of the girl child on the occasion of National Girl Child Day (24 January).

- **PANKH:** 'P' stands for protection, 'A' for awareness of their rights, 'N' for nutrition, 'K' for knowledge and 'H' for health. The abhiyan will go on for a year.
- **Facts about Madhya Pradesh:** Recently, UNESCO has allotted Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh 'Biosphere Reserve' status.

Uttar Pradesh becomes the first state in the country with two airstrips on expressways

- One airstrip is on Lucknow-Agra Expressway while the other is near Kurebhar on Purvanchal Expressway (3,300-metre-long airstrip).
- Airstrips on expressways are designed to facilitate emergency landing and take-off of fighter planes.
- **Facts about Uttar Pradesh:** Recently, 'Udyam Sarathi' app was launched on UP Diwas by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to promote entrepreneurship among youth and help them explore new opportunities for self-employment.

Maharashtra launches 'Jail Tourism' initiative from Pune's Yerawada Jail

- The Prison Department of Maharashtra launched its jail tourism initiative starting with more than 150-year-old Yerawada Central Prison in Pune.
- **About Yerawada Jail:** It is the largest jail in Maharashtra and one of the largest maximum security prisons in the country. Several freedom fighters including Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak were imprisoned at Yerawada jail. Poona Pact between Gandhi and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was signed here.

Meghalaya selected for Special Award for Information Technology applications in Elections

- The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Meghalaya was selected for a Special Award for Information Technology applications in Elections by the Election Commission of India (ECI), in the National Best Electoral Practices Awards-2020.



- **Facts about Meghalaya:**

Capital: Shillong

Governor: Satya Pal Malik

Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma

December 2020

Uttar Pradesh Government to set up India's first mega Leather Park in (Rampur village) Kanpur

Karnataka unveils 'FRUITS' portal for farmers

- FRUITS (Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System). It is an e-governance single portal to create a repository of farmland information and farm loan details.
- **Note:** Canara Bank has agreed to run FRUITS on a pilot basis.

Bengal's first Oil and Gas Reserve to Nation

- It is eighth oil and gas producing basin in Ashok Nagar, near Kolkata.
- The first proven reserve of oil and gas in the state was discovered in 2018.

Bihar wins Digital India award 2020 for transferring money to beneficiaries' accounts during COVID-19

- "Bihar Sahayata Mobile App".

Nehru Zoo, Hyderabad becomes the first Indian zoo to receive ISO certification (ISO 9001:2015)

- **About ISO:** International Organization for Standardization is an international standard-setting body composed of representatives from various national standards organizations. Founded on 23 February 1947, the organization promotes worldwide proprietary, industrial, and commercial standards. Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.

Lakshadweep declared first UT (Union Territory) to become 100% organic under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of India (under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare).

- **Note:** Sikkim became India's first 100 percent organic state in 2016.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays foundation stone for three ambitious projects in Kutch, Gujarat

- Projects include the world's biggest renewable energy park (Vighakot village of Kutch district), sea water desalination plant (Mandvi in Kutch) and milk processing dairy plant (Sarhad dairy).

Central Zoo Authority recognition to zoo in UP and Bihar

- Shaheed Ashfaq ullah khan prani udyan, Gorakhpur and Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda.
- It is the second largest zoo in UP after the Kanpur zoological park.

Gwalior and Orchha, Madhya Pradesh included in UNESCO's world heritage cities list

- Note: Gwalior was established in the 9th century and ruled by Gurjar Pratihara Rajvansh, Tomar, Baghel Kachvaho and Scindias. Gwalior is known for its palaces and temples.
- Orchha is popular for its temples and palaces and was the capital of the Bundela kingdom in the 16th century.

Uttar Pradesh's Dandupur railway station to be renamed as 'Maa Barahi Devi Dham'

Assam government launches Orunodoi scheme

- **Note:** Under the Orunodoi scheme, an amount of Rs 830 per month will be given for fundamental items like medicines, pulses, sugar, etc. and the state government will spend Rs 2,400 crore annually.

India's first organ donor memorial inaugurated in Jaipur

- On National Organ Donation Day (27 November)
- **Note:** "Organ donation is only 0.08 per cent in India while in Spain it is 35 per cent, in the US it is 21 per cent and in the UK it is 15 per cent.

November 2020

Pilibhit Tiger Reserve gets global award for doubling tiger population

- The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR), UP bagged the first-ever international award, TX2, for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years.
- **Note:** The global target of doubling the tiger population was set in 2010 by the



partners in TX2 award-UNDP, Global Tiger Forum, International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Wide Fund for Nature, Conservation Assured/Tiger Standards and the Lion's Share.

- The *International Tiger Day* is celebrated on *July 29* every year.
- 13 tiger range countries are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia, Vietnam & Thailand.

Forest produce based Food-park will be developed in Umariya district, Madhya Pradesh.

- All forest villages will be transformed into Revenue villages.

India's first 'Moss Garden' comes up in Uttarakhand at Khurpatal in Nainital district.

- **About Moss Garden:** Mosses are non-vascular plants that belong to the Bryophyta division. They are small flowerless plants that typically grow in damp and shady locations.

25th November is celebrated as Dungarpur establishment day.

- In 1339, Raval Vir Singh Dev constructed Juna Mahal along with the establishment of Dungarpur (Rajasthan).

The remains of Buddha era building found in Banka district, Bihar (near Chandan river)

The archeologists said that the bricks used for construction are handmade.

Kolkata gets world's first children's library on wheels

Nitish Kumar sworn in as the CM of Bihar for the seventh time—his fourth consecutive term

UNESCO allots Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh 'Biosphere Reserve' status

- This is 12th Biosphere Reserve from India and after Panchmarhi and Amarkantak, this is 3rd from Madhya Pradesh which are a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

India's First Solar-Powered Miniature Train launched in Kerala

October 2020

Kerala becomes the first state to set floor price for vegetables

- Kerala became the first state in the country to fix the floor price for 16 vegetables.
- The floor price would be 20 percent above the production cost of the vegetables.
- **Tiger reserves in Kerala:**

1. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve
2. Periyar Tiger Reserve

Uttar Pradesh Government to establish anti-human trafficking Police Stations in each and every district

- These Police Stations will be given enough powers to register the case and investigate the matter independently.

Uttar Pradesh government secures first rank in disbursing loans under the PM Atmanirbhar Nidhi Scheme (SVANidhi Scheme)

- **About PM SVANidhi:** It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020 for providing affordable Working Capital loan to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown.
- It aims at facilitating working capital loan up to Rs. 10,000 at a subsidised rate of interest.
- **Note:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs signed MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in order to engage SIDBI as the Implementation Agency.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat Launches Integrated Model Agricultural Village Scheme

- Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme (Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana) in partnership with NABARD, is a concept which will prove to be a milestone in strengthening the economy of farmers and doubling their income.
- **About National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):** It is an apex development finance institution fully owned by Government of India. The bank has been entrusted with matters



concerning policy, planning, and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and other economic activities in rural areas in India.

- **Formation:** July 12, 1982
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Chairman:** Govinda Rajulu Chintala

Uttar Pradesh becomes top tourist destination for Indians, third for foreigners in 2019

List of top three states with domestic tourist visits in 2019

1. Uttar Pradesh - 23.1%
2. Tamil Nadu - 21.3%
3. Andhra Pradesh - 10.2%

- **Uttar Pradesh also secured the third position in attracting foreign tourists** with a record footfall of nearly 47 lakh foreigners visiting last year. **Tamil Nadu got top position** with nearly 68 lakh foreigners visiting last year.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launched 'Mission Shakti' for security of women in the state

- To raise awareness and tackle crime against women.

First-ever multi-modal logistic park in Assam

- The 700-crore rupee park at Bongaigaon district will provide direct connectivity to road, air, rail and waterways to the people of Assam and other parts of North East.
- It will be developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Centre.
- **Note: Bharatmala Pariyojana** is a centrally-sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India. It was launched in 2017.

Facts about Assam:

- **World Heritage Sites:** Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
- **State Dance:** Bihu Dance
- **State Bird:** White-winged wood duck
- **State Animal:** One-horned rhinoceros
- **State Flower:** Foxtail orchids
- **State Tree:** Hollong
- People celebrated **Kati Bihu festival** in Assam's Bongaigaon on 17 October 2020.

Haryana government launched "Lab on Wheels"

- It is to test the water quality in the state. The water quality of Haryana state is mainly affected by iron, fluoride, nitrate & alkalinity. It is a mobile laboratory, launched under **Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- **Facts about Jal Jeevan Mission:**
- The main objective of Jal Jeevan Mission is to provide piped drinking water to all rural households by **2024**.
- The nodal ministry for the implementation is **Jal Shakti Ministry**.
- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) envisages supply of 55 liters of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
- The first state in the country to provide clean drinking tap water connection to all the households is the Goa state.

Uttarakhand Government launches "Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana."

- The aim of this scheme is to encourage the production of green energy and to provide self-employment opportunities to the youth of the State and returning migrants. Under this scheme, each beneficiary will be allocated solar plants of 25 KW and 10,000 people will get self-employment.

Facts about Uttarakhand:

- **Capital:** Gairsain (summer) Dehradun (winter)
- **Governor:** Baby Rani Maurya
- **Chief Minister:** Trivendra Singh Rawat

Kerala becomes the first State Digital in Public Education

The State of Kerala is the first state in the country to make public education completely digital.

Facts about Kerala:

- Kerala has the highest literacy rate in the country.
- **Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor:** Arif Mohammad Khan

Gujarat government announces setting up of world's biggest Zinc Smelter Complex in Dosawada in Tapi district



- Memorandum of Understanding for this project was signed by State government with Vedanta Group.

Andhra Pradesh Government launches 'Jaganna Vidya Kanuka' scheme for students in government schools.

- Under this scheme, 42,34,222 kits will be distributed to students of government schools studying from class 1 to 10 standard. The kit comprises three pairs of uniforms, a belt, a school bag, one pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, prescribed textbooks and notebooks.

Goa becomes first 'Har Ghar Jal' state across India to provide tap water connections to every rural household

- **Note:** The aim of Jal Jeevan Mission is to provide piped water to all the rural households by 2024. It was launched on 15 August 2019. It comes under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

India's first Vulture Conservation and breeding centre in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

- The establishment of the centre dedicated to red-headed king vulture will be under the control of Gorakhpur forest department, Uttar Pradesh and Bombay Natural History Society and technical help will be provided by the Wildlife Research Institute.
- **Note:** The Red-headed vulture is also known as Pondicherry Vulture, Asian King Vulture and the Indian Black Vulture. According to censuses 2013-14, approximately 900 vultures were found in 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

September 2020

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal announced 'Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme'

- **Note:** Paryatan Sanjeevani scheme will help the tourism entrepreneurs of the state in regaining their business. Under this scheme, an interested entrepreneur can get a loan from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 20 lakhs. The scheme is for the registered stakeholders like the hoteliers, resort owners, tour operators, tourist guide, jeep safari,

elephant safari and others engaged in the sector.

UP government bags 8 awards in Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan

- Uttar Pradesh government has bagged 8 awards in Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (GKRA) launched by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. The State has also got overall second rank in implementation of Gandagi Mukh Bharat scheme. Uttar Pradesh has got overall first position in the Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan.
- **Note:** Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan: The Government of India has launched the Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan initiative to tackle the impact of COVID-19 on labourers and workers. It is a rural public works scheme which was launched on June 20, 2020.

Uttar Pradesh Government launches U-Rise portal

- UP government launched a unified portal called U-Rise (Unified Re-imagined Innovation for Students Empowerment with the Department of Technical Education, Department, Training, Employment and the Skill Development Mission along with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow, UP.
- **Note:** U-Rise portal would benefit and empower students by providing all possible information from online exams, digital content, digital assessment, digital examination papers, webinars, internship, e-library, recorded video content to employment. In the first phase polytechnics, vocational and skill development and in the second phase, a target has been set to link all the engineering universities of the state.

Kerala wins United Nations award for "outstanding contribution" for prevention, control of non-communicable diseases

- **Note:** The UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) award this year on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases was announced by the World Health



Organization (WHO).

- NCDs (Non-Communicable Diseases) are a non-infectious health condition that cannot be spread from person to person. This is also known as a chronic disease including heart *disease*, stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung *disease*, are collectively responsible for almost 70% of all deaths worldwide.

Rajasthan Government launches "Moksha Kalash Yojana-2020"

- This scheme is to allow free bus travel to two persons of a family to immerse ashes of their loved ones in the Ganga in Haridwar. The state road transport corporation would be the nodal agency to run this scheme.

Assam Government launches Mukhyamantrir Gramya Paribahan Achoni

- Under this scheme, the government distributed vehicles to beneficiaries to improve rural connectivity and generate employment in the villages. Light Motor Vehicle Service to be launched in the villages of the state and one vehicle per village would be provided to one beneficiary. Under the scheme, the eligible entrepreneurs will be assisted financially with 25 per cent of the cost of the vehicle by the state government or Rs 1 lakh, whichever is less.

'Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana' to be started by Chief Minister, Mr Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Madhya Pradesh

- Under this scheme, additional financial assistance of Rs. 4,000 will be given to the eligible beneficiaries of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi. About 80 lakh farmers of Madhya Pradesh will be benefited. Kisan Kalyan Yojana. Now they will be able to get annual assistance of Rs. 10,000.
- Note: Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is an initiative by the government of India in which all farmers will get up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support. The initiative was to be announced in 2019.

Gujarat government launches Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana:

- The scheme will provide interest-free loans to women's groups in the state. Under the MMUY, 50,000 joint liability and earning group (JLEG) will be formed in urban areas.

Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan to inaugurate 'Poshan Sarkar' programme:

- The month of September is observed every year as the month of nutrition under the Nutrition Campaign.
- The main objective of the Poshan Sarkar programme is to eliminate the malnutrition by helping the Gram Panchayat and the Urban Bodies in the nutrition campaign. Under the programme, nutrition resolution will be passed in all Gram Panchayats/ Nagar Panchayats /Urban Bodies.

Maharashtra CM launched 'My Family, My Responsibility' initiative against COVID:

- Note: Every family in the State will be checked on at least twice in the coming month. The health check-up will monitor family members, senior citizens and oxygen levels. In the case of an ailment, the government health officials will be informed. This management has to be done at the micro-level and so all Sarpanchs should take responsibility for their villages.

New AIIMS at Darbhanga in Bihar approved by Cabinet:

- The government has approved the proposal for a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar. AIIMS will be established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) Scheme.
- Note: PMSSY: PMSSY was introduced in 2003 to correct imbalances in the availability of tertiary healthcare services and improve the quality of medical education. The scheme has two components: (i) setting up of new AIIMS, and (ii) up-gradation of selected Government Medical College Institutions.

Agra's Mughal Museum to be renamed after Shivaji:



- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath announced the decision to rename the under-construction Mughal Museum in Agra after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

‘GARIMA’ scheme launched by the Odisha government for sanitation workers:

- ‘GARIMA’ scheme aims to ensure the social dignity and economic safety of core sanitation workers in the state.
- The Core Sanitation workers and their family members will be covered under the health insurance scheme with regular health check-ups, housing, educational support, mobility support and mobile support.

e-office system of Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company

- Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Bhopal is the first power distribution company in the country, in which the e-office system is being operated from the corporate office to local circle level offices.
- There is no physical movement of the file and Corona infection is also being avoided as human contact is minimum.

Special force to be constituted in UP

- To provide security to the high court, district courts, administrative offices and buildings, Metro rail, airports, banks, financial institutions, educational institutions and industrial units UP government has taken the decision to constitute a fresh special force.
- the force will constitute of 9,919 personnel. Five battalions will be constituted in the first phase and it will be headed by an ADG-ranked officer. Expenses estimated in the first phase will be around 1,747 crore rupees.

Air ambulance service

- Karnataka CM recently inaugurated the air ambulance services in Bengaluru.
- This is the first integrated air ambulance services in the country.
- Also, it happens to be the first air ambulance based out of South India, providing services for medical emergencies.
- Authority involved: Air ambulance firm

International Critical Air Transfer Team (ICATT) and aviation technology firm Kyathi from the HAL airport in Bengaluru.

Veer Savarkar flyover

- Inaugurated by Karnataka CM
- Veer Savarkar: Commonly known as Swatantryaveer Savarkar or simply Veer Savarkar in Marathi language.
- He was an Indian independence activist and politician who formulated the Hindu nationalist philosophy of Hindutva.
- He was a leading figure in the Hindu Mahasabha.
- He opposed the Quit India movement in 1942.
- Book: The History of the War of Indian Independence
- 'Barrister Savarkar' was the first biography of Savarkar under the pen name Chitragupta and the second edition by the Veer Savarkar Prakashan.

Government of Andhra Pradesh and Lawrenceedale Agro Processing India (LEAF)

- Andhra Pradesh government signed 8 pacts with reputed global and domestic players.
- These MOUs will help the food processing sector of various agricultural products, including bananas, tomatoes, mangoes, sugar, chillies, vegetables, and aqua products.
- Lawrenceedale Agro Processing is India's leading end-to-end supply chain specialist in fresh produce.
- With this expertise in post-harvest management, we are pioneering India's most trusted fresh produce brand - 'LEAF'.
- The brand 'LEAF' stands for safe & hygienic fresh produce.
- Electronic Hardware Manufacturing Policy-2020

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy released the state's Electronic Hardware Manufacturing Policy-2020.

- Target: The manufacturing of electronic goods worth 100-billion US Dollars by the year 2025.
- It envisages making the state contribute 25 per cent of the country's total electronic hardware export.
- It aims at attracting semiconductor



fabrication units to the state.

- Mobile phones, LED's, fabless chips, printed circuit boards, solar photovoltaic cells and medical and automobile electronics are some of the areas that are being given focus in the new policy.

Himachal Pradesh and World Bank

- The government of Himachal Pradesh and the World Bank signed \$82 million loans for the implementation of Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project which will strengthen transport and road safety institutions of Himachal Pradesh by improving the condition, safety, resilience, and engineering standards of the state road network.

Cannabis medicine project

- The first-ever cannabis medicine project will be set up in Jammu with Canadian collaboration.
- It is a joint project set up with the collaboration of Canada at the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in Jammu.
- The medicine prepared from this plant can be utilised even for export to other countries.

August 2020

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched a public awareness campaign “**Ek Mask-AnekZindagi**” from August 1-15.
- ✓ **Maharashtra** government approved **MagNet project** worth Around Rs 1,000 crore to Help Farmers.
Note: This will boost the fruit and vegetable production and will improve processing and minimise the losses in the sector of perishables.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state government has signed an MoU with Hindustan Unilever Ltd, P&G and ITC to Support Economic Empowerment of Women.
- ✓ 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

- A few other projects are also being set up through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Assam promotes nutritious food

- Promoted through Kitchen Garden as part of PoshanMaah.
- As a part of the PoshanMaah, the Social Welfare Department in Assam has taken steps to promote nutritious food through Kitchen Garden.
- Kitchen Garden or Nutri garden will be set up at Anganwadi Centres and Government Primary Schools across the state.
- The aim is to plant locally available nutritional food and vegetables.

Delhi govt's anti-dengue campaign

- The Delhi government's 10-week anti-dengue campaign commenced.
- The '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' campaign seeks to build awareness about the prevention of vector-borne diseases.
- Citing numbers, he said that last year, there were only 1,400-1,500 dengue cases in Delhi, which was a “big achievement for us because this number was around 14,000-15,000 a few years back”.

- ✓ ‘**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.

- ✓ ‘**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.’

- ✓ **Haryana** state government has launched “**ParivarPehchan Patra**” to enable the citizens to get the benefits of various central and state government schemes.

Note: 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.

- ✓ **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 has been spotted in the districts of Pithoragarh and Uttarkashi.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **Haryana** state government has launched "**Mukhya Mantri DoodhUphar Yojana**" to provide fortified flavoured skimmed milk powder to women and children.

- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** government has launched "**Shaheed Mahendra Karma TendupattaSangrahakSamajik 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.

- ✓ **Maharashtra** became the first state in India to collaborate with Google India for state-wide distribution of G suite for Education and Google Classroom.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **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."

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched a student centric scheme named as "**PadhaiTuhar Para**".

Note: 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.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the 'Ek Sankalp – Bujurgoke 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.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the 'Ek Sankalp – Bujurgoke naam' campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.

- ✓ **Delhi** state government has launched the **Nirman 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.

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **Odisha** has launched a new scheme for promoting intensive aquaculture through **Biofloc technology in fisheries**.
- ✓ **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.

July 2020

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched “Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya” campaign to take care of academic regularity of the students during the Lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ **Karnataka** government has launched a portal, ‘Skill Connect Forum’ to connect job seekers and employers on a common platform.
- ✓ The UK India Business Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (Mou) with **Maharashtra** for Sustainable Business Relation.
Note: MIDC is the premier industrial infrastructure development agency of the Government of Maharashtra. This business framework between the UKIBC and Government of Maharashtra will help the State to proactively better its business environment and strengthen its collaboration with British business.
- ✓ **Delhi** State government has launched an e-learning portal — LEAD for schoolchildren.
Note: The portals will give students access to textbooks, study material and course content as per the syllabus of the CBSE, NCERT and Delhi government’s curriculum online. It will
- ✓ World’s largest, 10,000 bed Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital (SPCCCH) was inaugurated in **Delhi**.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched a social media campaign, ‘Intzaar Aap Ka’ to attract tourists in the state.
- ✓ **Odisha** state government has launched ‘Balaram Yojana’ to provide crop loans to landless farmers.
Note: Under the new scheme, the landless cultivators will get loans through joint liability groups (JLGs).
- ✓ **Haryana** government has decided to bring an ordinance under which 75 percent of the jobs with a salary of less than Rs 50,000 per month will be reserved for the locals of the state..
- ✓ ‘**Self Scan**’ mobile application has been launched by **West Bengal** government as an alternative for the much popular Chinese document scanning application- Cam Scanner.
- ✓ **Maharashtra** government has launched ‘Maha Jobs’ portal that will bridge the gap between the Industrial Units/Employers and the Workers.
- ✓ **Karnataka** government has launched ‘Nekar Samman Yojane’ for the weaver’s community in the state.
- ✓ **Assam**’s DehingPatkai Wildlife Sanctuary is being upgraded to a National Park is located in which state of India.
Note: It is located within the larger DehingPatkai Elephant Reserve, spreading across the coal- and oil-rich districts of Upper Assam



(Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sivasagar). After upgradation, DehingPatkai will be the 6th national park in Assam. The other five are Kaziranga, Nameri, Manas, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.

- ✓ **Odisha** becomes the first state in India to use Space Technology & Artificial Intelligence for safeguarding government lands.

Note: The Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System is a geo-tagged repository that would monitor and detect all government lands in Bhubaneswar. This will be done by using high-resolution satellite imagery.

- ✓ India's first e-Lok Adalat to ensure the administration of justice and to solve the financial crisis of the parties and lawyers amid COVID-19 pandemic was organized in **Chhattisgarh**.

- ✓ **Jharkhand** government has signed an MoU with HDFC Bank to provide digital payment solutions to the state's transport department.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** state has topped among the other states in the implementation of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).

Note: The scheme is presently benefiting the beneficiaries of 378 urban bodies of the state. Till now 8,70,330 street vendors have registered under the scheme, out of which 1,76,000 street vendors have been issued the identity cards and vending certificates.

- ✓ **Telangana** Govt. has launched 'CybHER', a month-long virtual awareness campaign to make cyberspace safe for women and children.

- ✓ Poba Reserve Forest would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary in **Assam**.

- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** government has announced Renewable Energy Export Policy 2020, which permits the sale of power to the other states of India.

- ✓ **Delhi** state government has approved 'Mukhya Mantri GharGhar Ration Yojana', which will be launched in six to seven months.

June 2020

- ✓ **Kerala** becomes the first state to declare the **internet as a fundamental right of the citizen**.

- ✓ **Rajasthan** state occupied the first rank in the **COVID 19 Management Index analyzed** for 10 states by the Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI.

Note: It will be linked to Centre's 'one nation, one ration card' scheme. The scheme will help the beneficiaries get ration delivered at home.

- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched "GodhanNyayYojna" for cattle ranchers.

Note: Under the 'GodhanNyay Yojana' Chhattisgarh government will purchase cow dung at the rate of Rs 2 per kg.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ✓ **Jammu & Kashmir** has launched a **salary tracker mobile app 'MeraVetan'** for government employees.

- **Note:** With the launch of **MeraVetan App (V-1)**, the employees especially posted in remote & rural areas who don't



have access to the DDO will easily access their salary and other details anytime.

- This application developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC) – J&K State Centre** on the Android Platform to provide end to end computerization of **JK Payment System (JKPaySys) application**.
- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** has launched a **special campaign “Spandan”** to check mental stress and depression among its police personnel.
- ✓ **Gujarat Govt.** occupied top position in the **‘Food Safety Index 2019-20 released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)’** among the larger state.
 - **Note:** Gujarat is followed by **Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra**. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released the results of the second 'State Food Safety Index' to celebrate the World Food Safety Day during a webinar.
- ✓ The **colour of water in Lonar lake** has changed to pink due to salinity and presence of algae in the water body. The lake is located in **Maharashtra**.
 - **Note:** The lake was formed after a meteorite hit the Earth some 50,000 years ago. Located around 500 km from Mumbai, the Lonar lake is in Buldhana district of Maharashtra.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** government has launched ‘Panchvati Yojana’ for the senior citizens of rural areas of the state.
 - **Note:** Under the yojana parks & gardens will be established in every development block with mandatory facilities under Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) 2005, Scheme of Rural Development Department.
- ✓ **Maharashtra government** has decided to rename the state’s Environment Ministry as ‘Environment and Climate Change Ministry’.
- Maharashtra is one among a few states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana in India which have a dedicated department to address climate change.
- ✓ Financial assistance **Rs 10,000** will be provided tailors, barbers and dhobis under **‘JaganannaChedodu’ scheme** launched by Andhra Pradesh state government.
- ✓ **Punjab** government has launched ‘GharGharNigrani’ app for house-to-house surveillance to contain the spread of COVID-19.
 - With the help of the application, the Punjab Government is to cover all the persons that are below the age of 30 years. The survey will cover persons that have influenza like illness.
- ✓ **Odisha** has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students.
 - **Note:** This feat has been achieved due to 'Mission Suvidya' project which was launched by ST&SC Welfare Department to provide all the tribal hostels of the state uniform standards of infrastructure, amenities and human resources earlier.
- ✓ **Kerala** governments implemented ‘Food forest’ project in tribal belts of the state.
 - **Note:** As part of the **‘Tribal Comprehensive Development Programme in Kerala the "food forest" project** is being implemented in cooperation with the **MahilaKissanSashaktheekaranPariyojana** of the Central Government.
 - The project aims to provide food security to 192 tribal villages in Attapadi.
- ✓ **West Bengal** government has launched Karmo Bhumi, a job portal to help IT professionals who have lost their jobs after the outbreak of COVID-19 and returned to the state.
- ✓ **Tripura** state government has decided to start ‘EktuKhelo, EktuPadho’ –meaning



‘Play Little, Study Little’ scheme.

- **Note:** The scheme will be implemented via SMS or WhatsApp. For students, those who have access to smartphones of their parents will be able to access the scheme through WhatsApp.
- ✓ **Rajasthan** state government is going to launch Indira Rasoi Yojana for the poor.
 - **Note:** Under this scheme, pure and nutritious food on concessional rates is going to be provided to the needy twice each day.
 - The State government will spend ₹100 crores every year on the scheme.
- ✓ **Jharkhand** state government is to launch a job guarantee scheme to provide 100-day work guarantee to the unskilled workers living in the urban areas of the state.
 - **Note:** The scheme aimed to enhance the livelihood security for the urban poor will be named Mukhyamantri SHRAMIK (Shahri Rozgar Manjuri For Kamgar).
 - Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS) is the 100-day employment guarantee

May 2020

- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** topped in providing employment under the **MGNREGS**
 - **Note:** Chhattisgarh is the **first state** to provide employment to over 18 (18.51) lakh unskilled labourers, followed by **Rajasthan (2nd)** to 10.79 lakh workers & **Uttar Pradesh (3rd)** to around 9.06 lakh workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- ✓ **Manipur’s Chak-Hao**, the black rice gets Geographical Indication (**GI**) tag.
- ✓ **Terracotta work** of **Gorakhpur (UP)** has been granted with the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- ✓ **Kovilpattikadalaimittai** of **Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu)** has been granted with the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- ✓ **Saffron** of **Kashmir region** has been granted with the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag-- Kashmir Saffron**.
- ✓ **Maharashtra** government has announced a

scheme of the Kerala Government for urban poor.

- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** state’s Panchayati Raj Department won the 1st prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020.
- ✓ **Tripura** state government has launched MukhyamantriMatru Pushti Uphaar scheme to provide nutrition kits to pregnant and lactating women.
 - **Note:** The scheme is a part of the state’s efforts to fight malnutrition and maternal mortality.
- ✓ World’s Largest Plasma Therapy Trial under Project ‘Platina’ was launched in **Maharashtra** state.
- ✓ The forest department of **Uttarakhand** state has developed India’s first lichen park.
 - **Note:** Lichens are found in the Himalayas up to 5000 metres are important species as they are the best bioindicators of the pollution levels.
 - Uttarakhand has more than 600 species of lichens followed by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir with 503 and 386 species respectively.

free and cashless health insurance scheme to all its citizens.

- **Note:** Under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana, people in the state can avail of the benefits of free and cashless health insurance.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state government has launched a mobile application ‘CMAPP (Comprehensive Monitoring of Agriculture, Price, and Procurement)’ to monitor the agriculture needs of the farmers in the state.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** government announced to launch the "**Nigah**" **Scheme** to properly sensitize and educate family members of people coming from other states so that social distancing is effectively maintained.
 - **Note:** Under the scheme, a **team of ASHA workers**, health workers, and Anganwadi workers would visit the family members of persons arriving from other states.
- ✓ **West Bengal** government has launched ‘Exit



- App” for stranded people of other states.
- **Note:** “Exit App” will enable these people who are willing to go back to their native states, by applying online on this app.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** government has decided to start the “**Mukhya Mantri ShahariRojgar Guarantee Yojna**”.
- **Note:** In this **Yojana**, **120 days** assured employment will be provided to people living in urban areas. It is being launched to revive the coronavirus-hit economy of the state.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** has become the 1st state in the country to provide **mid-day meal ration**.
- **Note:** Distribution of the **mid-day Meal ration with the help of Anganwadi workers**, Panchayat representatives and local teachers was taken in sending ration to the students at their home after the school closing in April.
- ✓ **Tripura** government has launched ‘**Mukhyamantri Yuba Yogayog Yojana**’.
- The Scheme **aims to provide grants for the purchase of smartphones** to the students of final year to **empower them digitally** & help them leverage the advantages of an interconnected world.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched country's **first ever ‘FIR AapkeDwar Yojana’** to lodge FIR.
- **Note:** Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to implement such an innovative scheme under which now people would not be required to visit police station to lodge a FIR.
- ✓ **Tamil Nadu** government has constituted a **24-member high-level committee** headed by **C Rangarajan** to assess the **immediate and medium-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic** on various sectors of the State’s economy.
- ✓ **Uttarakhand** government has launched “**HOPE**” (**Helping Out People Everywhere**) portal to help unemployed youth to get jobs opportunities.
- ✓ **West Bengal** government has launched ‘**MatirSmristi**’ scheme to utilise **50,000 acres of barren land** in 6 districts.
- **Note:** This scheme helps to generate income activities in horticulture and pisciculture involving the locals.
- ✓ **Rajasthan** government has **levied 2% Krishak Kalyan fees** on agricultural produce brought or bought or sold in mandis.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched **Charan Paduka campaign**, first of its kind initiative for **migrant labourers** passing through the state.
- ✓ **Karnataka** state has launched its **first cyber security-specific accelerator programme ‘H.A.C.K.’** for start-ups recently.
- It is housed at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- ✓ **Jammu & Kashmir** (UTs), the Department of Information and Public Relations has started an initiative “**SUKOON – COVID-19 Beat the Stress**” program.
- ✓ “**Mee Annapurna**” initiative has been launched by an IRDA licensed insurance intermediary Integrated Risk Insurance Brokers Limited (IRIBL) in **Maharashtra**.
- This initiative is based on three commandments namely: **Expertise, Engagement and Entitlement**.
- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** government has launched “**Rajiv Gandhi KisanNyay Yojana**” on the occasion of death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** government has set up a ‘**Start-up Fund**’ under its **Information Technology and Start-up Policy 2017**.
- **Note:** An MoU has been signed between the Uttar Pradesh government and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the fund will be managed by SIDBI.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** has started **Didi Vehicle Service** for rural women for the safe delivery and other emergency services, under the women **Rural Livelihood Mission**.
- **Note:** The mission has been started in tribal-dominated Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh (MP).
- ✓ **Uttarakhand** become the first state to release report on conservation of endemic, threatened



floras.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched ‘**Rozgar Setu Yojana**’ for skilled migrant workers who returned to the state.
 - **Note:** The government of Madhya Pradesh launched a portal ‘MP RojgarSetu Portal’ for the unemployed migrants to register and find jobs in the field related to their skills.

April 2020

- ✓ **Tamil Nadu** state topped in the all-India level for micro-irrigation (MI), under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**.
 - **Note:** Tamil Nadu topped with coverage of 2,06,853.25 ha for the year financial year 2019-20.
 - The state is followed by **Karnataka and Gujarat with 1,41,103.56 Ha and 1,08,322.00 Ha** of coverage respectively.
- ✓ A ‘**Modi Kitchen**’ has been set up in **Tamil Nadu**.
- ✓ **Karnataka** state government has launched a mobile application ‘**Corona Watch**’.
 - **Note:** The mobile application aims to track the movement history of persons tested positive, before their detection in order to take precautions and to contain the coronavirus outbreak.
 - The app will also provide the date and time of visit to spots by the patients. ‘**Corona Watch**’ app also comprises a list of government designated first response hospitals for COVID-19 where citizen with symptoms can visit.
- ✓ **Odisha** state govt has celebrated its **formation day on April 1, 2020**.
 - **Note:** **Utkal Divas (Odisha Day)** is celebrated every year on **1st April all over Odisha**.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state government has started distributing pensions at the doorstep to its 58,44,240 beneficiaries.
 - **Note:** They are using its **2.5 lakh volunteer** eliminating the need for pensioners to step out of their homes.
 - The aim is to **encourage beneficiaries to stay at home and avoid stepping**

- ✓ **Uttarakhand** state government has launched “**MukhyamantriSwarozgar Yojana**” to retain the migrants who have returned to the state during the lockdown.
 - **Note:** The scheme aims at providing self-employment opportunities to youth and a boost to reverse migration, specifically entrepreneurs returning to Uttarakhand.

out.

- ✓ The **Odisha** government has launched an online cultural competition “**Mo Prativa**” in collaboration with the **UNICEF**.
- ✓ **Telangana** state has been installed ‘**V Safe Tunnel**’ to sanitize people.
 - The ‘**V Safe Tunnel**’ aims to minimize the local transmission of Coronavirus in the state by providing maximum protection to people passing through the tunnel in around 20 seconds.
- ✓ As per the report published by **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** for the year ended March 31, 2018 **Rajasthan** state commits highest crime related to the environment in the country.
- ✓ **Kerala** becomes the first state to commence clinical trial plasma therapy treatment.
- ✓ **UT Delhi** has announced a **5T plan** which includes- **Testing, Tracing, Treatment, Teamwork** and **Tracking and monitoring** to control the spread of COVID-19 in the **state**.
- ✓ **Delhi** government has launched “**Operation SHIELD**” in identified Containment Areas of the state to control the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - **Note:** It deals with sealing, home quarantine, isolation & tracking, essential supply of commodities, local sanitisation and door-to-door health checkups.
 - S– Sealing of the immediate area/surroundings after geographical marking.
 - H– Home quarantine of all the people living in the area.
 - I– Isolation and tracing of people who have been first and second contacts.
 - E– Essential supply of commodities is ensured.



- L– Local sanitization of the area by authorities.
- D– Door-to-door health checks of everyone living in the area.
- ✓ **Manipur** state Government has launched a new initiative “**Food Bank**” based on the theme ‘**Help End Hunger Today**’.
- ✓ **Goa** becomes the first state to integrate allopathy and Ayurveda to treat COVID-19 patients.
- ✓ **Rajasthan** becomes the first state in the country to carry out Rapid Testing for Covid 19.
 - **Note:** State’s urban primary health centre of Topkhana Desh (also known as Jaju Dispensary) in Jaipur started rapid tests at 5 p.m where 52 persons were tested and all were found COVID-19 negative.
- ✓ **Border Roads Organisation** has constructed 430 feet long bailey “**Daporijo Bridge**” in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - **Note:** The bridge was inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu over video conferencing.
 - The bridge is built over Subansiri River the largest tributary of Brahmaputra.
 - The new bridge will provide adequate movement of supplies for 451 villages and approximately 3,000 security force personnel deployed along the India-China border.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** state government has rolled out “**e-sanjeevani-opd**” for free online medical consultation to sick people.
 - **Note:** The “**e-sanjeevani-opd**” has been launched to provide free online medical consultation to sick people at their residence throughout the state.
 - Hence, through this new initiative, the Himachal Pradesh government will ensure the facility of health services to the people in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched ‘Chief Minister COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana’ to benefit the Anganwadi workers and Assistants of the state.
 - **Note:** Under the scheme, the state government will provide a special health insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs.
- The benefit of this scheme will be given to the warriors under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), which was launched by the central Government to cover only the field staff of health, police and other departments working day and night to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- ✓ **Rajasthan** government has partnered with MedCords to provide online consultations and to deliver medicine to the people of the state.
 - **Note:** MedCord will provide the requirements of over 68 million people throughout Rajasthan through its integrated solution – **Aayu and SehatSathi app**.
 - MedCord is fully adopted in **7 districts of Rajasthan (Kota, Udaipur, Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner, Ajmer, Pali and Jaipur)**.
- ✓ **Delhi** government has launched “Assess Koro Na” app for door-to-door survey in COVID-19 containment zones.
 - With this app, the data collected can be uploaded on the **servers in real-time and immediate analysis**.
- ✓ **Gujarat** government has approved the 3rd edition of his government’s ‘**Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan**’ (SSJA).
 - **Note:** The scheme will continue till June 10, 2020 with a focus on deepening of lakes, check dams and rivers by removing silt. It will be done with people’s participation as well as under **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)**.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** state government has started to use **eSanjeevaniOPD** through which **free online medical consultation & general health advice** will be provided to the people at their residence.
- ✓ **Karnataka** state government has launched “Apthamitra” helpline toll free number and an application to empower the people to fight against coronavirus pandemic.
 - The helpline is to reach out to people in the corona hotspot areas and to



identify the **Influenza Like illness (ILI), Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)** and the corona like symptoms.

- ✓ **Assam** state government has launched a special **scheme called 'Dhanwantari'**, under which locally unavailable medicines will be delivered to patients at home.
 - **Note:** This medicine is free up to 200 rupees. If the required medicine is not available at a distance of 10 km from the house, the government will provide the medicine at home. This facility can be availed by calling 104.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** government has launched **zero interest loan scheme for Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.
 - **Note:** Each SHG will receive a sum ranging from Rs 20,000 to Rs 40,000 towards the interest component on their loans.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched **Jeevan Shakti Yojana** to enable women in urban areas to earn by making masks at home.
- ✓ **Gujarat** state government has launched a **unique initiative called 'UmbareAanganwadi under Integrated Child Development Services programme** to reach out to children during the lockdown.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state government has **launched 'Covid Pharma' app** to keep a track of people buying medicines over the
- ✓ **34th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela** was held in **Haryana**.
 - The main motto of this mela is to promote handicrafts, rural crafts, arts and the culture of the country and also to bring our country's heritage among new generations.
- ✓ **Kerala** state unveiled an initiative of setting up **1,000 'Kudumbashree' hotels** to provide subsidised meals at Rs 25.
- ✓ **Manipur** government has launched **"AnganphouHunba"** (Sowing of First Crop Paddy) programme.
- ✓ Haryana government has renamed Ambala city bus stand after **Sushma Swaraj**.
- ✓ To modernise all government hospitals **Nadu-Nedu scheme** has been launched by **Andhra Pradesh**.

counter (OTC) for **cough, cold and fever from medical stores across the state.**

- ✓ **Phool Dei festival** was celebrated in **Uttarakhand**.
 - **Note:** The festival also showcases the inner bonding between the communities who all are residing in **the hills**.
 - **It is the harvest festival** of Uttarakhand that is celebrated in the month of **Chaitra (March-April)** in the Hindu Calendar.
 - The **term 'Dei'** refers to ceremonial pudding which is the key food in the festival that is made from **jaggery, Whiteflour & curd**, are offered to everyone.
- ✓ **Jharkhand** becomes the third state in India to launch its **"Star Rating Program"**.
 - **Note:** The state government of **Jharkhand will launch its "Star Rating Program" on June 5, 2020**, to rate industries based on the amount of pollutants generated by them.
 - With this, it became the **3rd state in India** to launch this system for industries after **Maharashtra & Odisha**.
- ✓ **Losar festival** is being celebrated in **Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh**.
 - **Note:** Losar festival is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar and is also called **Tibetan New Year**.
 - It is a festival related to **Tibetan Buddhism** and marks the **Ladakhi New Year**.
- ✓ The **Andhra Pradesh** government is planning to introduce **door-delivery** of sand from **2nd January 2020**.
 - The AP government will deliver sand at doorsteps and collect transportation charges from the customers.
- ✓ **'Cyber Safe Women' initiative** launched by the **Maharashtra** Government.
 - **Note:** Maharashtra Government has



launched a 'Cyber Safe Women' initiative to ensure that women and children do not fall prey to these cyber-criminal activities.

- ✓ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Kiren Rijju** flag off 'Fit India Cyclothon' in **Panaji, Goa**.
 - This event is organized with the aim to get the people involved in outdoor activities and starting a cycling culture in the state.
- ✓ **Women with Wheels' cab** service has been started at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), **New Delhi** by 'Sakha cabs' for the safety of women.
 - **Note:** The taxis are operated by women drivers and the services are provided only to women or men with family.
 - The cab had been installed with GPS (Global Positioning System) and panic button to help the women drivers & women passengers.
- ✓ **Magh Bihu**, an auspicious harvest festival is being celebrated in **Assam**.
 - **Note:** Magh Bihu, an auspicious harvest festival is being celebrated in Assam. Magh Bihu falls in the local month of 'Magh' during mid-january.
 - It is also called 'Bhogali Bihu' or 'Maghor Bihu' as it is celebrated with community feasts after the annual harvest takes place.
- ✓ The 1st edition of the **Krishi Manthan 2020** which is a Food, Agri-business and Rural Development Summit of Asia was held in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
- ✓ **NagobaJatara tribal festival** was celebrated in the state of **Telangana**.
- ✓ Five-day-long festival of '**Lai Haraoba**' held in **Agartala, Tripura**.
 - Lai Haraoba is celebrated through oral literature, music, dance, and rituals.
- ✓ 1st virtual police station has been launched in **Odisha** state.
 - This will facilitate online registration of FIR (first information report) in unknown motor vehicle theft cases.
- ✓ **Maharashtra government** has made reading **Preamble of the Constitution** mandatory in

schools.

- The above decision will be implemented from 26 January 2020 through a programme "**Sovereignty of Constitution, the public interest of all**".
- ✓ **City** will host the **14th Global Healthcare Summit 2021 -- Visakhapatnam**.
 - The focus of the **Global Health Summit** is an Indian-centric approach, with special events such as global impact and India's contribution in providing cost-effective medicines and addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals.
- ✓ Third **international symposium** on marine ecosystems – **challenges and opportunities** (MECOS-3) is to be held in **Kochi**
 - **Note:** Eminent marine scientists, oceanographers, fisheries researchers, and marine biotechnologists from across the globe are expected to participate in it.
- ✓ **Khadi and Village Industries Commission** (KVIC) has inaugurated the first silk processing plant at **Surendranagarin Gujarat**.
 - **Note:** This would help cut down the cost of production of silk yarn drastically and increase the sale and availability of raw material for **Gujarati 'Patola' sarees** locally.
- ✓ **Global Investors Meet 'ASCEND 2020'** will be held in -- **Kochi, Kerala**.
- ✓ The **31st International Kite Festival** was inaugurated at **Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad**.
- ✓ **Note:** As a part of the official celebration of 'Uttarayan' or 'Makar Sankranti', **Ahmedabad** has been hosting the International Kite Festival since 1989.
- ✓ The **fifth edition of the Pulses Conclave** will be held in Lonavala, Maharashtra from -- **12-14 February 2020**.
- ✓ Union Steel Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched a mission to accelerated development of eastern India through integrated steel hub -- **Mission Purvodaya**.
 - **Note:** Under the mission, the government will enhance capacity through easing the setup of greenfield



steel plants, develop steel clusters near integrated steel plants as well as demand centers.

- ✓ The **27th edition of South Asian Trade and Travel Exchange Expo (SATTE) 2020** was held at India Expo Mart Greater Noida – Delhi NCR.
- ✓ **12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme** was held in Puducherry.
- ✓ **World's largest meditation centre** was inaugurated in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ **Indian Railways** has commissioned **India's 1st governmental waste-to-energy plant** in Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ A festival to celebrate the spirit of India "**Bharat Parv 2020**" was celebrated in **Red Fort, New Delhi**.
 - The objective of Bharat Parv is to encourage people to visit different tourist places of the country and to inculcate the spirit of 'Dekho Apna Desh'.
- ✓ India's first Mahatma Gandhi convention centre opens in **Niger**.
- ✓ The **Central Government** has aimed to achieve **objective of Housing for all by 2022**.
 - **Note:** The Central Government has aimed to achieve objective of Housing for all by 2022 (which coincides with 75 years of Indian independence) under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen (PMAY-G)** scheme.
- ✓ **Committee on Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE)** headed by **Yudhvir Singh Malik**.
 - The report stresses to improve the present training infrastructure, content, training methodology & to create

linkages with world-famous international institutes and undertake applied research & related works.

- ✓ The **Assam Rifles (military unit)** has constructed a **war memorial "Veer Samriti"** in Nagaland.
- ✓ 1st ever Innovation festival was organized at **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- ✓ India's **1st Super Fab Lab facility** was inaugurated in **Kerala**.
- ✓ The **1st edition of Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations 2020** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Note:** The 1st edition of Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations 2020 based on the theme "Connectivity", between India & Russia was held in New Delhi.
- ✓ **France** will be the guest of honour at New Delhi World Book Fair for the year 2022.
- ✓ The **Department of Biotechnology** has organized a **2-day long International Summit on Women in STEM—"Visualizing the Future: New Skylines"** in **New Delhi**.
 - The aim of the summit is to increase the participation of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field for development of scientific career.
- ✓ **India's first e-waste clinic** was opened in **Bhopal**.
- ✓ **India's flagship global conference on geopolitics and geo-economics Raisina Dialogue** held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Raisina Dialogue (fifth edition)** jointly organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and the Observer Research Foundation.



Important News: India

February 2021

Transport Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari launches 'Go Electric' Campaign

- Shri Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises launched the "Go Electric" Campaign to spread awareness on the benefits of e-mobility and EV Charging Infrastructure as well as electric cooking in India.
- **Note:** Electric fuel is a major alternative for fossil fuels which have an import bill of Rs. 8 lakh Crore.
- When compared to conventional fuels the electric fuel has low cost, reduced emissions and it is also indigenous.

47th Khajuraho Dance Festival begins

- The week-long (20th -26th February) 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival began in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh which is based on the Indian classical dance tradition.
- The festival is being organized by the Culture Department through Ustad Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy Bhopal.
- **Note:** The ceremony is being held once again in the temple premises after a gap of 44 years.

Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge cohort announced

- The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, announced **25 shortlisted cities** for the 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge' cohort, in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and technical partner WRI India.
- The Challenge is a 3-year initiative aimed at supporting early childhood-friendly neighbourhoods under the government's Smart Cities Mission.
- **About the Challenge: The Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**, launched on November 4th, 2020, invited participation from all Smart Cities, capitals of States

and UTs, and other cities with population above 5 lakhs were eligible to participate.

Centre reconstitutes NITI Aayog governing council

- The Centre has reconstituted the governing council of the NITI Aayog with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its chairperson.**
- According to a notification of the Cabinet Secretariat, chief ministers of all states and those of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Puducherry are **full time members of the council.**
- The Lieutenant Governors of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh, and the administrators of Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep will be **special invitees of the governing council.**
- **Note: Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the sixth meeting** of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog.
- The sixth meeting witnessed the entry of Ladakh for the first time, in addition to the participation of Jammu and Kashmir as a UT.
- **Facts about NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog:**
Formed: 1 January 2015
Headquarters: New Delhi
Chairperson: Narendra Modi
Vice Chairperson: Rajiv Kumar
CEO: Amitabh Kant

Government of India and World Bank sign project to improve quality of India's Education in Nagaland

The Government of India, Government of Nagaland and the World Bank signed a \$68 million project to enhance the governance of schools across Nagaland as well as to improve teaching practices and learning environments in select schools.

- The "**Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project**" will improve classroom instruction; create opportunities for the professional development of teachers; and build technology systems to provide students



and teachers.

- **Facts about World Bank:**
Headquarters: Washington, D.C.,
United States
Founded: July 1944
President: David Malpass
MD and CFO: Anshula Kant
Membership: 189 countries (IBRD), 173 countries (IDA)

National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) & several digital initiatives launched for transforming Urban Governance

- The National Urban Digital Mission has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Several other digital initiatives of MoHUA *vis.* **India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), SmartCode, Smart Cities 2.0 website, and Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS)** were also launched.
- **The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM):** It will institutionalise a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery in 2022 cities by 2022, and across all cities and towns in India by 2024.

11th 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' inaugurated at Cooch Behar, West Bengal

- The Governor of West Bengal Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar in the presence of Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the 11th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav on 14th February, 2021 at Cooch Behar Palace at Cooch Behar in West Bengal.
- The eleventh edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is being held between 14th to 28th February, 2021 in West Bengal.
- **Note:** Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, the flagship festival of this Ministry organized since 2015 with the active participation of Seven Zonal Culture Centres has been playing a pivotal role to take the vibrant culture of India out to the masses instead of confining to auditoria and galleries.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launches MGNF with nine IIMs as academic partners

- The Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey chaired a function 'Transforming skilling through strategic partnerships under SANKALP' and rolling out of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF)**.
- The fellows under MGNF will acquire academic expertise and technical competency in understanding the overall skill ecosystem along with being attached to DSCs (District Skill Committees) and help them manage the skill development planning at district level through the mechanism of formulating District Skill Development Plans (DSDPs).
- **SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion)** is a World Bank loan assisted programme to strengthen the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees.

Major Port Authorities Bill 2020 passed by Rajya Sabha

- A bill that seeks to provide greater autonomy in decision-making to 12 major ports in the country and professionalise their governance by setting up boards was introduced in the Rajya Sabha.
- The Bill 2020 will replace the Major Port Trusts Act of 1963.
- **Note: India has 12 major ports --** Deendayal (erstwhile Kandla), Mumbai, JNPT, Marmugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Kamarajar (earlier Ennore), V O Chidambarnar, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia).
- Lok Sabha gives nod to **Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill 2021**.
- Government introduces **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021** in Lok Sabha.

Prime Minister lays the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev Memorial and



development work of Chittaura Lake

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev Memorial and development work of Chittaura Lake at Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh via video conference.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated the medical College building named after Maharaja Suheldev.
- **About Maharaja Suheldev:** He was an Indian king from Shravasti, popularly known to have defeated and killed the Ghaznavid general Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud at Bahraich in 11th century.
- He is mentioned in the 17th century Persian-language historical romance Mirat-i-Masudi. Since the 20th century, various Hindu nationalist groups have characterized him as a Hindu King who defeated a Muslim invader.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launches E-Chhawani portal & mobile app

- The portal has been created to provide online civic services to over 20 lakh residents of 62 Cantonment Boards across the country.
- Through the portal, the residents of cantonment areas will be able to avail basic services like renewal of leases, application for birth & death certificates, water & sewerage connections, trade licences, mobile toilet locators and payment of different types of taxes and fees, with just a click of a button.
- The portal, jointly developed by **eGov Foundation, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) and National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, provides a platform to the residents to avail these services from the comfort of their home.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan under Jal Jeevan Mission- Urban (JJM-U).
- It will be conducted in cities to ascertain equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater and mapping of water bodies

with respect to quantity and quality of water.

- As a first step, the Ministry has decided to launch the Survekshan in 10 cities- Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur.
- **Note: Jal Jeevan Mission Urban** is designed to provide water supply to all households through taps in all 4,378 statutory towns in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal - 6.
- The total outlay proposed for JJM-U is 2 lakh 87 thousand crore rupees which includes 10 thousand crore rupees for continuing financial support to AMRUT Mission.
- **Facts about AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation):**
Launch year: 2015
Sector: Urban planning
Launched by (Prime Minister): Narendra

Modi

Affairs

3rd edition of Indian Sign Language Dictionary with 10,000 terms

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually released the 3rd edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary with 10,000 terms (including 6,000 earlier terms).
- The 3rd Edition contains a total of 10,000 terms of everyday use, academic terms, legal & administrative terms, medical terms, technical terms and agricultural terms.
- **Note:** The Dictionary has been brought out by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous Institute under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- The 1st Edition of the ISL Dictionary was launched on 23rd March, 2018 with 3000 terms and the 2nd Edition with 6000 terms (including earlier 3000 terms) was



launched on 27th February, 2019.

Sandes, the government's new Instant Messaging platform

- The National Informatics Centre has launched an instant messaging platform called Sandes on the lines of WhatsApp.
- Like WhatsApp, the new NIC platform can be used for all kinds of communications by anyone with a mobile number or email id.
- Although there is no option to transfer the chat history between two platforms, the chats on Government Instant Messaging Systems (GIMS) can be backed up to a users' email.
- **Note:** In August 2020, the NIC released the first version of the app, which said that the app could be used by both central and state government officials for intra and inter-organisation communication.

Union Minister launches Software Applications and instruction manuals with questionnaire for five All India Surveys

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar launched the trainers' training programme for the All India Surveys being conducted by Labour Bureau, an attached office of Ministry of Labour & Employment by releasing the Instruction Manuals & Questionnaires for the surveys and the software application developed.
- **The Labour Bureau is entrusted with five All India surveys:** All India Survey of Migrant workers, Domestic Workers, Employment generated by Professionals, Employment generated in Transport Sector and Quarterly Establishment based Employment
- **Note:** The surveys are significant in terms of the path-breaking initiative being taken by the Bureau in terms of use of Information Technology (IT) in the entire chain of data collection to report generation.

Cabinet approves Amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to introduce measures for strengthening Child Protection set-up to ensure best interest of children.
- The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act, in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015** has been passed by Parliament of India amidst intense controversy, debate and protest on many of its provisions by Child Rights fraternity. It replaced the Indian juvenile delinquency law, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, and allows for juveniles in conflict with Law in the age group of 16–18, involved in Heinous Offences, to be tried as adults.

1st India-Bahrain Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting in the field of Renewable Energy

- The 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain held on February 4, 2021 in virtual format.
- H.E. Dr. Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza, President of Sustainable Energy Authority led the Bahraini delegation. The Indian delegation was led by H.E. Mr. Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.
- Both sides agreed to forging deeper engagement in capacity building and focused cooperation between concerned agencies as well as the private sector of the two countries in this sector, particularly in the field of solar, wind and clean hydrogen.
- **Note:** A Memorandum of Understanding between India and Bahrain was signed in July 2018 for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of Renewable



Energy.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bahrain in August 2019.** This was the first ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to Bahrain.

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel virtually attends the 8th Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers' meeting

- The Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel co-chaired the 8th Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers meeting with Minister of Tourism of Cambodia H.E. Dr. Thong Khon on February 05, 2021.
- The Meeting was in conjunction with the 24th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM).
- **Initiatives taken by Government of India to revive Tourism activities:**
- To organise the **International Buddhist Conclave (IBC)** to create awareness about India's Buddhist Heritage and to increase foreign tourist traffic to Buddhist sites.
- **SAATHI** (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry) and the Incredible India Tourist Facilitator **(IITF)** Certification Programme, an online learning platform with the objective of creating a pool of well trained and professional Tourist Facilitators across the country.
- To organize a series of webinars under the theme **Dekho Apna Desh**

Cabinet Secretary Chairs review meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to take stock of the Glacial Burst in Uttarakhand and the actions taken

- The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, Shri Rajiv Gauba met to review the situation arising out of the natural disaster in Uttarakhand caused by glacial burst.
- The glacial burst led to the rising of water levels in the river Rishiganga, which washed away the **Rishiganga small hydro project of 13.2 MW.**
- The flash flood also affected the

downstream **hydro project of NTPC at Tapovan** on the river Dhauliganga, which is a tributary of the river Alaknanda.

- As per the information given by the Central Water Commission (CWC), there is no danger of downstream flooding and the rise in water level has been contained.

Schools under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to be renamed after Subhas Chandra Bose

- The Ministry of Education has decided to name residential schools and hostels funded under Samagra Shiksha of the Ministry as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools or hostels.
- **About Samagra Shiksha:** Samagra Shiksha - an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12 has been, therefore, prepared with the broader goal of improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes. It subsumes the **three erstwhile Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).**
- **Note:** A total of 1063 residential facilities which include 383 residential Schools and 680 Hostels have been sanctioned to States and UTs so far.

National Horticulture Fair 2021 begins in Bengaluru

- The country's largest horticulture event, the five days National Horticulture Fair 2021, has been organized by the **Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR)** from February 8 to February 12 at its IIHR campus situated in Hessarghatta, Bengaluru.
- *The theme of the event is 'Horticulture for Start-up and Stand-up India'.*
- Cutting edge technologies, crop varieties, pest and disease management practices, and processing methods will be demonstrated.
- **Note:** IIHR is a subsidiary of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- **Facts about the Indian Council of**



Agricultural Research (ICAR):

Founded: 16 July 1929

Headquarters: New Delhi

Director: Trilochan Mohapatra

First ever India Toy Fair-2021 to be organised

- The Government is organising the first ever India Toy Fair from 27th February to 2nd March.
- Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Zubin Irani, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal jointly inaugurated the website of The India Toy Fair-2021 in New Delhi.
- **Note:** According to a Quality Council report in February last year, many of the toys imported from abroad were failing the safety standards. Thereafter import duty on foreign toys was increased from 20 per cent to 60 per cent and a Quality Control Order was issued.
- Recently, the Government has organized the **1st Toyathon**.

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) & Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) kick-start the India-Australia Circular Economy (I-ACE) Hackathon, 2021

- I-ACE is supported by the Australian Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER), AIM Atal Incubation Centre network, and various domain experts.
- Between 8th to 11th February 2021, the shortlisted teams were scheduled to be working on creating ingenious solutions.
- **About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):** The Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, is the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
- **About Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO):** The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation is Australia's national science agency and innovation catalyst, solving the greatest challenges through innovative science and

technology.

- **Note:** The concept of I-ACE joint Hackathon originated in the virtual bilateral summit between the Hon. Prime Minister of India and the Hon. Prime Minister of Australia, held on June 4th, 2020.

ICC announces BYJU'S as global partner until 2023

- The three-year agreement will see BYJU'S partner all ICC (International Cricket Council) events over the period, including the forthcoming men's T20 World Cup in India and the women's World Cup in New Zealand.
- As a global partner, BYJU'S will have extensive in-venue, broadcast, and digital rights across all ICC events.
- **Note:** In August 2019, the company became the official jersey partners of the Indian cricket team.
- **Facts about BYJU'S:** Byju's is an Indian educational technology and online tutoring firm.

Founder: Byju Raveendran

Founded: 2011, Bengaluru

CEO: Byju Raveendran

Prime Minister addresses 125th anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata'

- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 125th anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata' organised by the Advaita Ashrama, Mayavati in Uttarakhand.
- **'Prabuddha Bharata'** is a monthly journal of the Ramakrishna Order which was started by Swami Vivekananda. It has been in publication since 1896 and carries articles on social sciences and humanities comprising historical, psychological, cultural and social sciences themes.

Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' addresses the inaugural ceremony of the ASEAN-India Hackathon

- The ASEAN-India Hackathon is being organized online from 1st -3rd February 2021.
- Hackathon will provide a unique



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opportunity to India and ASEAN countries to solve their common identified challenges under two broad themes of “Blue Economy” and “Education”.

- **About ASEAN- India Hackathon:** It is an initiative taken by the Ministry of Education. This unique hackathon offers opportunities for all the 10 ASEAN countries and India to forward their economic and cultural ties through collaboration in education, science and technology.

8th India International Silk Fair

- Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the 8th edition of India International Silk Fair on Virtual Portal from 31st January to 4th February.
- India International Silk Fair is the Sourcing Fair for silk and silk blend products organised by the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council under the aegis of Ministry of Textiles and sponsored by Department of Commerce.
- **Note:** India has a long history of silk production and is the **2nd largest producer of Silk after China.**
- India is the only country in the world which produces all the four major varieties of silk i.e. Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga.

Prime Minister to inaugurate ‘Chauri Chaura’ Centenary Celebrations on 4th February

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations at Chauri Chaura, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, on 4th February 2021.
- The day marks 100 years of the ‘Chauri Chaura’ incident, a landmark event in the country’s fight for independence.
- Prime Minister will also release a postal stamp dedicated to the Chauri Chaura centenary during the event.
- **About Chauri Chaura incident:** It took place on 4 February 1922 at Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of the United Province (modern Uttar Pradesh) in British India, when a large group of protesters participating in

the Non-cooperation movement, clashed with police who opened fire.

Pattachitra Artform

- Bhagyashree Sahu belonging to Odisha's Rourkela found mention in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 73rd "Mann ki Baat" for her artwork to promote cloth-based scroll paintings "Pattachitra".
- **About Pattachitra:** It is a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting, based in the eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal.
- **Geographical Indication (GI) of Pattachitra:** Geographical indication of Pattachitra is registered under to different state of India as the style and motif of Odisha and West Bengal Pattachitra are so different. The Pattachitra of Odisha is registered as Orissa Pattachitra. The Pattachitra of West Bengal is registered as Bengal Pattachitra.

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President, inaugurated the tribal festival ‘Aadi Mahotsav’ at Dilli Haat in New Delhi

- The Festival ‘Aadi Mahotsav’ at Dilli Haat, New Delhi is being held from February 01-15, 2021.
- The theme of the festival is “A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture and Commerce”, which represents the basic ethos of tribal life.
- **Note:** The **Aadi Mahotsav** is an annual event that was started in 2017. The festival is being organized by TRIFED (Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Union Ministers jointly launch unified web portal for monitoring progress of GOBARDHAN activities

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Animal Husbandry Minister Giriraj Singh, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Minister of State for Jal Shakti Rattan Lal Kataria jointly launched a unified web portal for monitoring the progress of GOBARDHAN activities across the nation.



- Gobardhan is an important component of Swachh Bharat Mission Phase-2 for organic solid waste management.
- **About GOBARDHAN Scheme:** Ministry for Drinking Water and Sanitation on April 30, 2018 launched the **GOBAR - DHAN (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Fund)** Scheme.
- Under GOBAR-DHAN scheme, solid waste of dung and fields will be changed into compost and fuels such as biogas and bio-CNG.

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and app in order to connect with nearly 3.12 crore Indians across the world.
- The app aims at creating a three-way communication between the Indian missions, ministry and the Indian diaspora.
- The app will be used by the Indian nationals and diaspora, while the portal will be used by the Indian missions.

Year-long birth centenary celebrations of legendary classical singer Pandit Bhimsen Joshi begins

- Different events have been organised including SwarBhaskar 100 by Jayateerth Mevundi, 'Abhivadan' by Arya Sangeet Prasarak Mandal.
- **Note:** Pandit Bhimsen Joshi (February 4, 1922 - January 24, 2011) was a vocalist from Karnataka.
- He received the Bharat Ratna in 2008.

Indian Railways completes 180 Kmph speed trail run of Vistadome Tourist Coach

- The vistadome tourist coaches are European-style coaches, with technologically advanced features for improving passenger's comfort and offer a panoramic view during the train journey. These vistadome coaches mostly operate in mountain railways.
- The coach has been manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.
- **Note:** Earlier, the first vistadome Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coach for the broad gauge (BG) lines was cleared for the 180 km per hour oscillation trial.

January 2021

PM delivers inaugural address at National Metrology Conclave

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered inaugural address at the National Metrology Conclave 2021.
- The theme of the conclave is 'Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation'.
- He dedicated 'National Atomic Timescale' and 'Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya Pranali' to the Nation and laid the Foundation Stone of 'National Environmental Standards Laboratory'.
- The Conclave was organised by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi, on its 75th year of inception.
- **Note:** Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya would help the industry to make quality products in sectors like Heavy metals, Pesticides, Pharma and Textiles by drafting a 'Certified Reference Material System'.

Union home minister Amit Shah inaugurates "National Police K-9 Journal."

- The publication of the Police K9 Journal is another step in creating an ecosystem in the country to train and learn on augmenting this vital resource.
- This is a unique initiative which will further enrich the subjects related to Police Service Canine (K-9) (PSK) teams in the country.
- **Note:** A special 'Police K9 Cell' was established in November 2019 under the Police Modernisation Division of the ministry of home affairs with the mandate of 'Mainstreaming and Augmentation of Police Service K9s in the country'.

MEA launches 'Global Pravasi Rishta Portal' and mobile app

PM inaugurates 450 km Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 450-km Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore built by GAIL (India) Ltd. marks an important milestone towards the creation



of “One Nation One Gas Grid”.

- The pipeline will carry natural gas from Kochi in Kerala through Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasargod districts to Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka.
- **Note:** Natural gas pipeline network will be doubled in 5-6 years and CNG stations will be raised to 10,000 from current 1,500.

PM dedicates to nation new Section of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and flags off world's first Double Stack Long Haul Container Train

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the 306-Kilometre long New Rewari-New Madar Section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor.

He also flagged off the world's first Double Stack Long Haul 1.5 Kilometre long Container Train hauled by electric traction from New Ateli -New Kishangarh.

Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog to hold online exam on cow science

- Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) has announced that it will hold a countrywide online examination on ‘gau vigyan’ (cow science) on February 25.
- This is the first-ever exam of this kind- ‘Kamdhenu Gau Vigyan Prachar Prasar Examination’. This exam will be held annually.
- **Note:** RKA comes under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. It was set up by the Centre in February 2019, and is aimed at “protection and development of cows”.

Government of India’s UJALA and SLNP completes six years of Illuminating India efficiently

- Launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on January 5, 2015, the Government of India’s zero subsidy Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) marks their sixth anniversary.
- Both the programmes are being

implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power, Government of India since their inception.

- **Note:** EESL has an ambitious plan in the SLNP portfolio for next 4-5 years where it intends to bring investment to the tune of INR 8,000 crores by 2024 by covering the entire rural India. It is expected that more than 30 million LED streetlights would be retrofitted/installed by EESL.

National Youth Parliament Festival 2021

- The Finals of National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) 2021 was held in the Central Hall of Parliament.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Valedictory Function of National Youth Parliament Festival 2021.
- The objective of the National Youth Parliament Festival is to hear the voice of youth between 18 and less than 25 years of age, who will join various careers in coming years, including public services.
- The 2nd National Youth Parliament Festival 2021 was launched on 23rd of December 2020 across the country at district, state and national level.
- **Note:** The first NYPF 2019 was organised from 12 January to 27 February 2019 at District, State and National level.

51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

- From 16 January to 24 January, 2021, the 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India is going to be held in Goa.
- On 11 January, 2021, the International Film Festival of India announced this edition's Country in Focus. **For the 51st IFFI, the Country in Focus is Bangladesh.**
- **About International Film Festival of India:** It was founded in 1952. It is conducted jointly by the Directorate of Film Festivals (under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) and the state Government of Goa.

Suriname's Indian-origin President to be Chief Guest at Republic Day 2021

- Chandrikapersad Santokhi, Indian-origin President of Suriname, will be the chief guest at India's Republic Day Parade on January 26, 2021.
- **Note:** The Suriname President was earlier the Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, which was conducted by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- India had initially invited UK PM Boris Johnson to be the Republic Day Chief Guest but the British PM later decided to cancel his visit due to the escalating COVID-19 situation in the United Kingdom.

The Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the three farm laws and set up a committee

- The court formed a four-member committee of experts to listen to the grievances of the farmers on the farm laws and the views of the government and make recommendations.
- The committee will comprise agricultural economist Ashok Gulati, Pramod Kumar Joshi, Director South Asia International Food Policy Research Institute, Anil Ghanwat of the Sethkari Sangathan and B S Mann of the Bharatiya Kisan Union.
- **The laws whose implementation has been suspended are-** (i) The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 (ii) Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 (iii) Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020

Heritage Conservation Committee approves construction of new parliament building

- A few days ago, the Supreme Court cleared the decks for the ambitious Central Vista Project, which covers a three-km stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate in Lutyens' Delhi, by upholding the environmental clearance and the notification for change in land use.
- Additional secretary of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry is the chairman of the Heritage Conservation Committee.
- **Note:** The Central Vista revamp, announced in September, 2019 envisages a new triangular Parliament building, with a

seating capacity for 900 to 1,200 MPs that is to be constructed by August, 2022 when the country will be celebrating its 75th Independence Day. The common Central Secretariat is likely to be built by 2024 under the project.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off eight trains connecting different regions of the country to Kevadiya in Gujarat

- This was the first time in the history of Railways that trains have been flagged off for the same destinations from different corners of the country.
- The new connectivity between Kevadiya and Chennai, Varanasi, Rewa, Dadar and Delhi along with MEMU service between Kevadiya and Pratapnagar and broad gauging of Dabhoi-Chandod and new Line between Chandod- Kevadiya will script a new chapter in the development of Kevadiya.
- **Note:** Kevadiya Station is India's first railway station to start with green building certification.
- The Statue of Unity, situated near Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district, is the world's tallest statue.

3rd phase of PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana) launched

- The 3rd phase of PMKVY was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in 600 districts across the country.
- Skill India Mission-PMKVY 3.0 envisages training of eight lakh candidates over a scheme period of 2020-2021 with an outlay of Rs 949 crore.
- **Note:** The government had launched the PMKVY scheme in 2015 to mobilize youth to take up skill training with the aim of increasing productivity and aligning the training and certification to the needs of the country. The scheme was revamped as PMKVY -2 in 2016 with an aim to train one crore youth by the year 2020.

First National Road Safety Month 2021

- The first-ever National Road Safety Month (January 18-February 17) was inaugurated



by Union Minister for Defence Shri Rajnath Singh and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari to build awareness about road safety and reduce road accidents in India.

- The theme is "Sadak Suraksha- Jeevan Raksha".
- **Note:** During the last few years, a road safety week was being organised, but considering the importance of the issue, a month-long programme has been made this year.
- As per a recent report, around 400 people die every day in India due to road accidents. India tops in the number of road accident deaths across the 195 countries.

Ministry of Railways approves the naming of Train No. 12311/12312 Howrah-Kalka Mail as "Netaji Express"

- Howrah -Kalka Mail is a very popular and one of the oldest trains of Indian Railways. The Howrah-Kalka Mail is running between Howrah (Eastern Railway) and Kalka (Northern Railway) via Delhi.

IIT Roorkee collaborates with MoRTH to focus on teaching & training for Development of Highway Infrastructure

- Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Roorkee has collaborated with the Minister of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) to focus on research and development, teaching & training for the Development of Highway Infrastructure.
- This collaboration of MoRTH with IIT-Roorkee will strengthen R&D activities in the Road Sector and the Chair professor is expected to provide leadership in conducting and coordinating research, development, and teaching in the area of Development of Highway Infrastructure.

Bharat Parv 2021 to be inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla on 26th January 2021

- The annual event Bharat Parv is being organised on a virtual platform from 26thJan to 31stJan 2021 wherein themed pavilions of multiple States & UTs will showcase their tourism destinations,

cuisine, handicraft and other features.

- **Note:** Ministry of Tourism, Government of India organizes Bharat Parv every year since 2016 in front of the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of Republic Day Celebrations from 26th to 31st January.

Republic Day parade: Uttar Pradesh wins best tableau award

- Uttar Pradesh was adjudged the best tableau among the 32 tableaux that participated in the Republic Day Parade this year.
- The tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme Ayodhya: Cultural Heritage of Uttar Pradesh.
- The tableau of Tripura was adjudged the second best followed by Uttarakhand's at third.

December 2020

"JSA(Jal Shakti Abhiyan) II: Catch the Rain" Awareness Generation Campaign launched

- National Water Mission(NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports launched the "JSA II: Catch the Rain" Awareness Generation Campaign.
- **Note:** As a preparatory phase of JSA-II, the Ministry has involved Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan for undertaking 'Catch the Rain' awareness campaign to cover 623 districts. The awareness generation phase of the campaign will run from mid-December 2020 to March 2021.

World Bank Signs \$500 Million funding for 'Green' Highway Corridor Project in India

- India and the World Bank signed a \$500 million project to build safe and green national highway corridors in the states of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- The Green National Highways Corridors Project will support the ministry to construct 783 km of highways in various geographies by integrating safe and green technology designs such as local and marginal materials, industrial by-products, and other bio-engineering solutions.



- The project will help reduce GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions in the construction and maintenance of highways.

KVIC brings alive 1000-yrs old 'Monpa' Handmade Paper Industry in Tawang to revive the Heritage Art

- The 1000-year old heritage art – the Monpa Handmade Paper of Arunachal Pradesh – which was driven to extinction, has come to life once again, with the committed efforts of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- The fine-textured handmade paper, which is called Mon Shugu in the local dialect, is integral to the vibrant culture of the local tribes in Tawang.
- The Monpa handmade paper will be made from the bark of a local tree called Shugu Sheng, which has medicinal values too.

Prime Minister inaugurates New Bhaupur-New Khurja section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 351-km New Bhaupur-New Khurja section in Uttar Pradesh of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC).
- The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor is 1875-km section that connects Punjab's Ludhiana to Dankuni in West Bengal.

Union Government for the first time lays down Rights to the Electricity Consumers through "Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020"

- These rules shall empower the consumers of electricity and these Rules emanate from the conviction that the power systems exist to serve the consumers and the consumers have rights to get the reliable services and quality electricity.
- **Note:** The distribution licensee shall supply 24x7 power to all consumers. However, the commission may specify lower hours of supply for some categories of consumers like agriculture.

Government decides to constitute a High Level Committee to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

- The Committee will be headed by Shri

Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and the members of the High Level Commemoration Committee will include experts, historians, authors, family members of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, as well as eminent persons associated with Azad Hind Fauj.

- The Committee will decide on the activities for a one year long commemoration starting 23rd January, 2021.
- **Note:** A museum has been set up on Netaji at Red Fort, New Delhi, which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 23.01.2019.

MPEDA launches India's first aquafarmers call centre

- 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.
- **Note:** The call centre primarily caters to aqua farmers of Andhra Pradesh, the state that contributes more than 60 percent of the country's marine products export.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses International Bharathi Festival 2020

- This festival was organised by Vanavil Cultural Centre to celebrate the 138th birth anniversary of Tamil poet and writer, Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi.
- Scholar Shri Seeni Viswanathan received the Bharathi Award 2020.

Note: Bharathi Award was instituted in 1994 by Vanavil Cultural Centre. Every year it is being conferred on eminent persons who have done laudable service in any field of social relevance and thus worked towards the fulfilment of Bharathi's dreams.

Norwegian Institute signs agreement with cGanga for development of sludge management framework in India

- 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:** The agreement was signed during the **5th India Water Impact 2020 summit**. The five-day summit is held to discuss and debate issues related to water conservation, water security and river rejuvenation.
- The event is co-organised by National Mission for Clean Ganga and Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers keynote address at IIT-2020 Global Summit on 04 December

- IIT2020 focuses on the global economy, technology innovation, health infrastructure, habitat conservation, food innovation and universal education.
- **Note:** The conference is facilitated by PanIIT USA (PanIIT Inc.), an organization of IIT alumni in the United States, so as to carry out its mission of branding IITs and keeping IITians connected. Since 2003 this conference has been held every couple of years and is run by an all-volunteer team of IITians, celebrating successes in corporate leadership.

International Sand Art Festival

- The 9th edition of the International Sand Art Festival has begun at the Chandrabhaga Beach of Konark in Odisha's Puri district.
- Sudarsan Pattnaik, world-renowned sand artist and Padmashree Awardee, has been appointed as Chief Curator of the festival.
- This year, the main themes of the sculptures are 'Environment' and 'Covid-19'.
- **Note:** Every year, the festival is celebrated with great fervour in the **first week of December as part of the Konark Dance Festival** that is organised during the same time.

10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) 2020

- It has been jointly organized by

VigyanPrasar, an autonomous agency under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and the Tripura State Council of Science and Technology from 24 to 27 November 2020.

- **Note:** NSFFI is India's first of its kind of film festival where documentaries and short films on popular science, technology, health & environmental issues have been screened.

India Mobile Congress 2020

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2020 on 08 December 2020. IMC 2020 was organised by the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). It is scheduled for 8th -10th December.
- The theme for IMC 2020 is "Inclusive Innovation - Smart, Secure, Sustainable".
- About IMC 2020: It aims to promote Digital Inclusivity, Sustainable development, entrepreneurship & innovation. It also aims to drive foreign and local investments, encourage R&D in the telecom and emerging technology sectors.
- IMC 2020 will see the participation from various Ministries, the telecom CEOs, global CEOs, and domain experts in 5G, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Data Analytics, Cloud and Edge computing, Blockchain, Cyber-security, Smart Cities and Automation.

9 states successfully complete implementation of 'One Nation One Ration Card' system

- **Note:** This was aimed to ensure that the beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other welfare schemes, especially the migrant workers and their families, get ration from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) across the country.

India signs \$132.8-million loan agreement with ADB to strengthen Meghalaya's power supply

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Centre signed a \$132.8-million loan agreement, aimed at strengthening and modernising the distribution network and improving the quality of power supplied to households, industries and businesses in Meghalaya.

British PM Boris Johnson will be the Chief Guest on Republic Day celebrations

- He is the second British PM after John Major who came to India as Chief Guest on Republic Day in 1993.
- Earlier, Boris Johnson invited PM Narendra Modi to participate in G-7 summit going to held in 2021 in the United Kingdom.

Union Minister unveiled Sahakar Pragya

- Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development, Panchayat Raj and Food Processing Industries, unveiled **Sahakar Pragya**.
- The 45 new training modules of Sahakar Pragya of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas of the country.
- **Sahakar Pragya** embodies enhancing NCDC's training capacity by 18 fold through an elaborate network of 18 Regional Training Centres across the country by the dedicated, Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research and Development (LINAC) set up and fully funded by NCDC.
- **Note:** India boasts a huge network of over 8.50 lakh cooperative societies with about 290 million members and around 94% of the farmers in India are members of at least one cooperative society.
- **About NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation):** NCDC has emerged as a financial powerhouse giving the client cooperatives a wide range of products and services.
- NCDC had earlier launched the

SahakarCooptube NCDC Channel with the aim to involve youth in the cooperative movement, Sahakar Mitra-Scheme on Internship Programme, Yuva Sahakar-Start-Up Scheme in Cooperatives, Ayushman Sahakar-For creation of healthcare infrastructure and services.

Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches world-class premium-grade Petrol (Octane 100) in the country

- Indian Oil has launched a world-class premium-grade Petrol (Octane 100) in the country. Branded as **XP100**, the premium grade petrol was launched across ten cities by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel.
- Indian Oil plans to roll-out **XP100** premium grade petrol in 15 identified cities across the country in two phases. In the first phase, it has been made available at select ROs w.e.f December 1, 2020, in Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Agra, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad. In the second phase, the availability of this 100 Octane petrol would be extended to Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kochi, and Kolkata.
- **Note:** Worldwide, 100 Octane petrol has a niche market for luxury vehicles that demand high performance, and is available only in six countries like Germany, USA, etc.
- India has already adopted the BS-VI category of fuel since April this year, and invested over Rs 30,000 crore in the technology.

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launches 'Aadi Mahotsav'

- The 10-day-long 'Aadi Mahotsav', Madhya Pradesh, a festival of tribes has been launched on December 1, 2020.
- Keeping in view of restrictions due to Covid-19, the TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) has decided to organise its annual event Aadi Mahotsav-2020 in an online mode.



- **Note:** **Aadi Mahotsav** is a unique celebration of the spirit of tribal crafts, culture, cuisine and commerce. It commenced in 2017.
- It was also announced that the next focus state from the 11th December would be Gujarat, following which the spotlight would shift to Bengal from the 21st December 2020.

The Government of India appointed Varsha Joshi as the new Chairperson of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)

- She replaces Dilip Rath on completion of his tenure on November 30.
- Joshi is the Joint Secretary (CDD), Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.
- **Note:** The National Dairy Development Board is an institution of national importance set up by an Act of Parliament of India. The main office is in Anand, Gujarat with regional offices throughout the country. It was founded on 16 July 1965.

IAS Utpal Kumar Singh appointed as General Secretary of Lok Sabha

- He is the 1986 batch IAS officer of Uttarakhand cadre and will replace Snehlata Srivastava.
- **Note:** The post of Lok Sabha General Secretary is equivalent to the rank of Cabinet Minister.

1. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India launches the first ever SCO online exhibition on shared Buddhist Heritage, during the 19th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government

- This SCO online International exhibition, first ever of its kind, is developed and curated by National Museum, New Delhi, in active collaboration with SCO member countries.
- The exhibition deploys state of the art

technologies like 3D scanning, WebGL platform, virtual space utilization, innovative curation and narration methodology etc.

- **Note:** The exhibition can be accessed at <https://nmvirtual.in/> for worldwide viewing.

Capital infusion into NIIF Infrastructure Debt Financing Platform

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the proposal for equity infusion by Government of Rs 6000 crores in **NIIF Debt Platform** sponsored by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), comprising of **Aseem Infrastructure Finance Limited (AIFL)** and **NIIF Infrastructure Finance Limited (NIIF-IFL)**.
- This was one of the twelve key measures made by the Union Minister for Finance, as part of Government of India's stimulus to the economy, under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.
- Rs 6,000 crores will be invested as equity in the NIIF Debt Platform over two financial years, i.e., 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- NIIF Infrastructure Debt Financing Platform is expected to contribute nearly Rs 1 lakh crores in debt to the infrastructure sector over the next 5 years.

Brain Fingerprinting for interrogation

- The brain fingerprinting method is to be conducted on all the four accused in the Hathras Rape Case. A team of forensic experts are to work along with the CBI team to prepare probe short questions for the test.
- **Note: The Brain Fingerprinting or Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature** is a neuro psychological method used to interrogate an accused in the crime by studying his or her brain responses. The test is carried out through a process called Electroencephalogram that studies the electrical behaviour of the human brain.
- The consent of the accused is first taken in order to perform the test. The accused then has to



wear a head cap with dozens of electrodes attached to it and is then showed with visuals or audio clips that are related to the case in order to check if there are triggering neurons in their brains generating brain waves.

- However, the test can only be used as an aid to question the accused in the Hathras case. The accused cannot be convicted based on the test. The conviction has to be done based on interrogation and other traditional legal practices of CBI.

Hornbill Festival

- Nagaland hosts the first virtual celebration of Hornbill Festival 2020 from 1 to 5 December.
- It showcases the rich cultural heritage and tradition of the Nagas in one platform at Naga Heritage Village Kisama under Kohima District.
- However, due to Coronavirus pandemic, the state is holding its 21st edition of Hornbill festival 2020 completely in virtual mode.
- **Note:** The Hornbill Festival is a celebration held every year from 1 to 10 December, in Nagaland, Northeast India. It is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'. The *Festival* is named after the *Indian Hornbill*, the *large and colourful forest bird* which is *displayed in folklore* in most of the *state's tribes*.
- The start of the festival marks the Nagaland statehood day i.e. December 01.

Government launches Mission COVID Suraksha

- The Government of India has approved the third stimulus package of Rs. 900 Crore for the **Mission COVID Suraksha- The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission**.
- For Research & Development of Indian COVID-19 vaccines, this grant will be provided to the Department of Biotechnology.
- Led by the Department of Biotechnology and implemented by a dedicated Mission

Implementation Unit at Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, the existing activities under National Bio Pharma Mission and Ind-CEPI Mission will provide complementary strengths to this Mission.

Inauguration of Honey FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations)

- The Honey FPO Programme of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) was inaugurated by Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.
- Under the making 10,000 FPOs of the Central government Scheme, 5 FPOs of honey were launched in five states. These are Sundarbans in West Bengal, East Champaran in Bihar, Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, Morena in Madhya Pradesh and Bharatpur in Rajasthan.
- NAFED, through its empanelled Cluster-Based Business Organisation (CBBO) Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) has initiated the formation and promotion of FPOs of beekeepers and honey collectors.
- **Note: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd** is an apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India. It was established on the auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 1958.

Extension of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme through ECLGS 2.0 for the 26 sectors

- **The Government has extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme**
- **(ECLGS) through ECLGS 2.0 for the 26 sectors identified by the Kamath Committee and the healthcare sector.**
- Under ECLGS 2.0 entities with outstanding credit above Rs. 50 crore and not exceeding Rs. 500 crore as on 29.2.2020, which were less than or equal to 30 days



past due as on 29.2.2020 are eligible.

- These entities/borrower accounts shall be eligible for additional funding up to 20 per cent (which could be fund based or non-fund based or both) of their total outstanding credit (fund based only) as a collateral-free Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (**GECL**), which would be fully guaranteed by **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)**. The loans provided under ECLGS 2.0 will have a 5-year tenor, with a 12-month moratorium on repayment of principal.
- In addition to ECLGS 2.0, where no annual turnover ceiling has been prescribed, **it has also been decided to extend ECLGS 1.0 to entities under ECLGS** which had a total credit outstanding (fund based only) of up to Rs.50 crore as on 29.02.2020 but were previously ineligible owing to their annual turnover exceeding Rs.250 crore. All other existing criteria/ terms and conditions remain unchanged.
- The Scheme would be applicable to all loans sanctioned under ECLGS during the period from the date of issue of these guidelines by NCGTC to 31.03.2021 or till guarantees for a number of Rs 3,00,000 crore is sanctioned under the ECLGS (taking into account both ECLGS 1.0 and 2.0), whichever is earlier.
- **Note:** The RBI had formed a five-member committee under the chairmanship of former ICICI Bank Chief Executive **KV Kamath** to make recommendations on the financial parameters to be considered in the restructuring of loans impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic.

The amalgamation of Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS Bank India Limited

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (LVB) with DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL).
- On 17.11.2020, to protect depositors' interest and in the interest of financial and banking stability, on RBI's application under

section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, LVB had been under a moratorium for a period of 30 days.

- **Note:** DBIL is a banking company licenced by RBI and operating in India through the wholly-owned subsidiary model, a leading financial services group in Asia, with presence in 18 markets and headquartered in Singapore.

'PM Modi and his Government's special relationship with Sikhs' book released

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar released a booklet 'PM Modi and his Government's special relationship with Sikhs' along with Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri on the occasion of Gurupurab.
- The book published by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was released in English, Hindi and Punjabi languages. The book is based on the messages of Guru Nanak Dev.
- **Note:** This year marks the 551st birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the first Sikh Guru, who laid the foundation of Sikhism.

RE-Invest 2020

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020) through video conferencing. The summit is organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- The **theme for RE-Invest 2020** is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.
- India's renewable power capacity is the 4th largest in the world and is growing at the fastest speed among all major countries. The renewable energy capacity in India is currently 136 Giga Watts, which is about 36% of our total capacity.
- India's annual renewable energy capacity addition has been exceeding that of coal-based



thermal power since 2017. In the last 6 years, India has increased installed renewable energy capacity by two and half times.

- **Note:** In September last year at the United Nations Climate Action Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced increasing the renewable energy target to 450 GW by 2030 from 175 GW by 2022.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs 33rd PRAGATI interaction

- It marked Prime Minister's 33rd interaction through PRAGATI - the ICT based multi-modal platform for **Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation**, involving Central and State governments.
- In the PRAGATI meeting, multiple projects, grievances, and programs were reviewed. The projects taken up were of the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, and Power Ministry. These projects, with a total cost of Rs 1.41 lakh crore, were related to ten states and union territories, including Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Dadra, and Nagar Haveli.
- During the meeting, grievances related to COVID-19 and to the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) were taken up. PM SVANidhi, agriculture reforms, and development of districts as export hubs were reviewed.
- **Note:** In the previous 32 such meetings, a total of 275 projects worth Rs 12.5 lakh crore have been reviewed, along with 47 programs/schemes and grievances across 17 sectors have been taken up.

80th All India Presiding Officers' Conference

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 80th All India Presiding Officers' Conference on November 25, 2020 in Kevadia, Gujarat. The two-day conference has been organized by Lok Sabha to

celebrate **Constitution Day on November 26**. Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, was the Chairperson of the conference.

- The **theme of the conference** was Harmonious Coordination of Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary- Key to Vibrant Democracy.
- The valedictory session of the conference had been addressed by Prime Minister Modi on November 26.
- **About All India Presiding Officers Conference:** The year, 2020, is also being celebrated as the centenary year of the Presiding officer's Conference. The All India Presiding Officers Conference began in 1921 and through the years, the conference has proven to be a platform to share new experiences, thoughts, and ideas to strengthen the democratic process.

Inauguration of Mega Food Park in Punjab

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated Mega Food Park (MFP) at Phagwara in Kapurthala district of Punjab.
- This Mega Food Park is built at a project cost of Rs 107.83 crores and spread over 55 acres of land.
- It is expected to benefit about 25000 farmers and likely to generate employment of about 5000 persons.
- **Note:** Government has started a scheme to create 10,000 new FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisations). Farmers are being given subsidy and the Government is focussing on the welfare of small farmers. A 10,000 crore fund has been created under Aatmanirbhar Bharat, for the development of the food processing sector which will benefit farmers and create employment opportunities. To date, 37 MFPs have been sanctioned and 20 have already started functioning.

Indian Railway launches digitized online Human Resource Management System (HRMS)



- Vinod Kumar Yadav, Chairman & CEO, Railway Board has launched the following modules of HRMS & User depot useful for railway employees and pensioners.
- Employee Self Service (ESS) module enables railway employees to interact with various modules of HRMS including communication regarding change of data.
- Provident Fund (PF) Advance module enables Railway employees to check their PF balance and apply for PF advance online.
- The settlement module digitizes the entire settlement process of retiring employees.
- **Note:** Prior to these modules, Indian Railways has already launched other modules of HRMS like Employee Master module, Electronic Service Record module, Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) module, Electronic Pass module, Office Order Module.

- The book has been written by Kirpal Singh, who is based in Chandigarh.

‘National Portal for Transgender Persons’ and ‘Garima Greh’

- Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launched a ‘National Portal for Transgender Persons’ and e-inaugurated a ‘Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons’ in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- National Portal for Transgender Persons has been developed within 2 months of Notification of Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020 on 29 September, 2020.
- This highly useful Portal would help a transgender person in applying for a Certificate and Identity card digitally from anywhere in the country.
- Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons, e-inaugurated in Vadodara, Gujarat will be run in association with Lakshya Trust, a Community based organisation entirely run by the Transgenders.
- The cities include Vadodara, New Delhi, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Kolkata, Manipur, Chennai, Raipur, Mumbai, etc. The scheme will rehabilitate a minimum of 25 transgender persons in each homes.
- This is a pilot project and after its successful completion, similar schemes will be extended to other parts of the country.
- Note: The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 came into effect on 10th January 2020 which is the first concrete step towards ensuring welfare of Transgender persons.
- To implement the provisions of the Act the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment issued the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020 which have been notified in the Gazzette of India.

November 2020

Constitution Day of India

- Constitution Day is celebrated in our country on 26th November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. The day is also known as National Law Day.
- On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26th January 1950.
- Note: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 19th November 2015 notified the decision of Government of India to celebrate the 26th day of November every year as 'Constitution Day' as a tribute to Dr B R Ambedkar who played an important role in its framing as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

PM Modi releases book on the life and ideals of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released a book on the life and ideals of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji, the founder of Sikhism and first of its ten gurus.

UMANG’s international version launched

- In coordination with the Ministry of



External Affairs, UMANG's international version was launched by Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad during the online conference for select countries that include USA, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

- It will help Indian international students, NRIs and Indian tourists abroad, to avail Government of India services, anytime.
- To mark the milestone of 2000+ services on UMANG and its 3 year journey, Shri Prasad also launched an e-Book which presents major milestones of UMANG.
- **UMANG Awards:** In the Central Department category, EPFO was bestowed the Platinum Partner award, followed by DigiLocker as the Gold Partner while ESIC and Bharat Gas services were declared the Silver Partner; the Bronze Partner award was announced for HP Gas, Doordarshan, National Consumer Helpline, CBSE, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban, Jeevan Pramaan & Jan Aushadhi Sugam.
- For the services of State Governments, the top 3 States based on average monthly transactions were - Gujarat, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.
- **About the UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance):** It is a Government of India all-in-one single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app. providing access to high impact services of various Government of India Departments and State Governments.

Food Processing Projects worth Rs 234.68 Crores approved

- Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, chaired the Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC) meeting on 24.11.2020 to consider the proposals received under the Scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Cluster of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana.
- IMAC approved 7 proposals with a total

project cost of Rs. 234.68 Crores including grants-in-aid of Rs. 60.87 Crores in the States/UTs of Meghalaya, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

- **Note:** The scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Cluster (APC) has been approved on 03.05.2017 under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) to incentivize the setting up of agro processing clusters in the country.
- This scheme aims at development of modern infrastructure to encourage entrepreneurs to set up food processing units based on cluster approach. These clusters will help in reducing the wastage of the surplus produce and add value to the horticultural / agricultural produce which will result in increase of income of the farmers and create employment at the local level.

Government of India blocks 43 mobile apps from accessing by users in India

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India issued an order under section 69A of the Information Technology Act blocking access to 43 mobile apps including AliSuppliers Mobile App, Alibaba Workbench, AliExpress, Alipay Cashier, CamCard.
- This action was taken based on the inputs regarding these apps for engaging in activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order.
- **Note:** Earlier on 29th June, 2020 the Government of India had blocked access to 59 mobile apps and on 2nd September 2020, 118 more apps were banned.

LIC launches digital application 'ANANDA'

- The Digital Application is called "ANANDA", which is an acronym for Atma Nirbhar Agents NewBusiness Digital Application.
- "The Digital application is a tool for the onboarding process to get the life insurance policy through a paperless



module with the help of the agent or intermediary.

- It is built on a paperless KYC process using Aadhaar-based e-authentication.
- **About Life Insurance Corporation of India:** It is an Indian state-owned insurance group and investment corporation owned by the Government of India.
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai
 - **Chairperson:** M R Kumar
 - **Founder:** Government of India
 - **Founded:** 1 September 1956

Petroleum Minister inaugurates Seismic Survey Campaign in Mahanadi Basin in Odisha

- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, inaugurated the seismic survey campaign of Oil India Limited (OIL), India's second largest National Exploration & Production Company, at Kakatpur in Puri District, Odisha in the Mahanadi Basin.
- The Government of India since 2014 has launched a number of policy reforms in the hydrocarbon E&P sector, chief among them being Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).
- The Government also is implementing the National Seismic Programme (NSP) for appraising unappraised areas of Indian sedimentary basins. Seismic data acquired under NSP in the state of Odisha led to an offer of five blocks by DGH and OIL won all the five blocks for hydrocarbon exploration under OALP-II and III rounds.
- The total envisaged expenditure on the entire exploration campaign in the five blocks in Mahanadi Basin (Onshore) is Rs. 1248.00 Crores of which Rs. 220.00 Crores is for Seismic survey.
- The blocks are spread in eleven districts of Odisha namely Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsingpur, Kendrapara, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Baleshore, Maurbhanj and Keonjhar.

Union Minister of Education inaugurates 46 online ATAL Faculty Development

Programmes (FDPs) organised by AICTE

- Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated 46 online **AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs)** to train teachers of higher education institutions associated with All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) in thrust and emerging areas in technology.
- ATAL Academy is to be included in the Book of World Records. London-based organization has recognized the FDPs as a world record, under which 1,000 online FDPs in over 100 emerging areas will benefit one lakh faculty members across premier institutions like IITs, NITs, and IIITs.
- In the year 2020-21, new thrust areas in the field of Engineering, Management, Life Skills, Design & Media have been incorporated.
- **Note:** Out of 1000, 499 FDPs have already been completed with more than 70,000 faculty members already trained.
- In 2019-20, 185 five-day face-to-face FDPs in nine thrust areas -- Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Blockchain, Robotics, Quantum Computing, Data Sciences, Cyber Security, 3D Printing & Design, and Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality -- benefited around 10,000 participants.

MoU (Memorandum of understanding) signed to set up 900 CBG plants

- To boost availability of affordable and clean transport fuels, a MoU was signed between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and leading oil & gas marketing companies & technology providers to establish Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants across India under the **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)**
- **Note:** SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) initiative for boosting production and availability of CBG as an alternative and affordable clean fuel for the transportation



sector was launched by the Government of India on 1.10.2018. The scheme envisages setting up of 5000 CBG plants by FY 2023-24.

Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge

- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, MoS, I/C, Housing, and Urban Affairs launched the Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge across 243 Cities.
- Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge was launched on the occasion of World Toilet Day- 19 November, is aimed at preventing hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and promotes their mechanized cleaning.
- An independent agency will assess participating cities in May 2021 and on 15 August 2021, results of the same will be declared. Award will be given to cities in three sub-categories – with a population of more than 10 lakhs, 3-10 lakhs and up to 3 lakhs, with total prize money of Rs 52 crores to be given to winning cities across all categories.
- **Note:** The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act (2013) and various judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court expressly prohibit hazardous cleaning, i.e. manual entry into a septic tank or sewer without protective gear and observing operating procedures.

Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar unveils e-books 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' and 'Loktantra Ke Swar'

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar unveiled ebook versions of two books 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' and 'Loktantra Ke Swar'.
- The hard copy versions of the books were unveiled by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.
- **About the Book:** The Republican Ethic, Volume 3, is a collection of selected speeches of the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind during the third year of his presidency.

- Divided into 8 sections, the 57 speeches covered in this volume reflect the thoughts and vision of Shri Kovind for building a new India that is forward-looking, growing, and also strongly rooted in its historical and cultural value systems.
- **Note:** The 'Loktantra Ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic', published by the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

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

- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Goa, have signed a memorandum of understanding to discuss rolling out of India's first Convergence Project in the State.
- The project will carry-out the feasibility studies and subsequent implementation of decentralized solar energy projects. It will accelerate the usage of renewable energy sources, especially for agricultural and rural power consumption in the State.
- EESL shall implement the solar energy projects, establishment of 100 MW of decentralized ground mounted Solar Power projects on government lands to be used for agricultural pumping, replace approximately 6,300 agricultural pumps with BEE (Bureau of Energy Efficiency) star rated energy efficient pumps and distribute approximately 16 Lakh LED bulbs for rural domestic households.
- **About EESL:** A joint venture of NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation, Rural Electrification Corporation and POWERGRID, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) was set up under the Ministry of Power to facilitate implementation of energy efficiency projects.
- EESL is a Super Energy Service Company (ESCO) that seeks to unlock the energy efficiency market in India, estimated at Rs. 74,000 crore that can potentially result in energy savings of up to 20 percent of current



consumption, by way of innovative business and implementation models.

RBI names 2 startups as a part of its regulatory sandbox programme

- Reserve Bank of India has announced the names of two startups that have been selected as a part of its regulatory sandbox programme.
- First company is Jaipur based Natural Support Consultancy Services Private Limited and second is New Delhi based Nucleus Software Exports Limited.
- The first company has named its product 'eRupaya', which will facilitate offline Person-to-Merchant transactions and offline digital payments in remote locations;
- The second company's product 'PaySe', proposes to help in digitisation of payments in rural areas, starting with Self Help Groups, through an offline payment solution and a digitised SHG-centered ecosystem.
- Note: Regulatory sandbox is a framework set up by a regulator that allows FinTech startups and other innovators to conduct live experiments in a controlled environment under a regulator's supervision.

PM Modi's address at 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered an address at the Third Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum on 17th November 2020. The forum witnessed conversations centered on refueling the economy and charting a course for the future, in the wake of the corona virus pandemic.
- **Note: Bloomberg New Economy Forum** was established in 2018 by Michael Bloomberg. It seeks to build a community of leaders to engage in real conversations leading to actionable solutions about the critical challenges facing a world economy in the throes of a historic transition.
- The inaugural Forum was held in Singapore and the Second Annual Forum was hosted in Beijing. These covered a

range of topics, including global economic management, trade and investment, technology, urbanization, capital markets, climate change and inclusion.

Kris Gopalakrishnan appointed first chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)

- The Reserve Bank has appointed Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-chairman, Infosys, as the first Chairperson of the RBIH.
- Gopalakrishnan is currently the Chief Mentor of Start-up Village, an incubation hub for start-ups.
- **Note:** In August 2020, RBI had announced that it will set up the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging on technology and creating an environment that would facilitate and foster innovation.
- The RBIH shall create an ecosystem that would focus on promoting access to financial services and products and this will also promote financial inclusion.

First solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia

- In Maharashtra, the first solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia is coming up in Parbhani district.
- The Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill will be the first in Asia that will operate on solar power.
- Chairman of the textile mill Dr. Sampriya Rahul Patil said that the finest quality cotton will be procured from Parbhani itself.
- **Note:** Parbhani is the leading cotton producing district in Maharashtra.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled 'Statue of Peace' to mark 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj

- The Statue unveiled in the honour of the Jain acharya, has been named as 'Statue of Peace'. The 151 inch tall statue has been made from Ashtadhatu i.e. 8 metals, with Copper being the major constituent, and is

installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Pali, Rajasthan.

- Note: The Jainacharya established many institutions for girl children and brought women to the mainstream. Bird Hospital and many gaushalas are running in the country today.

India's first Sandalwood Museum

- This first of a kind museum has been set by the Mysuru Forest Division at the Sandalwood Depot in Aranya Bhavan, Mysuru, Karnataka.
- Visitors can learn about sandalwood classification, varieties of sandalwood, its farming methods, etc. It will also display posters with information about sandalwood growth and its role in prevention of diseases.
- Later, the museum might get shifted to the Mysuru Palace.

'Project Air Care' launched in Gurgaon to control pollution

- Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar unveiled 'Project Air Care' in the district, as part of which 65 Wind Augmentation Air Purifying Units (WAYU) will be installed across the district.
- The air purification project is the result of a public-private partnership between the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and GSK Consumer Healthcare. Created by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute and IIT, Bombay, the air purification units convert pollutants like PM2.5 and PM2.10 particles, volatile organic compounds, and carbon monoxide, into carbon dioxide using a filter.
- The creators of the devices, which can provide purified air in an area of 500 square metres, claim these can reduce PM10 by 60-70 % and PM2.5 by 30-40 % at traffic junctions.

The 15th Finance Commission submits its Report for 2021-22 to 2025-26 to the President of India on 9 November 2020

- Shri N K Singh is the chairman of

Fifteenth Finance Commission.

- The Commission was asked to give its recommendations on many unique and wide-ranging issues in its terms of reference-the vertical and horizontal tax devolution, local government grants, disaster management grant, examine and recommend performance incentives for States in many areas like power sector, adoption of DBT, solid waste management etc., examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up.
- **Note:** As per the terms of reference (ToR), the Commission was mandated to give its recommendations for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 by 30 October, 2020. Last year, the Commission had submitted its report containing recommendations for the year 2020-21 which was accepted by the Union Government and tabled in the Parliament on 30 January 2020.

Saffron bowl of India extends to the North East

- 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.
- **North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR)**, an autonomous body under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India supported a pilot project to explore the feasibility of growing saffron in North East region of India, with the same quality and higher quantity.
- **The Botany and Horticulture department of Sikkim Central University** carried out tests to understand the soil and actual pH conditions of Yangyang of Sikkim and found it comparable to saffron growing places of Kashmir.
- **Note: Saffron** is a spice derived from the flower of *Crocus sativus*, commonly known as the "saffron crocus". It is used in cosmetics and for medicinal purposes.



“HunarHaat” returns after a gap of seven months

- Union Ministers Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the “HunarHaat”, being organised at Delhi Haat, Pitampura from 11th to 22nd November, 2020.
- **Note:** “HunarHaat” is available at virtual and online platform also. Products of artisans are also available on <http://hunarhaat.org>. Union Minority Affairs Ministry is registering these artisans and their indigenous products on “GeM” (Government e Marketplace).

India's first solar-based water supply project launched in Arunachal Pradesh

- India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) was dedicated to the people of Arunachal Pradesh by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- The solar-based lift water supply project for 39 villages in Lower Dibang Valley district in northeastern Arunachal Pradesh was commissioned at a cost of Rs 28.50 crore.
- The project is designed to provide drinking water to 17,480 people and has been conceived as an integrated project with an element of drinking water, green energy and tourism component in it.
- **Note:** The Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched the "Arunachal Jal Sankalp", a state government dedicated flagship programme to supplement the Jal Jeevan Mission and to sustain the drinking water systems.

First of its kind policy consultations with Indian Diaspora on STIP (Science Technology and Innovation Policy) 2020

- In a first of its kind policy consultation, Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan interacted with the highly-skilled Indian diaspora to facilitate channels for them to contribute to India’s STIP 2020.
- Country aims to connect the diaspora with Indian scientific and economic ecosystem

to accelerate the growth in Science technology and innovation.

- It is important to build policy level mechanisms that enable creation of suitable opportunities for attracting best talents back home.
- **Note:** The VAIBHAV Summit and the recently launched dedicated, one-stop platform for S&T diaspora engagement, “PRABHASS” (Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark) are some proactive steps of the Government towards this engagement.

Shaktikanta Das Chairs 40th SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group Meeting

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated and chaired the 40th meeting of the SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group.
- The group took stock of the macroeconomic situation in the SAARC region and discussed the current SAARCFINANCE initiatives.
- Mr. Das is also the chairperson of the SAARCFINANCE, which is a network of central bank governors and finance secretaries of the SAARC region.
- **Note:** The meeting was attended by the Governors from SAARC Central Banks- Bangladesh Bank, Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan, Maldives Monetary Authority, Nepal Rastra Bank, State Bank of Pakistan, Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Da Afghanistan Bank.

Former Delhi chief secretary M M Kutty to be first chairperson of Air Quality Commission

- The Centre has notified the Commission for Air Quality Management for the National Capital Region (NCR) to set up the new agency with sweeping powers to monitor and act against sources of air pollution across five north Indian states (Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan).
- The ordinance empowers the agency to make rules, set emission standards, and slap fines of up to Rs1 crore or imprison violators for up to five years.



- **Note:** The Commission replaces all ad hoc committees and bodies created as per court orders. They include the Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution Control Authority that was formed to oversee measures to check air pollution in NCR in 1998.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constitutes a committee to review guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India

- The Chairman of the Committee shall be **Shri Shashi S. Vempati, CEO, Prasar Bharti.**
- The present guidelines issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) on Television Rating Agencies in India were notified after detailed deliberations by the Parliamentary Committee, Committee on Television Rating Points (TRP) constituted by the MIB and recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority.
- A committee has been hereby constituted to study different aspects of the television rating system in India.

Chacha Chaudhary becomes the Brand Ambassador for Namami Gange Project

- The iconic Indian superhero, Chacha Chaudhary, whose brain works faster than a computer has now come forward to join hands with the Namami Gange Programme. Diamond Toons will conceptualize and publish this new 'Talking Comics' with Chacha Chaudhary spreading awareness on the cultural and spiritual significance of River Ganga and deploy best available knowledge across the masses for Ganga rejuvenation. **The teaser was released during Ganga Utsav 2020.**
- **Note:** The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organised three-day Ganga Utsav 2020 from Nov 02 to 04.

Ministry of Shipping renamed Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, a branch of the Government of

India, is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations and laws relating to ports, shipping and waterways.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Ro-Pax terminal at Hazira and Flags off Ro-Pax ferry service between Hazira and Ghogha in Gujarat

- There will be several wide-ranging benefits of the Hazira-Ghogha Ro-Pax ferry service.
- It will work as a Gateway to South Gujarat and Saurashtra region. It will reduce the distance between Ghogha and Hazira from 370 Km to 90 Km.
- The reduced cargo travel time from 10 to 12 hours to about 4 hours will result in huge savings of fuel and lower the maintenance cost of vehicles drastically.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Chaired Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020 Conference

- The VGIR 2020 was organised by the Union Ministry of Finance and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.
- It is an exclusive dialogue between leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders and the highest decision-makers from the Government of India and Financial Market Regulators.
- VGIR 2020 focuses on discussions around India's economic and investment outlook, structural reforms and the government's vision for the path to a USD 5 trillion economy.
- **Note:** The roundtable witnesses participation from 20 of the world's largest pension and sovereign wealth funds with a total Assets Under Management of about US\$6 trillion. These global institutional investors represent key regions including the US, Europe, Canada, Korea, Japan, Middle East, Australia, and Singapore.

India's first-ever E-resource centre 'Nyay Kaushal' in Nagpur

- Chief Justice of India, Sharad Arvind Bobde inaugurated India's first-ever E-resource centre Nyay Kaushal. The centre was

inaugurated 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.

- **Note:** Delhi was the first to start **virtual traffic courts** across India.

Hardeep Singh Puri to inaugurate 13th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2020

- This UMI Conference is being organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on 9th November 2020.
- Theme is "Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility" with focus on innovative measures taken at national and international level to address the challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic to provide accessible and convenient transport to the people.
- **Note:** Till date, 12 events have been organized from 2008 to 2019.
 - The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India issued the National Urban Transport Policy, 2006 (NUTP). The objective of the policy is to ensure safe, affordable, quick, comfortable, reliable and sustainable access for the growing number of city residents to jobs, education, recreation and such other needs within our cities.
 - As part of the NUTP enunciations, the Ministry has taken the initiative to organize an annual international Conference-cum-Exhibition on Urban Mobility India popularly known as UMI.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated Mansar Lake Development Plan in Jammu

- Dr. Jitendra Singh said that after its implementation, the number of Tourists/pilgrims will increase from 10 lakhs to 20 lakhs per year in Mansar region. Mansar Rejuvenation Plan will lead to employment generation of about 1.15 crore man-days and will generate more than Rs 800 crore of income per

year.

Kiren Rijju inaugurates SAI Regional Centre in Zirakpur, Punjab

- Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijju inaugurated Sports Authority of India's (SAI) new Regional Centre in Zirakpur, Punjab which will now act as one of the main SAI centres for the northern belt of India.
- The northern belt of India covers a huge region, right from Jammu and Kashmir and Leh to Himachal Pradesh.

ESSCI (The Electronics Sector Skill Council of India) announced appointment of PVG Menon as its chief executive officer (CEO)

- Menon will be responsible for overseeing the operations of ESSCI and work closely with its governing Council on strategic issues related to the growth of the electronic systems design and manufacturing industry in India.
- **ESSCI (Electronics Sector Skill Council of India)** works with industry, the National Skill Development Corporation, and the Ministry of Electronics and IT to provide skilling and re-skilling services to the industry.
- **ESDM (Electronic Systems Design and Manufacturing)** industry is one of the fastest growing sectors of the Indian economy. It will be an important contributor to achieving the vision of a trillion dollar manufacturing economy for India.

Paul Zacharia selected for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram

- Noted Malayalam writer Paul Zacharia was chosen for his contribution to Malayalam literature during the past five decades.
- **Note: Ezhuthachan Puraskaram** is the highest literary honour that is given by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi, Government of Kerala. The award is named after Thunchaththu Ezhuthachan, the father of

the Malayalam language and consists of a cash prize of ₹5,00,000 and a citation.

Ayush Ministry and Invest India to jointly set up “Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau” (SPFB) for planned and systematic growth of Ayush sector

- This Bureau will support the Ministry in strategic and policy making initiatives that shall help pave the way to reach the full potential of the sector and stimulate growth and investment.
- M/S Invest India would collaborate extensively with the Ministry to frame the work plan of the Bureau and define its short-and long-term targets. Invest India would deploy highly trained and expert resources to implement and execute the plans of the Ministry.
- **About Invest India:** As the national investment promotion and facilitation agency, Invest India focuses on sector-specific investor targeting and development of new partnerships to enable sustainable investments in India.
- Invest India, set up in 2009, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Indian Railways launches 'Meri Saheli' initiative

- Indian Railways has launched “Meri Saheli” initiative which aims for focused action on the security of women across all zones.
- An initiative of RPF (Railway Protection Force), the Strategy entails interaction for security with lady passengers especially those travelling alone by a team of young lady RPF personnel at the originating station.
- **Note:** “Meri Saheli” initiative was started as a pilot project in South Eastern Railway in September 2020.

SBI raises 1 billion USD untied loan with JBIC

- The State Bank of India signed a loan

agreement amounting to up to one billion US Dollars with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

- The loan is intended to promote the smooth flow of funds for the whole range of business operations of Japanese automobile manufacturers in India.
- **Note:** As part of the agreement, 600 million US Dollars will be financed by JBIC while the remaining amount will be financed by other participating banks. The facility will be co-financed by SMBC, MUFG Bank, Mizuho Bank, Shizuoka Bank and Bank of Yokohama.

NITI Aayog, Quality Council of India (QCI) Launch National Program and Project Management Policy Framework (NPMPF) Initiative to Transform Infrastructure Sector in India

- Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari unveiled the *Indian Infrastructure Body of Knowledge (InBoK)*, a book on the practice of program and project management in India.
- **Note:** NPMPF will help to build a stronger India, in which we would need good quality infrastructure; we would need to reduce costs and waste material, without compromising on the environment and ecology. This framework aims to formulate radical reforms in the way large and mega infrastructure projects are managed in India.

NTPC Ltd. enters into foreign currency loan agreement with Japanese Government's financial institution for JPY 50 billion under GREEN initiative

- In the first funding for NTPC Ltd under Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC)'s GREEN or Global Action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation initiative, India's largest power producer entered into foreign currency loan agreement with Japanese Government's financial institution for JPY 50 billion.
- The facility is extended under JBIC's outreach for projects, which ensure



conservation of global environment.

- **Note:** The loan proceeds will be utilized by NTPC Ltd for funding its capex for Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) & Renewable Energy projects.

The Prime Minister inaugurated Water Aerodrome at Kevadia and the Sea-plane service connecting Statue of Unity in Kevadia with Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad

- **Note:** Seaplanes have the ability to land and take-off from water thus offering access to areas that do not have landing strips or runways. It can help in connecting the geographies/regions that have challenges owing to its topography and bring the remotest parts of India into the mainstream aviation network without the high cost of building airports and runways.

The Prime Minister inaugurated 'Aarogya Van' near the Statue of Unity in Kevadiya village of Gujarat's Narmada district

- **Note:** 'Aarogya Van' (health forest) is spread over an area of about 17 acres, displaying a wide range of medicinal plants which play an important role in the well-being of human beings. Five lakh plants of 380 selected species have been grown in the sprawling garden.

Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman leads Indian delegation in 10th Round of Ministerial UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD)

- India-UK are two of the world's top seven economies with a combined GDP of over \$5 trillion. India-UK trade has more than doubled since the first EFD, with bilateral investment supporting over half a million jobs across both countries.
- The topics which were discussed in EFD are:
 - Financial Services Collaboration with special emphasis on Fin-Tech and GIFT City.
 - To establish bilateral India- UK Sustainable Finance Forum
 - International Solar Alliance and the

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- 2.6 million pound for joint research projects on the future of UK-India trade and investment.
- UK-India Fast-Track Startup Fund backed by SIDBI and the UK government for early-stage tech startups.

- **The next EFD will be held in London in 2021.**

Public Affairs Index-2020

- The Public Affairs Index-2020 was released by the Public Affairs Centre, headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K. Kasturirangan. The states were ranked on governance performance based on a composite index in the context of sustainable development defined by three pillars of equity, growth and sustainability.
- **In the large state category in terms of governance**
 - Kerala (1.388 PAI Index point), Tamil Nadu (0.912) and Andhra Pradesh (0.531) stood in the first three ranks.
 - Uttar Pradesh (-1.461), Odisha (-1.201) and Bihar (-1.158) were at the bottom of the ranking.
- **In the small state category in terms of governanc**
 - Goa ranked first with 1.745 points, followed by Meghalaya (0.797) and Himachal Pradesh (0.725).
 - Worst performers are Manipur (-0.363), Delhi (-0.289) and Uttarakhand (-0.277).
- **In the category of union territory in terms of governance**
 - Chandigarh emerged the best governed with 1.05 points, followed by Puducherry (0.52) and Lakshadweep (0.003).
 - Dadar and Nagar Haveli (-0.69), Andaman, Jammu and Kashmir (-0.50) and Nicobar (-0.30) were the least performers.

Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha to be next Chief



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Information Commissioner

- Sinha was appointed as information commissioner in the CIC on January 1, 2019. A former diplomat, Sinha has served as high commissioner of India to the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka.

Annual State of Education Report (ASER) 2020

- As per ASER, survey conducted in September across the country, about 20% of rural children have no textbooks at home. About one in three rural children had done no learning activity at all. About two in three had no learning materials or activity given by their school, and only one in ten had access to live online classes.
- It found that 5.3% of rural children aged 6-10 years had not yet enrolled in school this year, in comparison to just 1.8% in 2018. Among 15-16-year-olds, however, enrolment levels are slightly higher than in 2018. Enrolment patterns also show a slight shift toward government schools, with private schools seeing a drop in enrolment in all age groups.
- **Note: ASER** is a nationwide survey of rural education and learning outcomes in terms of reading and arithmetic skills that has been conducted by the **NGO Pratham** for the last 15 years.

15 States identified for implementing centrally sponsored pilot scheme on Fortification of Rice & its distribution through Public Distribution System

- Department of Food & Public Distribution has approved the pilot scheme for a period of three years beginning 2019-2020. Fifteen State Governments have identified their respective districts (1 district per state) for implementing the pilot scheme.
- Already 5 states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh have started the distribution of fortified rice in their respective identified districts.
- **Note: The fortified rice** is a mixture of iron, vitamin B-12 and folic acid enriched

fortified rice kernel (FRK), which meet the nutritional requirements in the diet and thereby help in controlling malnutrition and anemia.

COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge Award

- Six women led startups have won COVID-19 Shri Shakti.
- The Jury selected top 3 entries as winners, 3 additional entries as Promising Solutions.

Top 3 winners:

- (i) Dr. P. Gayatri Hela (Bengaluru-based Resada Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd).
- (ii) Romita Ghosh (Shimla-based iHeal HealthTech Pvt. Ltd).
- (iii) Dr. Anjana Ramkumar and Dr. Anushka Ashokan (Kerala based Thanmatra Innovations Pvt. Ltd).

Top 3 Start-ups identified as 'Promising Solutions':

- (i) Vasanthi Palanivel (Bengaluru-based Seragen BioTherapeutics Pvt. Ltd).
- (ii) Shivi Kapil (Bengaluru-based Empathy Design Labs).
- (iii) Jaya Parashar and Ankita Parashar (STREAM Minds).

Note: COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge was launched by **MyGov in collaboration with UN Women** in April 2020. It aims to encourage and involve women led start-ups to come up with innovative solutions that can help in the fight against COVID19 or solve problems that impact a large number of women.

October 2020

Minister for shipping, Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Direct Port Entry (DPE) facility of V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust

- It enables direct movement of containers from factories, without intermediate handling at Container Freight Stations, thus helping the shippers to gate-in exports directly to the container terminal 24x7.
- This is a noteworthy step towards reducing logistics cost and increasing the velocity of the cargo. DPE will help in increasing ease of doing business for the exporters, as the facility will bring efficiency and reduce dwell time, lower tariff cost and improve the competitiveness of shippers in international trade.



Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu launches festival of 'Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance'

- It is organized by Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations.
- Natya Tarangini is organising the 'Parampara Series' continuously since past 23 years, and adopting innovative efforts to make it happen for the 24th year, even in difficult times like this.

IIT Kanpur and ASI sign MoU with Italian institutes for restoration of monuments

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have signed an agreement with two institutions from Italy, seeking restoration and protection of historical monuments.
- Two institutions from Italy are Ca'Foscari University of Venice and Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti E Paesaggio, Venice.
- **About ASI:** The **Archaeological Survey of India** is an Indian government agency attached to the Ministry of Culture that is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural monuments in the country.
 - **Director General:** V. Vidyavathi
 - **Founded:** 1861
 - **Parent organisation:** Ministry of Culture
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi

MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari launches India's first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear

- Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises- MSME, Nitin Gadkari launched India's first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear, designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- These footwear are made of Khadi fabric like Silk, Cotton and Wool.
- **Note: Khadi and Village Industries Commission** is a statutory body formed in April 1957 by the Government of India, under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and

Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'. Vinai Kumar Saxena is the Chairman.

ECI constitutes committee to examine issues concerning expenditure limits

- Election Commission has constituted a committee comprising Harish Kumar, Ex. IRS and DG (Investigation), Umesh Sinha, Secretary General and DG (Expenditure) to examine the issues concerning expenditure limit for a candidate in view of increase in number of electors and rise in Cost Inflation Index and other factors.
- **About ECI (Election Commission of India)**
 - **Formed:** 25 January 1950 (Later celebrated as National Voters Day)
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Commission executives:** **Sunil Arora, Chief Election Commissioner of India**
 - Rajeev Kumar, Election Commissioner of India
 - Sushil Chandra, Election Commissioner of India

The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda launched two Centers of Excellence (CoE) for Tribal Welfare in collaboration between Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and Art of Living (AoL)

- **First Centers of Excellence** in the field of training 10000 tribal farmers in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra on sustainable natural farming based on Go-Adharith farming techniques.
- Farmers will be helped in getting the Organic certification and the marketing opportunities will be made available to them to make each of them Atmanirbhar Tribal Farmers.
- **Second Centers of Excellence** in the field of 'Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)' in 5 districts covering 30 Gram Panchayats and 150 villages of Jharkhand.
- Strengthening of tribal Panchayati Raj Institutions will also help to educate them



about their constitutional rights. This will empower the PRIs in matters relating to decision making and development of their community.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates three-day National Conference on Vigilance and Anti Corruption

- Theme of this conference is Vigilant India, Prosperous India.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation organizes this National Conference coinciding with ‘**Vigilance Awareness Week**’, which is observed in India every year from 27th October to 2nd November.
- **Note:** Activities in this conference would be focused on Vigilance issues aimed at raising awareness and reaffirming India’s commitment to promotion of integrity and probity in public life through citizen participation.

CBSE introduces Facial Recognition System for accessing digital academic documents

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced a facial recognition system for accessing digital documents on platforms like “Parniaam Manjusha” and DigiLocker.
- Candidates will be able to download their Class 10, 12 mark sheets and certificates from DigiLocker without providing Aadhaar Card or mobile number.
- DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under the Digital India initiative.
- **About Digital India:** It is a campaign launched by the Government of India in order to ensure the Government’s services are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity or making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology.
- It was launched on 1 July 2015.

Union Minister of State for Culture and

Tourism Shri Prahlad Singh Patel virtually launches “Life in Miniature” project

- It is a collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts & Culture.
- Several hundred miniature paintings from the National Museum, New Delhi can be viewed online on Google Arts & Culture.
- **Note:** The project reinforces the comprehensive collaboration between the National Museum and Google Arts & Culture, a partnership that began in 2011.
- **About The National Museum, New Delhi:** The National Museum, New Delhi, under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is the premiere cultural institution of the Nation. The National Museum has in its possession over 2,00,000 antiquities & art objects, both of Indian and Foreign origin covering more than 5,000 years of our cultural heritage.
- **About Google Arts & Culture:** Google Arts & Culture puts the collections of more than 2,000 museums at one’s fingertips. It’s an immersive way to explore art, history and the wonders of the world.

Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) extends coverage of health insurance scheme to Arunachal Pradesh

- Government of India has now extended the Employees State Insurance (ESI) Scheme for the first time to Arunachal Pradesh, with effect from 1st November, 2020.
- All factories located in the district of Papum Pare of Arunachal Pradesh employing 10 or more persons shall become eligible for coverage.
- **Employees’ State Insurance (ESI)** is a self-financing social security and health insurance scheme for Indian workers. The fund is managed by the Employees’ State Insurance Corporation according to rules and regulations stipulated in the ESI Act 1948.
- **Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** is a Statutory and autonomous Body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.



- **Industry: Insurance**
- **Founded: 24 February 1952**
- **Headquarters: New Delhi, India**
- **Director General: Ms. Anuradha Prasad**

Formed: August 2011

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Rita Teotia

‘Electricity Access in India and Benchmarking Distribution Utilities’ Report

- NITI Aayog, Ministry of Power, Rockefeller Foundation and Smart Power India launched the report.
- According to the report, 92 % of customers reported the overall availability of electricity infrastructure within 50 metres of their premises.
- 87 % of the surveyed customers have access to grid-based electricity. The remaining 13 % either use non-grid sources or do not use any electricity at all.
- The hours of supply have improved significantly across the customer categories to nearly 17 hours per day.
- The report highlights the benefits of government-led schemes such as **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana** and **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana**.

FSSAI’s new food safety compliance platform to become operational across India from November 2020

- **The system has been operational in 9 States/UTs -Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Odisha, Chandigarh, Manipur, Goa, Puducherry and Ladakh since June.**
- **FSSAI is launching its cloud based, upgraded new food safety compliance online platform called FoSCoS (URL-<https://foscoss.fssai.gov.in>).**
- It will replace the existing FLRS (Food Licensing and Registration System) (URL-<https://foodlicensing.fssai.gov.in>)
- **Note:** 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.
- **Facts about FSSAI** (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)

Under: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme

- Ayushman Sahakar scheme aims at bringing transformation in the health services primarily in the rural areas.
- This scheme has been formulated by the NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation). NCDC would extend term loans to prospective cooperatives to the tune of 10000 crore in the coming years.

Facts: National Cooperative Development Corporation is a statutory corporation set up under an Act of Indian Parliament.

Founded: 13 March 1963

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Agency executive: Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Managing Director

Under: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

PM Narendra Modi to deliver keynote address at virtual Grand Challenges Annual Meeting

- Grand Challenges Annual Meeting will convene from October 19 to 21.
- The Grand Challenges Annual Meeting, for the last 15 years, has fostered international innovation collaborations to address the biggest challenges in health and development. It will call for deepened scientific collaborations in solving global health problems with great emphasis on COVID-19 with an "India for the World" framing.

Note: The Grand Challenges Annual Meeting 2020 will be co-hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, the Indian Council of Medical Research and NITI Aayog,



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along with the Grand Challenges Canada, the United States Agency for International Development and Welcome.

Government to make India free of Trans fat by 2022

- Health Minister Dr Harsh said that the aim of the government is to make India Trans Fat free by 2022, a year ahead of target set by World Health Organization.
- This year is the elimination of trans-fat from the food supply chain.
- He also launched the 'Eat Smart City' challenge by FSSAI in partnership with Smart City Mission and The Food Foundation, UK to create an environment of right food practices and habits in India's smart cities and can set an example for others to follow.
- **Note: Trans fats** are a form of unsaturated fat associated with a number of negative health effects. Artificial trans fat is created during hydrogenation, which converts liquid vegetable oils into semi-solid partially hydrogenated oil. Trans fat can also be found naturally in meat and dairy.

Union Education Minister launched 'KAPILA' (Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Education campaign)

- The program was launched on the 89th birth anniversary of former President Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
- The Institution Innovation Council (IIC 2.0) annual report was presented and the launch of IIC 3.0 was announced. It has also been decided to celebrate the week of 15th to 23rd October as 'Intellectual Property Literacy Week'.
- **Note: Institution Innovation Council (IIC)** was established by the Ministry of Education in 2018. It aims to conduct various innovation and entrepreneurship-related activities.
- **National Intellectual Property Rights Policy** was approved by the Indian cabinet on 12 May 2016 to ensure compliance to the Doha Development Round and TRIPS Agreement. With its seven objectives, it aims at creating a "Creative India;

Innovative India".

Government launches CuRED, CSIR website on COVID-19 clinical trials

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a website that gives comprehensive information about the numerous COVID-19 clinical trials that CSIR is engaged in partnership with industry, other government departments and ministries.
- **CuRED (CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs)**, the website provides information about the drugs, diagnostics and devices including the current stage of the trials, partnering institutions and their role in the trials and other details.
- **Note: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** was established in September 1942 as an autonomous body that has emerged as the largest research and development organization in India. Its Director General is Shekhar C. Mande.

Cabinet approves mutual recognition pact between India's ICAI and Malaysia's MICPA

- The Union Cabinet approved the mutual recognition agreement between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA). This would enable appropriately qualified chartered accountant members of either institute to join the other by receiving appropriate credit for their existing accountancy qualification.
- Besides, the Cabinet cleared a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ICAI and the Certified Practising Accountants, Papua New Guinea (CPA PNG) to work together in capacity building and strengthening the accounting, financial and audit knowledge base in Papua New Guinea.
- **Note: Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** is the national professional accounting body of India. It was established on 1 July 1949 as a statutory body under the Chartered



Accountants Act, 1949 enacted by the Parliament to regulate the profession of Chartered Accountancy in India.

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate three key projects in Gujarat on 24th October

(i) **Kisan Suryodaya Yojana** is to provide day-time power supply for irrigation.

(ii) **Paediatric Heart Hospital** attached with the U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre and a Mobile Application for tele-cardiology at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad.

(iii) **Girnar Ropeway** will provide a scenic view of the lush green beauty surrounding the Girnar mountain.

Facts about Gujarat:

State Bird: Greater flamingo

State Animal: Asiatic lion

State Flower: Marigold

State Tree: Banyan

Sardar Patel statue, which is the highest in the world.

New series of consumer price index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) released

- Labour Minister, Santosh Gangwar released the new series of consumer price index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) with 2016 Base Year.
- Earlier the base year for the CPI-IW was 2001. It is an important economic indicator.
- **Note:** CPI-IW is a measure of inflation and used to calculate dearness allowance (DA) for government employees, wages for industrial workers and dearness relief for pensioners.
- India has five consumer price indices (CPIs), three of which are working-class specific. These are **CPI-IW** for industrial workers, **CPI-AL** for agricultural labour and **CPI-RL** for rural labour. There is also **CPI-Urban** and **CPI Rural**. The combined rise in retail prices is captured by **CPI Combined**.

Minister of State for Shipping, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya launched the development of Indigenous Software solution for VTS (Vessel Traffic Services) and VTMS (Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems)

- VTS and VTMS is software which determines vessel positions, position of other traffic or meteorological hazard warnings and extensive management of traffic within a port or waterway.
- **Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)** contribute to safety of life at sea, safety and efficiency of navigation and protection of the marine environment, adjacent shore areas, work sites and offshore installations from possible adverse effects of maritime traffic.
- **Vessels Traffic Management Systems** are installed in some of the busiest waters in the world. Data from traffic movements can be stored and used as reference information for port administration, port authorities, coastguards and search and rescue services.

6th India International Science Festival (IISF)

- The 6th edition of IISF 2020 will be held from 22nd to 25th December, 2020.
- IISF is organised jointly by Science & Technology-related Ministries & Departments of the Government of India and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha).
- **Note:** 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.
- The 1st and 2nd IISF were held in New Delhi, the 3rd in Chennai, the 4th in Lucknow, and the 5th was in Kolkata.

RBI conducted the first-ever open market operation (OMO) in state development loans (SDLs), buying Rs 10,000 crore of securities

- SDL holders offered Rs 15,475 crore of bonds against the OMO size of Rs 10,000 crore. The lowest cut-off yield was offered for Karnataka's 9-year bond at 6.4746 per cent, while the highest cut-off was for Jammu Kashmir's 10-year SDL at 6.6813 per cent. Overall, two papers each of 15 states were purchased in the OMO.
- In a separate development, the RBI has also announced OMO purchase of central government bonds worth Rs 20,000 crore on October 29, 2020.



- **Note: State Development Loans (SDLs)** are the securities issued by states to manage their own finances.

Indian government launches 'e-Dharti Geo portal'

- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, launched the 'e-Dharti GeoPortal' which will integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system.
- **Note:** Portal will allow the data to become geographic information system (GIS)-enabled. The ministry issued in a statement that the Land and Development office has developed a property certificate incorporating details and the outline map of the property which is available online on the portal.

NITI Ayog to formulate a national policy on water conservation under 'Buldhana Pattern'

- Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari said that Maharashtra's 'Buldhana Pattern' of water conservation has won national recognition and the NITI Aayog is in the process of formulating National Policy on water conservation based on it.
- **Note: Buldhana Pattern-** The synchronization of national highway construction and water conservation was achieved for the first time in Buldhana district, by using soil from the water bodies, nallas and rivers. This consequently led to the increase in capacity of water storage across the water-bodies in Buldana district.
- By this activity in Maharashtra, 225 lakh cubic metre of soil was used in National Highway construction and the resultant widening / deepening resulted in increase of 22,500 Thousand Cubic Metre (TMC) of water storage capacity with no cost to state government.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide 346 million dollar loan for Power Supply Project in Rural Maharashtra and 177 million dollar loan for Maharashtra Road Improvements

- **Facts: Asian Development Bank (ADB)**
- **Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, Philippines
- **President:** Masatsugu Asakawa
- **Founded:** 19 December 1966
- **Purpose:** Economic development
- **Membership:** 68 countries
- India was a founding member of ADB in 1966 and is now the bank's fourth-largest shareholder.
- Vice-President of ADB is **Mr. Ashok Lavasa**

Rajkiran Rai appointed as IBA chairman

- Presently Mr. Rai is Union Bank of India's CEO. He succeeds **Rajnish Kumar** as the IBA Chairman.
- SBI's chairman **Dinesh Kumar Khara** has been elected as the deputy chairman of the association.
- **Note: IBA (Indian Banks' Association)**, formed on 26 September 1946 as a representative body of management of banking in India is an association of banks, financial institutions and others that deals with resolving generic and industry level issues of its members.

Dinesh Kumar Khara appointed as new Chairman of SBI

- The government-appointed senior banker **Dinesh Kumar Khara** as chairman of the State Bank of India. Mr Khara was appointed as MD (Managing Director) of SBI in August 2016.
- **Note: State Bank of India** is an Indian multinational public sector bank and financial services statutory body. SBI got 236th rank in the Fortune Global 500 list of the world's biggest corporations of 2019.

Renaming of Naugarh Railway Station to Siddharthnagar

- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the renaming of Naugarh railway station to Siddharthnagar situated at Siddharthnagar district in Uttar Pradesh.



NECHIPHU TUNNEL

- Union Defence minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of the Nechiphu Tunnel on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- It will be constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Facts about BRO:

- **Motto:** Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (everything is achievable through hard work)
- **Established:** 7 May 1960
- **Headquarter:** New Delhi
- **Director General:** Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh
- **Under:** Ministry of Defence

Zozila Tunnel – the longest tunnel road in Asia

- This tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar valley and Leh (Ladakh plateau) on NH-1. It involves construction of a 14.15 Km long tunnel at an altitude of about 3000 m under Zojila pass. It will bring about an all-round economic and socio-cultural integration of Jammu & Kashmir.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release commemorative Rs 75 coin to mark 75th Anniversary of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)

- He will also dedicate 17 recently developed bio-fortified varieties of eight crops. These varieties, along with other food ingredients, will transform the normal Indian thali into nutri-thali. These varieties have been produced by utilizing the local landraces and farmer's varieties.
- The production of bio-fortified crop varieties will be upscaled and linked with government schemes of Anganwadi and Mid-Day Meal to reduce malnutrition and make India Kuposhan Mukta through naturally enriched food ingredients.

Facts about Food and Agriculture Organization

It is a specific agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve food security and nutrition.

- **Formation:** 16 October 1945
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy
- **Under:** United Nations Economic and Social Council
- **Head:** Qu Dongyu

Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, Niti Ayog surveyed Data Governance Quality Index.

- Department of Fertilizers under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers got 2nd rank amongst the 16 Economic Ministries / Departments and 3rd rank out of the 65 Ministries / Departments with a score 4.11 on a scale of 5 on DGQI (Data Governance Quality Index).

Note: The purpose of this survey is to assess the performance of different Ministries /Departments on the basis of implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes.

There is a Self-assessment based review of data preparedness levels across Ministries / Departments to produce a DGQI. In this survey, an online questionnaire was prepared under six major themes of DGQI: Data Quality; Data Generation; Use of Technology; Data Analysis, Use and Dissemination; Data Security and HR Capacity and Case Studies.

The Government launched the Ambedkar Social Innovation Incubation Mission (ASIIM)

- It was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ASIIM aims to promote innovation and entrepreneurship amongst SC students and with special preference to Divyangs in higher education campuses because there is a need to identify innovative ideas and provide focused support to young entrepreneurs who are engaged in working on innovative and technology-oriented business ideas either in educational campuses or Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) to help them set up



successful commercial enterprises.

- Apart from that, the Government set up the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCFSC) and supporting 1,000 innovative ideas till 2024 through a synergetic work with the (TBIs) Technology Business Incubators set up by the Department of Science and Technology among others.

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Atal Tunnel, Rohtang

- Atal Tunnel is the 9.02 Kilometre long which connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley. This is the longest highway tunnel in the World.
- The Tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of 3000 Metres (10,000 Feet) from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).
- It reduces the road distance by 46 Kilometre between Manali and Leh and the time by about 4 to 5 hours.

'Tribes India E-Marketplace' will be launched by Tribal Minister Arjun Munda

- It aims to make India Aatmanirbhar and self-reliant, this path-breaking initiative of TRIFED will showcase the handicrafts and produce of tribal enterprises from across the country. It will help them to showcase their products directly to the market.
- Along with this several other TRIFED initiatives that are aimed to support tribal brethren. These include the inauguration of Pakur Honey which is 100 per cent natural honey, gathered by Santhal Tribals from Pakur, Jharkhand and Tribes India's 123rd and 124th outlets in Rishikesh and Kolkata, inclusion of new tribal product ranges from the states of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh and partnership of TRIFED and Tribes India with Amazon in their Seller Flex program.

The South Eastern Railway has launched an 'Operation My Saheli (friend)'

- It aims to boost the security of women

passengers in trains during their entire journey.

- In this project "Teams of women sub-inspectors (SI) interact with lady passengers in the train at the starting station, tell them about precautions & guideline should be followed and provide the emergency contact numbers in case of emergency.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched an anti-air pollution campaign

- Under the campaign "Yudh Pradushan ke Virudh", "Polluted air can be life-threatening in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both affect lungs."
- The government is also preparing a "Green Delhi" mobile application.
- "Using it, people can bring pollution-causing activities, such as garbage burning or industrial pollution.

Ravi Chopra Committee: The chairman of an expert committee has alleged violations of the Supreme Court orders in the execution of the Chardham project.

- Ravi Chopra is the Chairman of the High Powered Committee (HPC) appointed by Supreme Court. Supreme Court ruled that the width of the road should not exceed the 5.5 metres that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) specified in 2018 for construction roads in the mountain.

Note: Chardham Pariyojana: The Chardham road connects the pilgrimage centres of Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath. This programme is under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for connectivity improvement for Chardham in Uttarakhand. It is a 900-km, ₹12,000-crore enterprise to connect pilgrimage spots in Uttarakhand.

September 2020

- ✓ SAMVEDNA - A Toll-Free Helpline number for children
- The apex child rights body NCPCR has launched a toll-free tele-counselling helpline number for children affected during COVID-19 for providing



counselling and psycho-social support. The Commission acknowledges that all children have unique vulnerabilities owing to specific needs and demands at different stages of growth until the time they reach adulthood.

- Note: SAMVEDNA (Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance) Toll-Free Tele counselling number (18001212830) will be able to address the fear, stress, anxiety and other issues among children.
- Note: NCPCR (The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights) is a constitutional body established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. The Commission works under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Commission began operational on 5th March 2007.
- ✓ 'Doodh Duroto Specials' transported three crore litres of milk from Andhra Pradesh to Delhi
- Doodh Duroto Special introduced during lockdown period from Renigunta to Hazrat Nizamuddin to supply milk to the people of the national capital is being operated on regular basis and the total milk transportation crossed three crore litres mark today.
- ✓ Home Ministry sanctions three new NIA branches at Imphal, Chennai, Ranchi
- The opening of new branches will help in ensuring a quick response to any emergent situation in the concerned states by the premier anti-terror investigation agency. The decision will also strengthen the NIA's capability in the investigation of terrorism-related cases and other national security-related matters.
- Note: The National Investigation Agency is a central agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India. Agency acts as the Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency. The agency deals with terror-related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
- ✓ First RRTS train for Delhi-Ghaziabad-

Meerut corridor unveiled

- High-speed commuter trains Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) are entirely being manufactured under the government's Make in India policy. These trains are the environment friendly, energy-efficient and accelerating economic growth and creating economic opportunities. It will also reduce air pollution, carbon footprint, congestion and accidents.
- The 82-km-long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor is the first RRTS corridor being implemented in India, will be operational in 2023 and the entire corridor will be operational in 2025.
- Note: RRTS (Regional Rapid Transit System) trains: The air-conditioned aerodynamic RRTS trains will be lightweight with radiating stainless-steel outer body. Each coach will have 6 plug-in type sliding doors, 3 on each side for ease of access and exit.
- ✓ More than 15 lakh loan applications received so far under PM SVANidhi scheme
- Note: PM SVANidhi scheme was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, on June 01, 2020. It aims to provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been affected due to the coronavirus lockdown.
- ✓ Parliament passes three labour code Bills
- These historic bills will have far-reaching effects on the interests of the workers by creating a time-bound grievance resolution mechanism and for the welfare and protection of the workers. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020 seeks to amend the laws regulating the occupational safety, health and working conditions of the persons employed in an establishment.
- The Industrial Relations Code 2020 aims at amending the laws relating to Trade Unions, conditions of employment in industrial establishment or undertaking, investigation and settlement of industrial disputes.



- The Code on Social Security 2020 seeks to amend the laws relating to the social security of the employees in the country.
- ✓ Parliament passes Jammu & Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020
- The bill makes Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi, English and Urdu as the official language of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ A global multi-stakeholder platform, YuWaah, Generation Unlimited (GenU) in India.
- Launched by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF). The main objectives of this project are to support young people by providing entrepreneurial skills, upskilling of young people on 21st-century skills, life skills, digital skills, self-learning for their productive lives and the future of work, create linkages with aspirational economic opportunities, employment opportunities.
- ✓ Interim Extension of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan
- Interim extension of this scheme beyond 31st March 2020 till 31st March 2021 or till the date the recommendations of 15th Finance Commission come into effect, whichever is earlier.
- Note: Rashtriya Uchchattar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a holistic scheme of development for higher education in India initiated in 2013 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The centrally sponsored scheme aims at providing strategic funding to higher education institutions throughout the country.
- ✓ Nriyanjali – an online film festival on Indian Classical Dance and Maestros by Films Division
- Films Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has come up with yet another fiesta, 'Nriyanjali', an online film festival on Indian Classical Dance and Maestros from 23rd to 25th September 2020. The first part of 'Nriyanjali' will showcase 10 films on the life and works of India's leading classical dancers.
- ✓ Lok Sabha passes National Forensic Science University Bill 2020
- Note: The Bill establishes National Forensic Science University as an institute of national importance. The proposed university would facilitate and promote studies and research and help achieve excellence in the field of forensic science in conjunction with applied behavioural science studies, law, criminology and other allied areas.
- ✓ Direct cargo ferry service between India & Maldives jointly e- launched
- During its maiden voyage, a vessel with a capacity of 200 TEU and 3000 MT of breakbulk cargo will sail from Tuticorin to Kochi, from where it will proceed to Kulhudhuffushi port in North Maldives and then to Male port.
- Note: It is a merchant vessel used to carry passengers, and sometimes cargo and vehicles, across a body of water.
- ✓ Union Minister Jitendra Singh unveils the Logo and song for festival "Destination North East-2020
- "Destination North East 2020" is also an effort to make everyone explore the Local Destinations rather than going anywhere abroad. The Minister said that people should take a pledge to Visit Local, Travel Local and Explore Local thus giving a boost to the local Tourism and Hospitality industry.
- ✓ Udit Singhal named in UN's 2020 list of Young Leaders:
- Indian teenager Udit Singhal has been named in the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Udit Singhal is the founder of Glass2Sand, an initiative that is based on a zero-waste ecosystem to tackle the challenge of glass waste in Delhi. This initiative has prevented empty glass bottles of getting dumped into landfills and turned it into sands, making it commercially viable.
- ✓ Union civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's first general aviation terminal for private jets at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport:
- India's first general aviation terminal for private jets which promises faster



turnaround of business jets and chartered planes, shielding them from the clutter of general passenger terminals where they now compete for taxiing slots with commercial flights.

- ✓ Sewa Saptah being organized to mark PM Modi's birthday across the country:
- Different welfare events were organized across the country to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, who turned 70 today. Bharatiya Janata Party has organized a 1 week long Seva Saptah to celebrate PM's mark the occasion. Various programmes related to social service, cleanliness, distribution of sanitary pads and wheelchairs are being organized from 14th to 20th of this month.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi to dedicate the historic Kosi Rail Mahasetu to the Nation:
- The Kosi Mega Bridge line project was sanctioned by the Central government during 2003-04. The construction cost is Rs. 516 Crore and the Kosi Rail Mahasetu is 1.9 KM long and This Bridge is of strategic importance along the India-Nepal border.
- ✓ Government sets up a committee under cybersecurity head to probe China Watching:
- The expert committee, led by Lt. Gen. Rajesh Pant, India's chief coordinator on cybersecurity will evaluate the "implications" of the digital surveillance by Data Information Technology Co. Limited and "assess any violations of law and submit its recommendations within 30 days."
- ✓ Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonipat via Sohna-Manesar-Kharkhauda:
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved, This Rail Line will start from Palwal and end at the existing Harsana Kalan station on Delhi-Ambala section. This will also give connectivity en route to existing Sultanpur station on Garhi Harsaru-Farukhnagar Line, Patli Station on Delhi-Rewari line, and Asaudha Station on Delhi Rohtak Line.
- The time duration of the project is likely to be

completed in 5 years with estimated completion cost 5,617 crore rupees.

- ✓ Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020:
 - Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed by Lok Sabha. The Bill aims to replace the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance which was promulgated on 5th June 2020.
 - The Bill seeks to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and empowers the central government in terms of distribution, trade, the commerce of certain commodities and its production and supply. The bill aims to liberalise the regulatory system while protecting the interests of consumers.
- ✓ Aircraft (Amendment) Bill 2020:
 - Rajya Sabha has passed the Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020. Lok Sabha passed this bill already. It seeks to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934.
 - Bill aims to convert 3 existing bodies under the Ministry of Civil Aviation into statutory bodies.
 - These three authorities are the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau. Under the bill, each of these three bodies will be headed by a Director-General who will be appointed by the centre.
- ✓ Banning the Export of all Varieties of Onion:
 - Government of India has released a notification banning the export of all varieties of onions. The ban has been imposed three months after the central government made changes in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
 - Note: The Essential Commodities Act is an act, 1955, Parliament of India which was established to ensure the delivery of certain commodities or products, the supply of which if obstructed owing to hoarding or black-marketing would affect the normal life of the people.
- ✓ Five Star Villages Scheme:
 - Five Star Villages scheme was launched by the Department of Posts to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes



in all rural areas of the country.

- Five Star scheme include:
 1. Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts.
 2. SB accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, NSC / KVP certificates.
 3. Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy.
 4. Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts.
 5. PM Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account.
- The scheme is being launched in Maharashtra on a pilot basis.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampada Yojana, e-Gopala mobile app
- Prime Minister digitally launched the Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampada Yojana (PMMSY) and inaugurated the e-Gopala app that will provide farmers marketplace for livestock.
- Other initiatives in the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors in Bihar.

Advantage of PMMSY:

- Address critical gaps in the fisheries sector.
- Infuse the sector with the latest technology, focus on value addition.
- Upgradation of critical infrastructure. Boost the welfare of those associated with fishing.
- About PMMSY: It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of ₹20,050 crore for its implementation during 2020-21 to 2024-25 as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat package.
- e-Gopala app: The e-Gopala app is a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.
- ✓ Kisan Rail
- Union Minister of Agriculture and CM of Andhra Pradesh inaugurated Kisan Rail second in the country.
- It is South India's first Kisan Rail flags off from Anantapur.
- India's first Kisan rail runs between

Devlali (near Nakis) to Danapur near Patna.

- Why Anantapur?
- Anantapur is fast becoming the fruit bowl of Andhra Pradesh. More than 80% of the 58 lakh tonne of fruits and vegetables in the district is marketed out of the state, particularly to the north Indian states including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. Earlier this was being transported by road transport.
- ✓ PM Modi to digitally launch Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampada Yojana & e-Gopala App
- The PMMSY is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development in the fisheries sector with an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores. This investment under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector. The PMMSY aims to enhance fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne by 2024-25, thereby increasing fisheries export earnings to one lakh crore rupees by 2024-25, in turn, doubling of incomes of fishermen and fish farmers.
- The project envisages investment of Rs. 1,390 crore in Bihar.
- A fish brood bank at Sitamarhi and an aquatic disease referral laboratory at Kishanganj will also be established.
- The Prime Minister will also inaugurate one-unit fish feed mill at Madhepura and two units of 'Fish on Wheels' at Patna under 'blue revolution'.
- A comprehensive fish production technology centre at Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University in Pusa, Bihar will also be inaugurated.
- ✓ E-Gopala App is an information portal to be directly used by farmers.

Note: The app is a detailed breed improvement e-market. The e-Gopala App will send alerts on the due date for vaccination, pregnancy diagnosis and inform the farmers about various government schemes and campaigns in their nearby areas.

- ✓ Bamboo Clusters announced in 9 states

- Introducing a cluster-based approach, 22 new bamboo clusters have been announced by the government in 9 states namely

Gujarat,

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka. Each of them will manufacture separate bamboo products to cater to the need of domestic as well as international markets.

- Note: Indian Forest Act 1927 was amended by the government in 1927 to remove bamboo from the category of trees to facilitate the cultivation and push the commercialisation of bamboo products.
- ✓ SvanidhiSamvaad
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold 'SvanidhiSamvaad' with street vendors from Madhya Pradesh.
- As many as 5 lakh street vendors were registered under the scheme in Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh stands first in the number of total applications accepted under the scheme
- The PM SVANidhi Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs under the ambit of 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.
- It aims at facilitating collateral-free working capital loans up to Rs 10,000 of 1-year tenure, to about 50 lakh street vendors in the urban areas, including those from the surrounding peri-urban/ rural areas, to resume their businesses post COVID-19 lockdown.
- ✓ National Statistical Office
- According to a study by the National Statistical Office conducted between July 2017 and June 2018, the literacy rate of males (84.7%) is higher than that of females (70.3%) in India.
- Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country with 96.2% literacy.
- Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 per cent.
- Kerala, Delhi has the best literacy rate at 88.7%, followed by Uttarkhand's 87.6%, Himachal Pradesh's 86.6%, and Assam's at 85.9%.
- On the other hand, Rajasthan is the second-worst performer with a literacy rate at 69.7%, followed by Bihar at 70.9%, Telangana at 72.8%, Uttar Pradesh at 73%, and

Madhya Pradesh at 73.7%.

- ✓ Mental rehabilitation helpline KIRAN
- A 24x7 toll-free mental health rehabilitation helpline "KIRAN" was launched by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister.
- The helpline was launched in view of the growing incidence of Mental Illness, particularly in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.
- The helpline is being coordinated by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai and National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR).
- ✓ Patrika Gate
- Prime minister inaugurates the Patrika Gate in Jaipur.
- The iconic gate is built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur.
- ✓ Water Heroes' contest
- Jal Shakti Ministry has launched the Water Heroes - Share Your Stories Contest with an aim to reach out to people on the important subject of water conservation and management. Every month from September, this year entries will be invited for consideration of awards.
- Every month a maximum of 10 entries can be considered for the awards. All selected entries will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 10,000 each and a certificate.
- To take part in the contest, the participants will have to post their success stories on water conservation through a specially made video of one to five minutes. They have to also send a write-up of up to 300 words and some photographs depicting the efforts and significant contributions to conserve and manage water resources.
- The participants can share their videos on the MyGov portal.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet today approved Mission Karmayogi
- It aims at building future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills & knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India.
- Karmayogi mission is Officially called - "National



Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building" which aims at transforming human resource management in the country.

- This scheme for bringing post-recruitment reforms in civil services.
- The move will help officers and government employees get an opportunity to improve their performance.
- NPCSCB has been carefully designed to lay the foundations for capacity building for Civil Servants so that they remain entrenched in Indian Culture and sensibilities and remain connected, with their roots, while they learn from the best institutions and practices across the world.
- ✓ Ladakh, Lakshadweep join existing national portability cluster of One Nation One Ration Card.

Ladakh and Lakshadweep have been integrated in the existing national portability cluster of One Nation One Ration Card.

- With this, a total of 26 States and UTs are now seamlessly connected with each other under the One Nation One Ration Card plan.
- migratory PDS beneficiaries in these 26 States and UTs can access their subsidised foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop of their choice.
- A total of more than 65 Crore beneficiaries are now enabled with an option to lift their subsidised foodgrains through One Nation One Ration Card system.
- The remaining States and UTs are targeted to be integrated in national portability by March next year.
- The One Nation One Ration Card plan is an ambitious endeavour of the Government to ensure the delivery of food security entitlements to all beneficiaries irrespective of their physical location anywhere in the country. Through this system, the migratory beneficiaries who frequently change their place of dwelling in search of employment are now enabled with an option to lift their entitled quota of foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop in the country using their same ration card.
- ✓ India Post
- India Post is in all praises for its efforts to

deliver goods and monetary relief to people during the coronavirus-induced lockdowns. India Post can become the supply chain partner of the toy manufacturing sector.

- The post has played an important role in doorstep delivery through Aadhaar enabled payments system during the lockdown.
 - Now on, the postal service to play a part in delivering indigenous and popular products like Madhubani paintings across the country.
 - Madhubani painting is a popular art form in Bihar while people are also engaged in the button making business.
 - Note: The MPs, MLAs, and MLCs to provide the list of popular products of their respective regions.
 - Small artists, entrepreneurs and small manufacturing units would get a boost as the postal department would provide them with a platform to promote and transport their products across the country.

Highlights

- India has 260 all-women post offices, including one in Patna and even one in Srinagar.
- In 2020, new all-women post offices opened in several cities like Trichy, Kalaburgi, and Mumbai which opened its second all-women post office in Mahim Bazaar.
- India's first-ever all-women post office was opened in Delhi on International Women's Day, March 8, 2013.
- The first all-women post office in Patna christened 'Mahila Dak Ghar' was also inaugurated by the Patna born minister Ravi Shankar Prasad in September 2019.

August 2020

- ✓ 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.**
- ✓ 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

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **CREDAI Awaas App** has been launched by Housing minister Hardeep Puri to market residential properties.

- ✓ 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**.

- ✓ **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: It is India’s largest Science talent search examination for New India using Digital Devices.

- ✓ 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**.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **Pradip Shah** is the head of the 7-member committee formed by International Financial Services Centre Authority for developing plans on international retail business.

- ✓ **DD Assam** has been launched by Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar recently.

- ✓ India's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or Kisan Rail was from flagged off between two stations **Devlali to Danapur**.

- ✓ The Government of India has extended Line of Credit of worth 18 million USD to **Maldives** to expand fishing facilities.

- ✓ 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)**.

- ✓ 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**.

- ✓ 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 (IDAFLW) which will be observed on 29th September 2020.

- ✓ 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 collaboration between these two premier institutions of India will contribute in fulfilling the vision of New Food System 2050.

- ✓ 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 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.

- ✓ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will open the Silk Training cum Production Center in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **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.

Note: It will make passengers' journey more convenient and comfortable in a contactless way as they won't have to fill the physical copies of the forms on arrival. The online forms have been developed in collaboration with various state governments, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

- ✓ 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. The ministry is pushing for domestic manufacturing of defence items very aggressively.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **Mumbai** become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage.
- ✓ **121** Police personnel have been awarded the "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2020.
- ✓ **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.

- ✓ Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has rolled out second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with **Dell Technologies**.

- ✓ Festive sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy Harnal Chilli and Myndoli Banana (Moirra 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. Myndoli Banana Growers Association, Ibrampur, Pernem applied for the GI tag of Moira bananas.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ 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).



- ✓ **Swachh Bharat Mission Academy** is an IVR based mobile online learning course launched by Union Jal Shakti Ministry.
- ✓ Indian Railways is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge across river Lajai in **Manipur**.
- ✓ **NASSCOM** Association with organization 'Atal Innovation Mission' has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Step-up module for school students.
- ✓ 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: "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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ Quality Control Lab has been set up by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in **Porbandar, Gujarat**.
- ✓ The Central Water Commission (CWC) of India has launched the flood forecasting initiatives across India in association with tech giant **Google**.
- ✓ 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'.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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**.
- ✓ Central government departments has launched its new official logo displaying three goals of the department, Accuracy, Validity, and Reliability-- **Labour Bureau**.
- ✓ 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)**.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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**.
- ✓ **TL Alamelu** will head the ten-member committee set up by IRDAI to recommend setting up loss prevention entities for non-life insurers.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Nitin Gadkari** has launched the mobile app named 'Harit Path' to monitor plantation along national highways.
The minister launched 'Harit Path', a mobile app to monitor the plantations through geo-tagging and web-based GIS-enabled monitoring tools.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda has e-inaugurated "Tribes India Showroom" in **Mumbai**.
- ✓ 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.



- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **Ramesh Chand** will head the task force constituted by the NITI Aayog that recommended linking of Sugarcane prices to sugar rate.
- ✓ IT majors **Tech Mahindra** joined hands with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to support Indian women entrepreneurs.
- ✓ ReNew Power signed a partnership agreement with **UNEP** to promote increased access to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Rajnath Singh** has launched the Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) 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 DGNCC Mobile Training App seeks to offer entire training material to the NCC cadets on one platform.
- ✓ National e-Governance Division (NeGD) is working under **MeitY** that signed an MoU
- ✓ Two Maharatna PSUs the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has signed an MoU for setting up of a Waste to Energy Plant Okhla New Delhi -- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. & NTPC Ltd.**
- ✓ The report titled "Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post-Covid-19 Opportunities for India's Energy and Mobility Sectors" released jointly by NITI Aayog and **Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)**.
- ✓ **SheshNaag** has been given to the longest 2.8 km long freight train operated Indian Railways.

with Common Service Center e-Governance Services India Limited to facilitate delivery of UMANG app services to citizens.

- ✓ **Piyush Goyal** has launched the National GIS (Geographic Information System)-enabled Land Bank system.
- ✓ **Mahindra & Mahindra** has partnered with Israel's REE Automotive to develop commercial EVs.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ Three-member committee headed by **DB Shekatkar** has been to review the effective utilisation of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Services (AFHQ CS) cadre.
- ✓ In partnership with **UNDP**, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has launched the Sustainable Finance Collaborative (SFC) to Promote Sustainable Finance in India.
- ✓ Next-generation startup Challenge contest has been launched by the Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ravi Shankar Prasad-- **Chunauti**.
- ✓ **Piyush Goyal** represented India in the virtual 8th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) chaired by Vietnam.
- ✓ The Union Government is planning to come up with Mega Bamboo Industrial Park in **Ghati**.

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Note: Indian Railways created another record by operating the longest freight train. Indian Railways named it as 'SeshNaag'. The rake had a total of 251 wagons which were pulled by four electric locomotives which were fitted in between.

- ✓ According to the report "Annual Marine Fish Landings in India for 2019" by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) **Tamil Nadu** state grabbed the top in annual fish production.
- ✓ An inter-ministerial scheme called "Accelerate Vigyan" was launched by SERB which is a statutory body functioning under **Ministry of Science and Technology**.



- ✓ Under chairmanship **Ranbir Singh**, the Central Committee for reforms in Criminal Law has been constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ✓ The CBSE has partnered with social media platform **Facebook** to launch a free and comprehensive training program for teachers and students of its affiliated schools in the first phase.
- ✓ 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' was announced by PM Narendra Modi is an initiative of **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
The prize money for apps is between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 2 lakh depending on the category. The app will be evaluated on the basis of ease of use, robustness, security features and scalability.
- ✓ For the formation of a **Joint Venture Company (JVC)** to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5000 MW on pan-India basis the Coal India Ltd signed an agreement with **NLC India Ltd**.
- ✓ **DRDO** has developed 1000 bed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID-19 Hospital in New Delhi in partnership with Tata Sons Private Limited.
- ✓ Indian Railways has setup 1.7 MWp Solar Power plant project at **Bina** to directly power the Railway Overhead Line.
Note: This project is unique because, for the first time in the world, the power generated by the solar power plant will be directly fed to the overhead power lines of the national transporter to power the traction system of the electric locomotives to run trains.
- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is going to establish a research cell at **II T-Hyderabad** to meet the future defence technological requirements of the country.
- ✓ India's rank has released "Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2020", including the SDG Index and Dashboards by Cambridge University Press -- **117th**.
Note: The index has been topped by Sweden.
- ✓ India's rank in the "INFORM Report 2020: Shared evidence for managing crises and disasters" released by research centre INFORM- **31st**.
- ✓ Under chairmanship of **K S Reddy**, the National

Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has set up an 11-member expert committee to study impact of Covid-19 on human rights of individuals.

- ✓ **Ministry of Home Affairs** has set up an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate investigations related to three Nehru-Gandhi family linked trusts, including the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF).
Note: The committee would be headed by special director of the Enforcement Directorate. Congress president Sonia Gandhi is the chairperson of RGF and its board has among others former PM Manmohan Singh, Rahul Gandhi, P Chidambaram and Priyanka Gandhi.
- ✓ Asia's Largest and World's Second Largest Uptime Tier IV Designed Data Centre was inaugurated in **Navi Mumbai**.
Note: The Data Centre is named 'Yotta NM1 or NM1' is located inside the 600-Acre Hiranandani Fortune City at Navi Mumbai's Panvel region. Inside the Hiranandani Fortune City, a Data Centre Park named Panvel Data Centre Park or Integrated Yotta Data Centre Park has been developed, NM1 is located inside the Panvel Data Centre Park.
- ✓ India's rank in the Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2020 released by the US-based Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL) - **34th**.
- ✓ What is the budget outlay of the Central Sector Scheme "Agriculture Infrastructure Fund" which was approved by the Union Cabinet -- **Rs 1 lakh crore**.
Note: The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. Loans will be disbursed in four years starting with sanction of Rs. 10,000 crore in the current year and Rs. 30,000 crore each in next three financial years.
- ✓ The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has joined hands with **Microsoft India Private Limited** Company to enhance the digital skills of the country's youth.
- ✓ Under chairmanship of **Suresh Mathur**, the IRDAI has formed a 9- member working group to look into the possibility of setting up 'Pandemic



Risk Pool’.

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

- ✓ **IIT Hyderabad** has tie-up with a multinational technology company, NVIDIA to establish India’s 1st ‘NVIDIA AI Technology Centre’ (NVAITC).
- ✓ **Ministry of Culture** released first five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur Manuscript recently.
Note: In the Mongolian language ‘Kanjur’ means ‘Concise Orders’- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.
- ✓ **T-Hub** company has partnered with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Digital India to lead the scale up program of Digital India and Information Technology start-ups.
- ✓ **Kris Gopalakrishnan** was the head of the 9-member committee to study various issues related to non-personal data that called for a new legislation to regulate such information.
- ✓ India’s second VNR 2020 report titled “Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local” was presented by **NITI Aayog** to the UN High-level Political Forum.
- ✓ BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding with **IIT Alumni Council** to encourage listing of start-ups and develop ‘high investor depth’ in its start-up’s platform.
- ✓ The Ministry of Railways is on a mission mode with the goal of transforming Indian Railways into Green Railways by **2030**.
- ✓ India’s first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely “Anji Khad Bridge” is being built by **Konkan Railway Corporation Limited**. to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- ✓ India along with **Chile** and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has co-hosted the official launch of 2021 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.
- ✓ The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with public sector undertaking **Bharat Electronics Ltd.** to collaborate and support the emerging global opportunities in the airport business.

- ✓ **GMR International Airport, Hyderabad** introduced India’s first ever fully contactless airport car parking.
- ✓ The length of the Anji Khad Bridge’ being built by Konkan Railway Corporation which will connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) -- **473.25 metres**.
- ✓ According to the special bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016-18, released by the Office of the Registrar General’s Sample Registration System (SRS) the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India has declined to **113**.
Note: MMR is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 1, 00,000 live births.
- ✓ India’s largest commercial **shipbuilder Cochin Shipyard Ltd** (CSL) has signed a contract to build the world’s first fully automatic electric vessel for **Norway**.
- ✓ India is developing country’s first and Asia’s leading trans-shipment port Vallarpadam Terminal as part of **Kochi** port of India.
- ✓ Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET) has been accredited by NABL for Testing and Certification of PPE Kit. CIPET works under **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.
Note: The PPE kit includes Gloves, Coverall, Face Shield, Goggles and Triple Layer Medical masks in line with International Standards.
- ✓ As per the Railway Ministry private trains are slated to run from **2023**.
- ✓ Union Environment and Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar hailed the KURMA mobile application related with **Indian Turtles**.
- ✓ An e-Portal named “Automobile Solutions Portal for Industry, Research & Education (ASPIRE)” has been launched by **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)**.
Note: The portal has been launched to improve the technological capability of Indian automotive sector with the help of exchange of knowledge & expertise, to make them self-reliant and to enable the growth of automobile sector including overall socio-economic progress of the country.
- ✓ The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has integrated a new Artificial



Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII was developed in collaboration with tech giant **IBM**.

✓ India's rank in the **Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2020– 3rd**.

Note: The annual Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report was released by the US-based property consultant Cushman & Wakefield.

✓ The biopharmaceutical company that announced a global collaboration agreement with Voluntas to develop and distribute digital therapeutics supporting people with diabetes on biologics therapy -- **Biocon Biologics**.

✓ **RK Singh** inaugurated India's first public Electric Vehicle charging plaza in New Delhi.

✓ **Manodarpan** initiative has been launched by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health.

✓ The acquisition wing of **Ministry of Defence** has signed a contract with **Bharat Earth Movers Limited, BEML** for procurement of 1,512 Mine Plough for Tank T-90 S/SK.

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

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

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

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

Note: This indigenously designed 700 MWe KAPP-3 reactor is a shining example of Make in India. The Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant began its commercial nuclear power production in 1993.

✓ Actor **SonuSood** has launched an application "PravasiRojgar" for migrant worker to find right job opportunities.

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

✓ **AIIMS Nagpur** has designed and developed a 'smart

wristband' for effective tracking and monitoring of Covid-19 positive and suspect patients.

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

✓ The Indian Navy's largest solar power plant has been commissioned at **Ezhimala, Kerala**.

Note: It is a 3 MW Solar Power Plant which has been set-up in line with the Indian Government's initiative of 'National Solar Mission' which aims to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022.

✓ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has entered into a partnership with **IIT, Delhi** for the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).

Note: Tribal entrepreneurs under TRIFED's Van Dhan Programme will now be able to get access to the expertise of the entire network of over 2,600 academic and research institutions under UBA.w

✓ Indian Institute of Management (IIM) **Kozhikode** has developed a wearable hand band Known as the "Veli Band" that helps in maintaining social distancing.

✓ Indian city **Hyderabad** ranked 16th among the list of top 20 cities with maximum number of CCTV surveillance cameras installed in a survey done on most surveilled cities in the world by the UK-based Comparitech.

✓ The **Cotton Corporation of India** decided to setup set up its own warehouse in **Vietnam** to boost cotton exports.

✓ Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App "BIS-Care" has been launched using which the authenticity of ISI-marked and hallmarked products can be checked, BIS is working under **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**.

✓ On the occasion of "World Hepatitis Day" the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) has organised "2nd Empathy e-Conclave" in collaboration with **Airport Authority of India (AAI)**.

✓ As per the update report on India's Tiger Survey from 2018, released by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest number of tigers.



✓ **Ministry of Earth Sciences** has launched a Knowledge Resource Centre Network
June 2020

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a video blogging competition my '**My Life, My Yoga**' which is a joint by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and **Ministry of AYUSH**.

- **Note:** The 'My Life, My Yoga' contest (also called 'Jeevan Yoga') is a joint effort by the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

✓ **Union Ministry of Labour and Employment** in partnership with TCS iON offers free online career skills training through the National Career Service (NCS) project.

- **Note:** The Ministry of Labours announced that around 1 crore job seekers and 54000 employers have registered with this portal and the NCS portal has mobilized more than 73 lakh vacancies In the period of lockdown due to COVID-19 the NCS has conducted around 76 online Job fairs to reduce the gap between the employers and job seekers.
- NCS in partnership with HireMee, online assessment and hiring service provider, offers creation of video profiles for job-seekers.

✓ India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) comes under the purview of **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

- **Note:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Arun Singhal as chief executive officer of India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- Singhal is special secretary, department of health and family welfare.

✓ The Union Govt has announced Minimum Support Price List in which how many Minor Forest produce have been included **23**.

(KRCNet)" under the Digital India initiative of Government of India.

- **Note:** Tribal Affairs has notified an Inclusion of 23 additional Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items and stipulation of their Minimum Support Price (MSP).

✓ **CHAMPIONS** platform has been launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help the smaller MSMEs by solving their grievances, encouraging and supporting them to march into the big league as national and global companies.

- **Note:** The portal aims to make smaller units big by supporting them, encouraging, solving their grievances, helping and handholding. It will act as one-stop shop solution of all entities of the MSME sector.

✓ **PM-SAVNidhi** has been launched by the union government for to provide affordable loans to street vendors.

- **Note:** The PM SVANidhi or PM Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi is a credit facility scheme that will help more than 50 lakh urban and rural street vendors. The scheme will help the street vendors restart their livelihoods.
- Under the scheme, Rs 10,000 of credit is to be provided to street vendors. The street vendors shall return the amount as monthly installments within a year.

✓ **DRDO** has developed a disinfection unit called **Ultra Swachh**.

- **Note:** The Ultra Swachh Unit houses a catalytic converter that makes it environment friendly. It also holds several safety features such as door interlocks, emergency shut down, delay cycle, dual doors, leak monitors, etc.
- The system complies to International Standards of Industrial, Personal, Occupations and Environmental Safety.

✓ **Indian Energy Exchange** has launched Real Time Electricity Market (RTM) to



help discoms plan their power requirements.

- **Note:** The market will conduct 48 auction sessions during the day and the power will be delivered within one hour of closure of the bid session.
- ✓ The Government has announced that it is to provide Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to 1.5 crore **Dairy Farmers**.
 - **Note:** The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the Department of Financial Services has issued KCC application format to all State Milk Federation and Milk Unions for implementing the same on a mission mode. The campaign aims to provide KCC to 1.5 crore dairy farmers.
 - The campaign is a part of the PM's AtmaNirbhar Bharat package for Farmers.
- ✓ “Responsible AI for Youth” which will be run jointly by National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and **NASSCOM**.
 - **Note:** Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology(IT), Law and Justice and Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad launched India’s National Artificial Intelligence(AI) Portal called www.ai.gov.in. He also launched a National Program for the youth, “Responsible AI for Youth” during the occasion of the first anniversary of the second tenure of the government.
- ✓ The Expert Committee on Rationalization of Film Media has submitted its report recently, the committee is operating under **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
 - **Note:** The committee has suggested for an umbrella configuration with four broad verticals under which the institutes should work.
 - This includes festival, production, heritage and knowledge.
- The verticals are to be headed by the professionals. The committee was headed by Bimal Julka.
- ✓ **Nisarga** name has been given to the fast-moving depression in the Arabian Sea which intensified into a severe cyclone.
- ✓ The expert panel constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under Ishaat Hussain has recommended to allow **Non-profit Organizations**.
 - **Note:** Allowing non-profit organisations to directly list through issuance of bonds in the form of zero coupon or zero principal bonds.
 - Zero-coupon bond is a debt security that does not pay interest but instead trades at a deep discount, drawing a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value.
- ✓ **25%** percent of incentive has been announced on capital expenditure in the recently launched “Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)” scheme.
 - **Note:** The schemes were approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2020. The Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS) will provide incentive of 25% on the capital expenditure.
 - This is extended to certain identified lists such as semiconductor devices, electronic goods, display fabrication units, etc.
- ✓ To foster the inclusion of LGBTQAI+ employees of **Mahindra Logistics Ltd.** has launched a five-year plan which aims at hiring queer people and extending benefits to same-sex partners.
- ✓ The union cabinet has approved to re-establish the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy as Subordinate Office under **Ministry of AYUSH**.
 - **Note:** The commission has been set up by merging Pharmacopoeia



Laboratory for Indian Medicine and Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory.

- The two central laboratories were established at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh in 1975.
 - The commission is an autonomous body that operates under Ministry of AYUSH. It is in operation since 2010
- ✓ **TULIP** programme has been launched by the union government to provide internship opportunities to thousands of fresh graduates and engineers of the country under the 'Smart City' projects.
- ✓ **SWADESH** initiative has been launched by the Government of India to map the skills of workers returning to India from overseas under the 'Vande Bharat Mission'.
- **Note:** The full form of SWADESH is "Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support".
 - The exercise, kick-started under the Vande Bharat Mission, aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience, which can be tapped into to fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies.
- ✓ **Nagar Van** scheme has been launched by the government to develop urban forests across the country.
- **Note:** Stressing on the substance theme of "Biodiversity" by the United Nation's Environment Programme (UNEP), The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change celebrated the day by announcing the initiative of urban forests in India. Urban forest are seemingly the best way to bridge the gap of climate change.
- ✓ **ARCI, Hyderabad** institution developed a rare-earth-based magnetocaloric material that can be effectively used for cancer treatment.
- **Note:** A magnetocaloric materials is a substance in which application and removal of a magnetic field causes the materials to become warmer or cooler.
- ✓ India's rank in the recently released 12th edition of the biennial **Environment Performance Index (EPI Index 2020) released by the Yale University-- 168th**.
- ✓ **Jaya Jaitly** will chair the task force constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI to work on the issues of women and child development.
- **Note:** The task force will examine the matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR, improvement of nutritional levels and related issues.
- ✓ **Adani Green Energy Limited** has won one of world's largest solar contract from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to develop 8 GW of solar projects.
- ✓ Digital learning platform **TCS iON** has partnered with the NSDC to provide its training partners access to the Digital Class Room.
- **Note:** The partnership will strengthen NSDC's online content aggregation platform-- eSkill India--through which it enables e-learning amongst skill seekers and will contribute towards strengthening the Skill India mission.
- ✓ **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)** has developed Nano-Technology based disinfectant spray ANANYA to fight against COVID-19.
- **Note:** The spray has been prepared based on Nano-Technology assisted formulation. It will not only stop COVID-19 from entering the body but will also kill the virus that comes in direct contact.
- ✓ **IIT Bombay** maintains its position as the top institution in India in the QS World University rankings 2021 released recently.
- **Note:** IIT-Bombay still maintains its position as the top institution in India in the QS rankings, but has slipped 20 places from 152 to 172 in the global list.
 - IISc overtook IIT Delhi to make it



to the second place, but still dropped a rank to 185.

- ✓ A Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex was inaugurated in **Vishakhapatnam**.
- ✓ **IIT-BHU** has developed an anti-microbial five-layered face mask that annihilate pathogenic microorganisms.
- ✓ The National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) Nangal**.
 - **Note:** Under the MoU, ITI's 12 trades will be taught in the NFL & the theory will be studied at ITI Nangal.
 - The MoU was exchanged between Ms Renu R P Singh DGM (HR) I/c, NFL Nangal unit and Sh Lalit Mohan, Principal of ITI, Nangal.
- ✓ **Infosys** has announced to launch of 'Summer of Ideas' initiative for university students worldwide, an online learning programme.
 - **Note:** The global eight-week ideathon, powered by Infosys' digital learning platform Wingspan, will help the global student and academic community overcome the loss of learning opportunities as a result of the disruption caused by COVID-19. The initiative will allow students access to Infosys mentorship and specially curated learning materials virtually.
- ✓ India's rank in the recently compiled by Nature Research, a division of the international scientific publishing company 'Springer Nature' -- **12th**.
 - **Note:** The top five positions have gone to the United States of America, China, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan.
 - The Nature Index is a database of author affiliation information collated from research articles published in an independently selected group of 82 high-quality science journals.
- ✓ As per the "26th Annual Cost of Living

Survey 2020" released by Mercer Indian city **Mumbai** is the most expensive city in India.

- **Note:** Mercer released its 26th Annual Cost of Living Survey 2020. From India, Mumbai city has been ranked 60th most expensive city globally and also 19th in Asia.
- ✓ **IIT Bombay** has emerged as the top institutions in the list of 'overall ranking' category in the 5th NIRF Ranking 2020.
 - **Note:** The rankings are being announced for India's best universities and institutions in 10 categories namely- Overall, Universities, Engineering, Colleges, Management, Pharmacy, Medical, Dental Architecture, and Law.
- ✓ Name the AI enabled robot launched by Indian Railway to intensify the screening and surveillance of railway passengers and railway staff -- **ARJUN**.
 - **Note:** The full form of ARJUN is 'Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice'. This innovation will help Indian Railways to modernise its security measures at the time of covid-19.
- ✓ Name the National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies -- **Aarogyapath**.
 - **Note:** This national healthcare supply chain portal will remove supply chain bottlenecks during the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - The vision of this initiative is to set up an information management and forecasting database platform at national level.
- ✓ **DRDO** has developed a sanitizing chamber named 'GermiKlean' to sanitise uniforms of security forces.
 - **Note:** DRDO's move came after Delhi Police gave their requirement for sanitizing their uniforms, canes, cane shields, helmets.
 - This chamber is designed to sanitise 25 pairs of



uniforms within 15 minutes. The sanitizing chamber has been set up at Parliament Street Police Station.

- ✓ Construction company **NHAI** has become the first of its kind in the construction sector to go fully digital.

- **Note:** With the launch of cloud-based and artificial intelligence-powered big data analytics platform Data Lake and Project Management Software, the entire project management workflow of NHAI has been transformed from manual to the online portal based.

- All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now being done through the portal only.

- ✓ **IIT Kharagpur** has developed an Artificial Intelligence-based cyber-physical system to monitor social distancing in public places.

- ✓ An Integrated Flood Warning System (IFLOWS) has been launched for **Mumbai**.

- **Note:** Named as 'Boon' and developed for Mumbai it will help the people in a "big way" as it can predict floods.

- The system was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

- ✓ According to "Poonam Avlokkan" survey the population of the Asiatic lion at the Gir sanctuary grew by approximately **29 per cent**.

- **Note:** The Gujarat Forest Department has recently announced that the number of Asiatic lions in the state has gone up till 674 from 523 that were reported in a Lion Census done five years ago, which shows almost 29 per cent increase in the population.

- ✓ The 40th GST council meet was held recently virtually, who is the chairperson of the GST council -- **Union Finance Minister**.

- **Note:** Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the virtual 40th GST Council Meeting.

- The key outcome of this meet was further relief on late fee and interest payable on late payments as a part of compliance burden of businesses. This was the first meeting after COVID-19 breakout in India.

- ✓ **Uday Kotak** will chair the advisory committee formed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation process.

- **Note:** The new 14-member committee, formed in August 2017, will be chaired by Uday Kotak, the Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank.

- It will suggest and provide professional support on a request from the IBBI or on its own volition on any matter with respect to the Corporate Insolvency resolution and liquidation dealt with by the Board under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.

- ✓ Construction company **NHAI** has become the first of its kind in the construction sector to go fully digital.

- ✓ **GermiBAN** device launched by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy that kills viruses & other germs by sterilising, sanitising & disinfecting in large areas.

- ✓ India's rank in the annual World Competitiveness Index 2020 compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD) -- **43rd**.

- ✓ According to the SIPRI Yearbook 2020, India's position as nuclear weapons holder in the world -- **6th**.

- ✓ Integrated Flood Warning System (IFLOWS) has been launched for **Mumbai City**.

- **Note:** Named as 'Boon' and developed for Mumbai it will help



the people in a "big way" as it can predict floods.

- The system was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The device will be very useful, especially if people need to be evacuated from low-lying areas.
- ✓ **Mumbai** Municipal Corporation has launched a mobile application "Air-Venti" to provide information on ICU beds, ventilators.
- ✓ Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) has been inaugurated in **Ranchi**.
 - This is the 21st Composite Regional Centre (CRC) which will serve to fulfil the needs of Persons with Disabilities in Jharkhand.
- ✓ **Amitabh Kant** will lead the high-powered committee of top executives of technology companies formed by NITI Aayog to develop a job platform for migrant labours who lost their job during lock down.
- ✓ India's first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform, "Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)" has been launched with headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- ✓ Two Indian Startups **Stellapps** and **Zestmoney** were featured in the List of Technology Pioneers of 2020, released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ✓ Indian Railways' Central Railway zone has installed 1st of its kind an Automated Ticket Checking & Managing Access (ATMA) machine at **Nagpur station**.
- ✓ Chartered accountancy firm has been appointed to audit PM Cares Fund -- **SARC & Associates**.
 - **Note:** The appointment is significant because critics have questioned the rationale for a fund other than the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for relief work and have also sought more transparency about the usage of monies from the Fund.
- ✓ Researchers at **IIT Bombay** has created a chip named 'Dhruva' that can be mounted

in smartphones and navigation devices to find places and routes within the country.

- **Note:** The radio frequency receiver chip was designed in 18 months by students and researchers at IIT Bombay.
- ✓ For reducing the carbon dioxide emission caused due to transportation in the country, NITI Aayog will launch the project 'Decarbonising Transport in India' in collaboration with **International Transport Forum (ITF)**.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA)' via video conference from **Khagaria** district of Bihar.
- ✓ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) India has partnered with **IIT Delhi** to support state and national governments in achieving food and nutrition security.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the declaration of the Kushinagar Airport as an international airport, it is located in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved additional investment of USD 121.27 million by ONGC Videsh Ltd. in Shwe oil and gas project located in **Myanmar**.
- ✓ **Nitin Gadkari** launched the scheme 'Distressed Assets Fund- Sub- Ordinate Debt for MSMEs' announced as part of AtmaNirbhar Bharat Package by GoI.
 - **Note:** The scheme is also called as Distressed Assets Fund- Sub- Ordinate Debt for MSMEs.
- ✓ As per the data released by the United States (US) Treasury Department what is India's position as a holder of US government securities -- **12th**.
 - The country with maximum exposure to US government securities is Japan at US\$1.266 trillion followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK) at the second and third positions, respectively at the end of April 2020.
- ✓ A behaviour change campaign named 'Navigating the New Normal' has been



launched by NITI Aayog in partnership with **Melinda Gates Foundation**.

- ✓ As per the Annual Tuberculosis Report 2020 released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare what is the percentage rise in TB patient in 2019 –**14%**.
 - **Note:** It should be noted that the sustainable goal of eradicating TB globally is 2030, but the Indian government is committed to achieve this target in the country by 2025.
- ✓ **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru** has become the 1st airport in India to get an indigenously developed Aviation Weather Monitoring System (AWMS) at both ends of the runway.
 - **Note:** The technology is developed by **Bengaluru-based CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)**.
- ✓ Two Indian Institutes **IIT Ropar and IIT Indore** secured their ranks in the top 100 in the “THE Young University Rankings 2020” released by the Times Higher Education.
 - **Note:** The Times Higher Education (THE) released THE Young University Rankings 2020 for the universities which are 50 years old or younger.

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- ✓ The central government has brought the **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)** under **Jal Shakti Ministry**.
 - **Note:** Earlier it was under the **Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**.
- ✓ **India** secured **53rdrank** in the **7th edition of ‘Open Budget Survey 2019’** conducted by **International Budget Partnership (IBP)**.
 - **Note:** In the survey time New Zealand has been topped the list with a score of 87.
- ✓ **National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC)** has initiated a programme on health and risk communication focusing on COVID-19 titled “**Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)**”.
- ✓ **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** has

- The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (Pune) and Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar ranked 101-150.
- ✓ **Ministry of Culture** is celebrating the “Sankalp Parva” from 28th June to 12 July 2020.
 - **Note:** This initiative has been launched following the call of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to plant at least five trees either in Office campus or wherever it is possible in order to ensure clean and healthy environment of the country.
- ✓ Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan virtually inaugurated Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service (QIS) in **Chandigarh**.
 - **Note:** The battery swapping technology provides the best alternative to slow charging and enables drivers to optimize the use of the operational hours.
 - The model was initiated to target the commercial segment like electric autos, rickshaws, electric 2W and the electric vehicle, which is factory fitted or retrofitted.

permitted the use of **98.59 hectares of land** for opencast coal mining project in **DehingPatkai Elephant Reserve in Assam**.

- ✓ **India’s rank** in the in **scientific publication in 2018** among the countries -- **Third**.
 - **Note:** The National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS), Department of Science and Technology (DST), has conducted a survey on Research and Development (R&D) Statistics and Indicators 2019-20.
 - The survey included more than 6800 S&T Institutions spread across varied sectors like central government, state governments, higher education, public sector industry, and private sector



industry in the country.

- ✓ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participated in the virtual summit of the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** for the first time since 2014, **Azerbaijan** presented the group.
- ✓ **NITI Aayog** has launched virtual '**Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan**' to ensure wellbeing of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic in association with Piramal Foundation.
- ✓ **Operation Samudra Setu** has been launched by the Indian Navy as a part of a national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.
 - **Note:** The operation aims to evacuate personnel who repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.
- ✓ According to the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)** the country's unemployment rate rose to **27.11%**.
- ✓ The **Defence Ministry** has signed a contract with **Tata Power** for **Phase-II of Modernisation of Airfield Infrastructure of 37 airfields for Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.**
- ✓ **Mission Sagar** conducted by the Government of India to **provide assistance to Eastern Indian Ocean Region Nations** amid the coronavirus crisis.
 - **Note:** Under the mission, **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari** deployed, carrying on board two medical assistance teams, essential Food Items and COVID related Medicines and Special Ayurvedic Medicines five to Island countries in the Indian Ocean.
 - The five countries are **Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros.**
- ✓ Union HRD Minister **Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has launched "**Bharosa**" helpline for **Central University of Odisha.**
 - **Note:** This helpline has been launched with an objective of relieving the student community from the distress caused during the troubled time of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated **80km strategically crucial**

road link connecting **Lipulekh pass (China Border)** with **Dharchula in Uttarakhand** through video conferencing.

- **Note:** The **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** has constructed the road that originates from **Ghatiabagarh** and it ends at **Lipulekh Pass** which is a gateway to **Kailash-Mansarovar.**
- It will help pilgrims visiting **Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet** as it is around **90 kms from the Lipulekh pass.**
- This road, which has an altitude ranging from **6000 to 17060 feet**, constructed along the **banks of river Kali between India and Nepal.**
- ✓ India initiated "**Mission Sagar**" to send **medical aid to five Island nations** in the Indian Ocean amid COVID-19 pandemic.
 - **Note:** In this regard, **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari** departed for **Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros**, to provide Food items, COVID related Medicines.
- ✓ **Two scientific papers on child survival** published by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative stated that the **under-5 Mortality Rate in India** has dropped by - **49 percent** since 2000.
 - **Note:** The **India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative** has recently published **two scientific papers.**
 - The initiative has given its report on **district-level trends of child growth and child mortality.**
 - The findings show there were **1.04 million under-5 deaths in 2017**, down from **2.24 million deaths in 2000.**
 - The child mortality rate has dropped by **49% between 2000 and 2017.**
- ✓ **India's rank** in the recently released **Global Energy Transition Index (GET Index) 2020** by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**-- **74th.**
 - **Sweden** has topped the ranking for



the **third consecutive year**.

- It was followed by **Switzerland and Finland**.
- ✓ As per the **new definition of MSMEs** what the maximum investment limit for a micro unit is: **1 crore**.
 - **Note:** The GoI has changed the definition of MSMEs. The new definition has **increased the investment limit** upwards.
 - Previously, an **enterprise with investment up to Rs 25 lakh** was called a micro unit.
 - Under the new definition, a firm upto investment of **Rs 1 crore is to be called Micro unit, of Rs 10 crore** is to be called as small unit and investment greater than **Rs 20 crore** will be called as medium unit.
- ✓ **Central Government** has set up a new body **Rice Export Promotion Forum** to give impetus to rice exports under the aegis of **APEDA**.
 - **Note:** Centre set up a new body Rice Export Promotion Forum to give impetus to rice exports under the aegis of Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Promotion Development Authority (APEDA).
- ✓ **‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** announced by the **Prime Minister** with an economic stimulus package worth **Rs 20 lakh crores** which is almost **10%** percent of GDP.
- ✓ Flagship social security scheme of the Government of India **‘Atal Pension Yojna’** has **completed five years** of its implementation in May 2020.
 - **Note:** The scheme is being administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority through **National Pension System (NPS)**.
 - Any citizen of India can join the **APY scheme**.
 - The age of the subscriber should be **between 18-40 years**.
 - The **contribution levels** would vary and would be low if a subscriber joins early and increases if she joins late.
- ✓ **Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme** approved by the **Union Defence minister Rajnath Singh** and allotted **Rs 400 crores**.
 - **Note:** The establishment of defence testing infrastructure will provide easy access and thus meet the testing needs of the domestic defence industry.
 - The scheme will run for a period of 5 years & envisages to set up 6 to 8 new test facilities in partnership with private industry.
- ✓ For multi-mode access to digital/online education Government of India has decided to launch **PM-eVIDYA programme**.
 - **Note:** Under the programme the DIKSHA programme will provide **“one nation, one digital platform”** for school education in states/UTs.
 - It will also include the launch of **Energized Textbooks** for all grades.
 - One earmarked **TV channel** will be launched for per class from **1 to 12** following the concept of **“one class, one channel”**.
- ✓ **National Disaster Management Authority** has developed **“National Migrant Information System (NMIS)”** to secure information regarding the movement of migrant workers.
 - **Note:** An online dashboard “National Migrant Information System (NMIS)” has been developed by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
 - The dashboard has been developed by NDMA to secure information regarding the movement of migrants and to facilitate the smooth movement of stranded persons across States.
- ✓ **Landing Craft Utility Ship ‘INLCU L57’** commissioned into Indian Navy in **Port Blair**.
 - **Note:** The **“INLCU L57”** is the **seventh LCU Mark IV class warship**.
 - The **primary role of the warship**, being transportation and



deployment of main battle tanks, armored vehicles, troops and equipment from ship to shore.

- The first ship of the **Mark IV LCU Vessels INLCU L51** was commissioned into **Indian Navy in March 2017**.
- ✓ Mobile application **National Test Abhyas** developed by the National Testing Agency will help the candidates to take mock tests for exams such as JEE Mains, NEET, etc.
- ✓ **Six cities** rated **5 stars in Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities**, for the assessment year 2019-2020.
 - **Note:** In rating Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysuru, Indore and Navi Mumbai were rated 5 Star (6 cities).
 - **65 other Cities** rated **3 Star** and **70 Cities** rated **1 Star** out of 141 cities.
 - He also launched the revised protocol for the **Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities**.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet has extended **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)** till year **2023**.
 - **Note:** It is a **social security scheme for senior citizens** for those who are above 60.
 - The government has **fixed its annual rate of return at 7.4%** for financial year **2020-21**.
 - Now, **Senior citizens** will have time till **March 31, 2023** to invest in **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana** which provides **higher return** than any bank.
- ✓ The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has launched a scheme for **100% solarization of Konark** city of India
 - **Note:** The scheme has been launched to develop the **historic Sun Temple in the town of Konark**.
 - Also, the scheme will develop the town into **Surya Nagri**.
 - The scheme mainly aims at **promoting solar energy**.
- ✓ **India's position** in manufacturing **personal**

protective equipment (PPE) body coveralls - Second.

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



capture glimpses of Missile History of INS Kalinga.

- Agneeprastha is to provide a **one-stop arena for motivation and stimulation** of people regarding the missiles and related technologies, from school children to **Naval personnel and their families**.

✓ **Swath Sagar** has been given to the plan to modernize the fisheries sector which is part of **April 2020**

✓ As per revised norms of the central government the limit for a person reside in J&K to become permanent resident of the UT -- **15 Years**.

- **Note:** A new definition for domicile for Jammu and Kashmir was introduced. As per the new definition a person residing in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir for at least 15 years or has studied for a period of seven years in Jammu and Kashmir and appeared in Class 10 or 12 examinations will now be eligible to be a permanent resident of the UT.
- This new rule was issued under the Section 3A of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Adaptation of State Laws Order 2020, under the Jammu and Kashmir civil services decentralisation and recruitment Act.

✓ **Indian Council for Cultural Relations** has launched a competition titled **“United Against Corona- Express through Art”**.

✓ Donations for PM-CARES Fund granted tax exemption of **100%**.

- **Note:** the donations made under newly-formed Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES FUND) to provide assistance to the persons affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, are made eligible for 100% deduction under section 80G of the Income Tax (IT) Act, 1961.

Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampada Yojana (PMMSY).

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

- For this, the provisions of the IT Act are amended through the Taxation and other Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Ordinance, 2020.

✓ National Cadet Corps (NCC) has offered its volunteer cadets to assist the civilian authorities to fight COVID-19 under **‘Exercise NCC Yogdan’**.

- **Note:** It has issued guidelines for the temporary employment of its cadets to enhance the operations of various organizations involved in relief efforts & fighting the pandemic.

✓ To build a portable and lightweight emergency ventilator system Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) has partnered with **‘Wipro 3D’**.

- This ventilator system is essentially a hand held device also called as AMBU bag or bag-valve-mask (BVM) to provide positive pressure ventilation to a corona patients with breathing difficulties with a controlled rate of expiration, inspiratory to expiratory ratio, Tidal volume etc.

✓ To fight COVID-19 Civil services associations form an initiative called **‘Caruna’**.

- **Note:** Associations representing officers of Central Civil Services, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), have created an initiative called ‘CARUNA’.
- The CARUNA stands for Civil



Services Associations Reach to Support in Natural Disasters.

- ✓ **‘Operation Sanjeevani’** launched by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to air-lifted 6.2 tonnes of essential medical supplies to Maldives via transport aircraft C-130J as assistance in the fight against the virus.
- ✓ To deal with Covid-19 epidemic the central government has constituted a 10-member group under the chairmanship of **Amitabh Kant**.
- ✓ To help India fight against COVID-19 the Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched the initiative called **“Lifeline UDAN”**.
 - **Note:** Under Lifeline UDAN initiative of Ministry of Civil Aviation, 132 cargo flights have been operated so far across the country to transport medical cargo including to remote and hilly areas.
- ✓ Department of Science & Technology, Government of India has approved to set up a rapid response centre -- **“CAWACH”**.
 - **Note:** CAWACH stands for Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis. Rapid response centre “CAWACH” has been set up at a total cost of Rs 56 Crore at Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay.
- ✓ **Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam** has designed ‘Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)’.
 - **Note:** This oxygen manifold is designed to supply oxygen to multiple patients at a time, which could prove helpful in a contingency created by COVID-19 spread. The preliminary trials were conducted at MI Room at NDV, followed by rapid trials at the Naval Hospital INHS Kalyani, where it was successfully installed within 30 minutes.
- ✓ Name the official COVID-19 tracking app that has been launched by the Government of India -- **AarogyaSetu**.
 - **Note:** The “AarogyaSetu” app has been developed by the National e-

Governance Division of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in association with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- ✓ To help foreign tourists who are stuck in various parts of the country the **Ministry of Tourism** has launched a portal **‘Stranded in India’**.
- ✓ Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved an ordinance to cut in the salaries of all Members of Parliament by **30%**.
 - **Note:** It also provisioned a two-year suspension (2020-21 and 2021-22) of the MP Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme so that the amount saved can go to the Consolidated Fund of India to fight COVID-19.
 - This announcement was made by Prakash Javardkar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting.
- ✓ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has achieved the highest ever highway construction feat with an accomplishment of **3,979 km**.
- ✓ The name that has been given to mega ONLINE innovation challenge launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) -- **SAMADHAN**.
 - **Note:** The innovation cell of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has launched a mega ONLINE challenge called “SAMADHAN” to fight against covid19.
 - Under the **“Samadhan” challenge**, the students and faculty will be motivated for doing new experiments and new discoveries and provide them with a strong base leading to a spirit of experimentation and discovery.
- ✓ **iGOT e-learning platform** has been launched by the government of India for all front-line workers to equip them with the training and updates in coping with Pandemic.



- ✓ **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** has removed export restrictions on 24 pharma ingredients including 12 active pharmaceutical ingredients, it operates under **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- ✓ Name the mobile doctor booth created by the West Central Railway's Coach Rehabilitation Workshop (CRWS) -- **CHARAK**.
 - A viral barrier chamber has been built in the railway compartment itself, through which doctors will be able to examine patients without direct physical contact.
- ✓ The government of India has approved for the 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package -- **Rs.15000 crores**.
 - **Note:** The package is to build health infrastructure in states and UTs till March 2024. Of the 15,000 crores, Centre would release Rs.7,774 crore for immediate COVID-19 Emergency Response use till June 2020 and the rest will be set for medium-term support of 1-4 years.
- ✓ The Supreme Court (SC) of India has extended the tenure of chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) **Justice Shiva Kirti Singh**.
 - The bench also expressed concern over the delay in appointment of administrative and technical members of TDSAT and asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to answer on behalf of Centre.
- ✓ To improve the online education ecosystem of India Union Human Resource Development Ministry has launched the campaign -- '**Bharat Padhe Online**'
 - **Note:** The campaign aims to invite all the best brains in India to share suggestions or solutions directly with the HRD Ministry, to overcome the obstacles of online education while promoting the available digital education platforms.
- ✓ **Ahmedabad** railway station becomes first station of IR to install sanitizing tunnel.
 - **Note:** The Ahmedabad railway station at Kalupur, Gujarat of Western Railway became the first station of Indian Railways (IR) to install a Walk Through Mass Sanitizing Tunnel to ensure the safety of staff and passengers in the view of the COVID-19.
- ✓ Exit from the Lockdown report has been prepared by CII.
 - **Note:** The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in its report titled "**Exit from the Lockdown: A CII Strategy**" has recommended phase-wise lifting of the lockdown based on the incidence of COVID cases.
- ✓ Fit India in collaboration with **CBSE** for first-of-a-kind live fitness session under its Fit India Active Day programme for school children across the country.
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced a training program on COVID-19 for intergovernmental organization **SAARC**.
 - **Note:** It will be carried out by the Central Government's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.
 - It is to take forward the Prime Minister's (PM) '**Prepare Not Panic**' for '**SAARC fights Corona**'.
 - PM Narendra Modi has suggested that the health professionals of the member nations come together to fight the coronavirus pandemic at the India-initiated video conference of SAARC leaders on March 15.
- ✓ **Jim Corbett National Park** becomes the India's 1st quarantine centre for animals.
 - **Note:** Jim Corbett National Park has become the India's 1st quarantine centre for animals with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- ✓ **M S Sahoo Committee** submitted its report on "valuation professionals" and



proposed an institutional framework for valuers by setting up National Institute of Valuers (NIV).

- ✓ **Nirmala Sitharaman** attended the Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) through video conferencing.
 - **Note:** The discussion in the meeting is based on IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva global policy agenda titled, “Exceptional Times – Exceptional Action”.
- ✓ **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad** is training community leaders online to combat COVID-19 in collaboration with UNICEF.
- ✓ The ministry of finance has increased the coverage of lender’s loss in case of loan default under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) scheme to **75%**.
 - The lender’s burden under the scheme has reduced from the first 5% of the amount in default to 3%.
- ✓ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** attended G20 Health Ministers Meeting held via video conference to control COVID-19.
 - **Note:** An international forum of Health Ministers of G20 countries was held on April 19, 2020, via Video Conference. Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB) estimated that, over \$8 billion is required to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ **Vinod Paul and Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan** will head the high-level task force for vaccine and drug testing for coronavirus disease.
 - **Note:** The objective of the task force is to catalyse national and international efforts towards vaccine development to treat Covid-19.
- ✓ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)** has been appointed as the implementing agency to handle the Central Public Sector

Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

- **Note:** MNRE will timely review the maximum permissible VGF amount &
- The CPSU Scheme Phase II aims to set up 12,000 MW grid-connected solar PV power projects under the government producers with the VGF support for self-use or by government entities either directly or through discoms
- ✓ **Dharmendra Pradhan** chaired the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) meeting approved & allowed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to convert the available surplus rice to ethanol.
- ✓ **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) Institute of Medical Science and Research** becomes the 1st authorized study centre in the country to carry out the plasma research under trial in view of COVID 19.
- ✓ **Ravindra H Dholakia** chaired the committee formed by the central government that suggested a complete revamp of how states collect and compile data for state-level gross domestic product (GDP) and other estimates.
- ✓ To invite e-learning content contributions Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ has launched programme **VidyaDaan 2.0**.
 - **Note:** The contribution can be made by individuals, teachers, educationists, subject experts, schools, government and non-government organisations etc after registering & nominating themselves.
 - The program will soon be inviting contributions for Teacher Training material.
- ✓ Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated **Mobile Virology Research and Diagnostics Laboratory (MVRDL)** which is developed by **DRDO**.
- ✓ **Swamitva Scheme** has been launched by the PM Narendra Modi on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th of



April 2020.

- **Note:** On the occasion an integrated e-Gram swaraj Portal & Mobile app for accelerating the pace of development in India's villages was also launched.
 - The Unified Portal is a new initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj which will provide the Gram Panchayats with a single interface to prepare and implement their Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). The scheme provides an integrated property validation solution for rural India.
- ✓ **Malini Shankar** will head the reconstituted **16-member National Shipping Board (NSB)**.
- **Note:** The **Ministry of Shipping** has given its consent for the reconstitution of the 16-member National Shipping Board (NSB), the highest advisory body on matters related to Indian shipping and its development or other matters arising out of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.
- ✓ The premier multilateral air combat training Exercise Pitch Black 2020 has been cancelled which was to be conducted by the **Royal Australian Air Force**.
- **Note:** Exercise Pitch Black 2020 scheduled to be held from July 27 to August 14 2020. The next edition is scheduled in 2022.
 - It is a biennial three-week multinational large force employment exercise conducted primarily from RAAF Base Darwin and RAAF Base Tindal.
- ✓ On the occasion of the World Book Day the Union Minister of Human Resource and Development (HRD), Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched **#MyBookMyFriend** campaign.
- **Note:** The World Book Day is celebrated in the lockdown and he asked the students to read books of their interest and share about the book they are reading with him in the social media using

#MyBookMyFriend.

- ✓ 1st government (govt) hospital in India to successfully launch the Convalescent Plasma Therapy (CPT) treatment for the COVID-19 patients -- **The King George Medical University (KGMU)**

March 2020

- ✓ **Indian Air Force** signed MoU with **Savitribai Phule Pune University** to establish a 'Chair of Excellence' named "Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence".
- In order to pay **tribute to the legend and commemorate** the centenary birth year of the **MIAF (Marshal of the Indian Air Force)**, **IAF** has named it as "Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence".
- ✓ **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** launched 'Suposhit Maa Abhiyan' in **Kota, Rajasthan**.
- **Note:** **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** has launched 'Suposhit Maa Abhiyan' in his constituency **Kota, Rajasthan**, to provide nutritional support to pregnant women and adolescent girls.
 - The aim of the campaign is to **preserve & maintain the health of our future generations**.
- ✓ **108th Indian Science Congress 2021** will be held in **Pune, Maharashtra**.
- **Note:** The Indian Science Congress association (ISCA) announced that Pune will host the annual session of 108th Indian Science Congress on January 3-7, 2021 at Symbiosis International University's Lavale campus with the theme, "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment".
 - Dr Vijay Laxmi Saxena elected as general president of the Indian Science Congress, 2020-21
- ✓ **National Chambal Sanctuary** has received eco-sensitive zone tag.
- ✓ **11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference -2020** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The conference, organized by the **Indian Council of Agricultural**



Research (ICAR), focused on technology-led farming and youth entrepreneurship through agriculture.

- ✓ Under the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)**, a financial assistance of Rs 1.51 crore has been sanctioned to **Kaziranga National Park**.
- ✓ **35th edition of the International food and hospitality fair 'AAHAR 2020'** commences in **New Delhi**.
- ✓ An **International Conference and Exhibition on Smart Energy and Water India Smart Utility Week 2020 (ISUW)** for Smarter Cities was held in **New Delhi**.
- ✓ **Maharashtra Government** renamed Aurangabad Airport as **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Airport**.
- ✓ International Conference on **Nano Science and Technology 2020 (ICONSAT)** was held in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
 - The conference provides a **platform for the young researchers & students** from within the country and abroad, with the **latest development in the emerging areas of Nano Science and Technology**.
- ✓ **5th edition of India Pharma & India Medical Device 2020 Conference** held at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
 - The conference was organized by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
- ✓ The **National Water Mission** organized the inaugural session of the workshop on "Increasing Water Use Efficiency in Industries" in **New Delhi**.
 - **Note:** The National Water Mission organized the inaugural session of the workshop on "Increasing Water Use Efficiency in Industries".
 - The workshop on "**Increasing Water Use Efficiency in Industries**" was held in **New Delhi**.
 - The National Water Mission organized the workshop under the initiative "**HarKaamDeshkeNaam**".
- ✓ Name the **mobile app** which has been

launched by the government for delivery of diesel at doorsteps of Housing societies, hotels and hospitals in the national capital region -- '**Fuel Humsafar**'.

- ✓ "**EKAM Fest**" has been organised in **New Delhi** to promote **Craftsmanship & Products of Divyang Artisans and Entrepreneurs**.
- ✓ **Indian Coast Guard** conducts 9th edition of rescue exercise '**SAREX-2020**' in **Goa**.
- ✓ Two cities are approved by the Government of India as authorised land immigration check posts to enter or exit India -- **Agartala** and **Ghojadanga**.
 - **Agartala and Ghojadanga** are located along the Indo-Bangladesh border.
- ✓ The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) & the World Bank** organized a discussion programme on the topic "The Future of Work: Women in India's Workforce" in **New Delhi**.
 - **Note:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) & the World Bank organized a discussion programme on the topic "**The Future of Work: Women in India's Workforce**" at **New Delhi**.
- ✓ **Odisha** becomes the **1st state to own a separate department for Self Help Groups** named as "**Department of Mission Shakti**".
- ✓ The **6th edition of Economic Times Global business summit** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - The **theme of the Global Business Summit** is '**Collaborate to Create: Sustainable Growth in a Fractured World**'.
- ✓ **National Conference on Women in Police and CAPFs** held in **New Delhi**.
 - The Conference was organized by the **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR & D)**.
 - Smriti Irani also released a hand-out- '**BPR & D Mirror- Gender Bender**' and also the book titled "**To Greater Heights**".
 - Themes of the Conference 2020: '**Cyber Stalking and Bullying of Women: Steps for Protection**' and '**Challenges faced by CAPF Women in Operational Areas**'.
- ✓ United Nations Global Compact Network India has organized the 3rd edition of its



Gender Equality Summit 2020 in **New Delhi**.

- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
 - **Note: Andhra Pradesh (AP)** ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan as per September 2019 progress report of NITI Aayog, "Transforming Nutrition in India: POSHAN Abhiyaan".
 - The 2nd anniversary of POSHAN Abhiyaan is recognized by celebrating Poshan Pakhwada from 8th-22nd March 2020.
- ✓ **Gujarat** state ranks first in the list for domestic solar rooftop installations, throughout the country with 64 percent of domestic solar installations.
- ✓ A weeklong Exhibition-cum-Fair, the first "EKAM Fest" organized by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) in **New Delhi**.
 - EKAM, an acronym for **Entrepreneurship, Knowledge, Awareness, Marketing**, was aimed to showcase products made with extra ordinary determination by the **divyang (differently abled) crafts persons and entrepreneurs**.
- ✓ **India** post launches **India's 1st digital parcel locker service in Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- ✓ **New Delhi Railway Station** to be converted as **World Class Station**.
 - **Note:** The committee chaired by Bibek Debroy has recommended concession of commercial operation of train service like Rajdhani/Shatabdi to private parties.
- ✓ First regional edition of "**Divya Kala Shakti Event**" was held in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)**.
 - The event was organised by the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), in association with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
 - The Divya Kala Shakti event aims to provide a platform for the disabled to exhibit their talents.
- ✓ The **Mumbai Central Station** to be renamed after **Nana Shankarsheth**.
 - The **Bombay Central** is designed by **British architect Claude Batley**.
 - The **first railway in India** ran over **21 miles from Bombay to Thane**.
- ✓ **WINGS INDIA 2020** an international exhibition and conference was held in **Hyderabad**.
 - **Note:** The conference was held between **March 12-15 is a biennial event**.
 - The event was themed as '**Flying for All**' is an International Exhibition & Conference.
 - The exhibition was organized by **Ministry of Civil Aviation & Airports Authority of India (AAI) & Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**.
- ✓ The **government proposed masks & hand sanitizers under Essential Commodities Act 1955**.
 - **Note:** The government amended Essential Commodities (EC) Act, 1955 to declare 2 ply & 3 ply surgical masks, N95 masks & hand sanitizers as Essential Commodities up to 30th June 2020.
 - It also issued a consultation under the Legal Metrology (LM) Act, 2009 that under EC law, after consultations with manufacturers, states can ask them to increase the production capacity of these products & streamline the supply chain, while states can ensure the sale of both products under MRP under the LM Act.
- ✓ **US \$10 million** amount has been offered by India in the proposed COVID-19 Emergency Fund for SAARC Nation by PM Narendra Modi.
- ✓ As per the Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari the number of deaths caused due to road accidents have been reduced by **10%**.
 - **Note: Minister of Road Transport &**



Highways and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari revealed that the number of deaths caused due to road accidents has been reduced by 10% in India after the Motor Vehicles (Amended) Act 2019.

- **From 12 states and union territories, Tamil Nadu** made notable progress in reducing road accidents by 24% which is the maximum anywhere in the country.
- ✓ Government targeted to achieve sales **around 70 lakh hybrid & electric vehicles** by the end of 2020.
 - **Note: The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Minister of Information & Broadcasting & Minister of Heavy industries and Public Enterprises Prakash Javadekar** informed that the government has set an ambitious target to achieve sales of **around 70 lakh hybrid & electric vehicles** by the end of 2020.
 - In 2015 as part of the **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020**, Department of Heavy Industry formulated the **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles** in India (**FAME India**) scheme.
- ✓ As per the **New & Renewable Energy, (MNRE) Ministry** till March 13, 2020, Rooftop solar power plants in India installed at **1,922 MW**.
 - **Note: Minister of State Independent Charge (IC) of, New & Renewable Energy, (MNRE) and Power, Minister of State of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Raj Kumar(RK) Singh** stated till March 13, 2020, the rooftop solar plants contain an aggregate capacity of 1,922 MW are installed in the country.
 - Out of the **total capacity, 346 MW** is installed in the residential sector.
- ✓ **Banihal to Katra railway link** to be completed by **2022**.
 - This completion will pave the way for the creation of Indian rail from Kanyakumari to Baramulla.
- The **Katra-Banihal railway track** is a **111-km long stretch** which will link **Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country by train**.
- ✓ The central government has included which two sites in the **Iconic Tourist Sites list -- Konark Sun Temple & Statue of Unity**.
 - A total of **17 iconic tourist sites** were identified by the government of India in 2019. It includes- Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri (Uttar Pradesh), Ajanta and Ellora (Maharashtra), Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort and Qutub Minar (Delhi), Colva (Goa), Amer Fort (Rajasthan), Somnath and Dholavira (Gujarat), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Kaziranga (Assam), Kumarakom (Kerala) and Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar).
- ✓ **Indian Railways** to electrify all broad-gauge routes by **December 2023**.
 - As a target to **electrify 4,310 km of BG route** in the year **2023-2024** (till December 2023), it is planned to electrify a total of 28,810 km of BG route.
 - As part of its solar mission, it plans to source approximately 1000 megawatt (MW) of solar power & to source around 200 MV of wind power, based on the techno-commercial assessment.
- ✓ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed an MoU with **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**.
 - **Note:** This MoU aims for better synergy with this organization for the development of agriculture, allied sectors and its exports for bringing better value to the stakeholders.
 - This collaboration focuses to reach large farmers for improving the production base of agri products quantitatively and qualitatively.
- ✓ **Finance Commission** sets up committee to review the fiscal consolidation road map under the chairmanship of **Nand Kishore Singh**.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared the formulation of COVID-19 Economic



Response Task Force led by **Nirmala Sitharaman**.

- ✓ The proposed new “**Draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020**” will come into effect from **1st April 2020**.
 - **Note:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has proposed a new “Draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020”.
 - It will replace DPP 2016 and would remain in force till 31 March 2025. Its draft has been finalized by a high-level committee headed by Apurva Chandra, Director General (DG) Acquisition, Ministry of Defence that was set up in August 2019.
- ✓ TRIFED launches ‘**Tech for Tribals**’ program to bring technology to **tribal entrepreneurs**.
 - **Note:** A 30- days long capacity-building program called “Tech for Tribal” has been launched by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
 - It was launched in association with IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Roorkee, IIM Indore, Kalinga Institute of Social Science, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and SRIJAN, Jaipur (Rajasthan) to provide entrepreneurship skills to the tribal people.
- ✓ Amidst Coronavirus outbreak India’s 1st AI summit ‘**RAISE 2020**’ postponed to **October 2020**.
 - **Note:** The Indian government announced the postponement of the country’s 1st summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), ‘**RAISE 2020– Responsible Artificial intelligence (AI) for Social Empowerment**’ to **October 5-6, 2020**.
 - It was to be conducted **between April 11 & 12, 2020** in **New Delhi** by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
 - The summit is a drive to **India’s vision & roadmap for social empowerment, inclusion & transformation through AI**.
- ✓ The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** opened a **360 feet long bailey suspension**

bridge for traffic over -- **Teesta River**.

- **Note:** The bridge constructed will be useful for the people residing in **Lahen town, North Sikkim**.
- The bridge constructed will facilitate the movement of logistics for the Armed forces deployed in forward areas and also acts as tourist spots.
- ✓ **IIT Madras** is to organize India’s 1st Global Hyperloop Pod Competition.
 - **Note:** The Competition has been named as ‘**Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition**’.
 - This is to increase the awareness & enthusiasm about Hyperloop in India. The final round to take place in the IIT-Madras campus in July 2020.
- ✓ **Indore** becomes the first city in India to use drones to sanitize the city.
- ✓ Which Initiative has been launched the **National Book Trust** to encourage people to read books while at home -- **#StayHomeIndiaWithBooks?**
 - **Note:** As part of this initiative, it provides select and best-selling titles for FREE Download of 100+ books, in PDF format, from the NBT’s its website.
 - The PDFs are read-only, and no unauthorized or commercial use is permitted.
- ✓ **1.70 lakh crores rupees** has been provided by the union government under **PMGaribKalyanYojana** for the poor to tackle Corona Virus.
 - **Note:** The motive behind this is to aid and support the Poverty-stricken people to fight a battle against Corona Virus.
 - Insurance Cover of Rs 50 Lakh per healthcare worker workers fighting COVID-19 in Govt Hospitals & health centres.
 - PM Garib Kalyan Ann (अन्न (Yojana; foodgrain entitlement doubled. Farmers to get the first instalment of Rs 2000 under PM KISAN in April 2020
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in an extraordinary “Virtual Group of 20 (G20) Leaders’



Summit” which was hosted by **Saudi Arabia**.

- **Note:** It was held to discuss the challenges created by the COVID-19 and to develop an action plan for globally coordinated response against it.
 - G20 leaders agreed to inject over USD 5 trillion into the global economy to counter the social and economic impact of COVID-19.
 - Leaders also agreed to contribute to the WHO led COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund on a voluntary basis.
- ✓ Amid the growing coronavirus pandemic, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) categorizes which medicine as schedule H1 drug -- **Hydroxychloroquine**.
- **Note:** It means it can't be sold without the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.
 - Now the sale of the drug will be based on the conditions specified in Schedule H1 to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.
 - The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) recently suggested that hydroxychloroquine be used in high risk cases of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- ✓ **Operation Namaste**. has been given to the initiative launched by Indian Army to protect 1.3 million strong forces from coronavirus.
- **Note:** Indian Army Chief General **Manoj Mukund Naravane** launched 'Operation Namaste' initiative to protect 1.3 million strong forces from coronavirus and provide all possible assistance to the government to control the pandemic.
 - Under '**Operation Namaste**', the army has issued a series of directives to all its bases to protect the force from the coronavirus & the army headquarters issued a number of suggestions to deal with the situation over the past few weeks.
- ✓ **Japanese government funding agency (JICA)** has signs an agreement worth Rs 15,295 crore with India to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) for 3 rail infrastructure projects.
- The project aims to cope up the increasing demand for freight transport in India by setting up a new dedicated freight railway line between Delhi and Mumbai.
- ✓ **IIT Madras** is organizing India's first Global Hyperloop Pod Competition named as 'Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition'.
- ✓ **DRDO** has designed a casualty evacuation bag to transport or isolate persons infected with COVID-19.
- **Note:** The bag is water and air-proof and treated to deal with biological agents. DRDO will be procuring an initial lot of 500 such bags.
- ✓ The Government of India has launched a coronavirus risk-tracking app called '**Corona Kavach**.'
- ✓ To engage students in creative projects during the COVID-19 lockdown 'Project Isaac' has been launched by **IIT Gandhinagar**.
- **Note:** The project aims to enhance the student's skills while they are confined in their homes.
 - The project is inspired by Sir Isaac Newton, who was similarly sent home by Trinity College, Cambridge, because of the Great Plague of London in 1665.
- ✓ India's national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency, the Invest India has launched '**The Invest India Business Immunity Platform**'.
- **Note:** The Invest India Business Immunity Platform has been launched to assist businesses and investors in getting real-time updates on India's active response to COVID-19.
 - This platform tracks the regular developments with respect to the Coronavirus.

February 2020

- ✓ India's first of its kind fruit train was launched by **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Note:** The fruit train was launched from Tadipatri Railway Station in Anantapur district & from Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The first meeting of the **Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU)** in New Delhi.



- ✓ Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, ‘Matla Abhiyaan’ in **Kolkata, West Bengal.**
 - Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, ‘**Matla Abhiyaan**’ at **Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal** with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the **Sunderban delta waters.**
- ✓ **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020** was held in **New Delhi.**
 - **Note:** The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) was inaugurated a 3-day long World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020 based on the theme “**Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count**” at **India Habitat Centre in New Delhi** from 29-31 January, 2020.
 - The summit was organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a research institute specializes in the fields of energy.
- ✓ The Department of Science and Technology has launched a special scheme for Science and Technology infrastructure in India is called **Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)**.
 - **Note:** The aim of the scheme is to create shared, professionally managed and strong Science and Technology infrastructure in India. The SATHI scheme will enable academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs to offer high-end analytical testing.
 - This will help to avoid duplication, reduce the dependency on foreign sources & also foster a strong culture of collaboration between institutions.
- ✓ India’s biggest rural technical festival ‘Antahpragnya 2020’ was held in **Telangana.**
 - The festival was held for 3 days from 31st January to February 1, 2020. The theme for the year 2020 was “**Spot and encourage rural tech innovators**”.
- ✓ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implemented a new scheme named “**Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries**” (SFURTI).
 - **Note:** Under this scheme, financial support will be given to set up traditional industries clusters viz. Khadi, Coir & Village industries clusters.
- ✓ According to the recent report published by German cybersecurity firm Greenbone Sustainable Resilience **Maharashtra** state topped hit by global medical data leak.
- ✓ 15-member trust named ‘Sri Ram Janma Bhoomi Tirtha Kshetra trust’ for the construction of Ram Mandir led by **Kesava Iyengar Parasaran.**
- ✓ 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS), 2020 was held in **Kochi, Kerala.**
 - **Note:** The show was organized jointly by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry & the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).
 - The theme of this year’s show is “**Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition**”.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for setting up a new Major Port at **Vadhavan.**
- ✓ The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2019 to assess quality of life of citizens in **100 Smart Cities.**
- ✓ **Hyderabad Metro Rail Network** becomes **India’s 2nd largest Metro Rail Network** of total operational distance of 69.2kms.
 - It becomes India’s 2nd largest Metro Rail Network of total operational distance of 69.2kms, only next to Delhi Metro Rail Network having an operational distance of 231kms.
- ✓ The 4th edition of East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation 2020 was held in **Chennai Tamil Nadu.**
- ✓ For the first time the **Hornbill festival** was celebrated in **Tripura.**
- ✓ 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory



Species (CMS) of Wild Animals, was hosted by India at **Gandhinagar in Gujarat**.

- The theme for the CMS COP 13 in India is, “Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them Home”.
- ✓ The 11th edition of the Biennial Mega Defence Exhibition “**DefExpo 2020**” held in **Lucknow**.
- **Note:** The 11th edition of DefExpo-2020, organized by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence with a support of Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) for the first time from 5th to 9th Feb 2020.
 - The main theme was “**India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub**” with focus on “Digital Transformation of Defence”. This expo is also termed as “Mahakumbh of defence manufacturing companies”. The last two days of the expo was opened for public.
- ✓ The “**2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2020)**” was held at **Bhubaneswar/Puri, Odisha**.
- **Note:** The themes of the exercise was “A cultural heritage site that suffers severe damage in the Earthquake” & “Flooding or Storm”.
 - Organized by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), on behalf of the Government of India, BIMSTEC DMEx-2020 was inaugurated by Chief Minister Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik.
- ✓ The theme of the 20th ‘Hunar Haat’, an initiative of the Minority Affairs Ministry is “**Kaushal Ko Kaam**”.
- **Note:** The 20th ‘Hunar Haat’, an initiative of the Minority Affairs Ministry, showcases handmade indigenous products of master artisans and craftsmen are made available to the people, will be held from February 13-23, 2020 based on the theme of “Kaushal Ko Kaam” at India Gate Lawns, Rajpath, New Delhi.
- ✓ The Government of India decided to rename the **National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad**, after

Arun Jaitley.

- ✓ The “**CLIMISHCON**” is a Four-day International Conference on changes in Hydrological cycle, Ocean ecosystem, Fisheries and Food security will be held in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- The theme of the conference is ‘Climate Change-Effective Adaptation for a Secure Future’.
- ✓ India’s largest air quality monitoring network will be established at **Mumbai**.
- **Note:** The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will develop an air quality monitoring network across 90 locations in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It will be the largest network in India.
 - The project will be completed within next 5 years, funded by BMC and private organisations.
- ✓ The National Water Conference was held at **Bhopal**.
- The conference is being held to finalize the guidelines of “**Right to Water Act**” or “**Water Rights Act**” and also discussed the water crisis in the state and also making the state a water-rich state.
- ✓ The BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) ‘Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking’ was held in **New Delhi**.
- **Note:** The Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the two-day long BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) ‘Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking’, in New Delhi.
 - It was organized by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - This conference was held on the lines of the commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 4th BIMSTEC summit in Nepal’s Kathmandu in 2018.
- ✓ The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted at **Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh**.
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs announced that two Institutions, the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and the Foreign Service Institute have



- been named after **Sushma Swaraj**.
- ✓ To give passengers the experience of world class facilities the Indian Railways has planned to prepare 5- Star Hotel on the tracks in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
 - ✓ Name the Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam who visited India -- **Mrs. Dang Thai Ngoc Thinh**.
 - ✓ 'Arth Ganga' project to channelize economic activity along Ganga riverbank.
 - ✓ **South Central Railways (SCR) zone** becomes the first in India to have 13 energy-neutral stations.
 - ✓ Union minister for Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Nitin Gadkari flagged off KVIC's 'Apiary on Wheels' in **New Delhi**.
 - **Note:** Apiary on Wheels is a unique concept for easy maintenance of BeeBox and migration of live colonies, designed by KVIC. In accordance with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's vision, KVIC's honey mission was launched in 2017 and involves training of beekeepers, distribution of bee-keeping boxes and rural-educated.
 - Apiary on Wheels is a holistic approach to meet the challenges faced by beekeepers & also help reduce the labor cost of maintenance of bee box and living bee colonies across India.
 - ✓ To investigate the need for separate arrangements for funding defense and internal security the 15th Finance Commission has set up a five-member group led by **Nand Kishore Singh**.
 - ✓ Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the first inter-city electric bus service in **Maharashtra**.
 - ✓ The **National Organic Food festival** was hosted by The Government of India (GOI) in **New Delhi**.
 - The theme of the festival was 'Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential'.
 - ✓ 3-day long 17th edition of Bio Asia 2020 was held in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
 - **Note:** It is Asia's largest Biotechnology and Life Sciences Forum with the theme of 'Today for Tomorrow'.
 - ✓ Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has targeted to establish the 1st integrated tri-service command called "Air Defence Command (ADC)" by **June 2020**.
 - The ADC will unify the air defence and assets of the Army, Air Force and Navy and jointly provide air defence cover to the nation.
 - ✓ The 4th National Conference on Review of Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) held in **Udaipur**.
 - The first three editions were held in Lucknow, Bangalore, and Guwahati respectively.
 - ✓ According to the GMR Group which airport becomes the the 1st airport in India to be completely free of single-use plastic usage **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)**.
 - It is in line with India's target to abolish all single-use plastic from India by 2022.
 - ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** state becomes the first in India to enforce Performance regulation act 2019 for Power department.
 - **Note:** In order to provide timely and hassle-free service to electricity consumers, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) state Government has implemented the Performance Regulation Act 2019 for the power department.
 - ✓ The Central Government has renamed Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) after **Manohar Parrikar**.
 - ✓ India to switch to World's Cleanest petrol and diesel from **April 1,2020**.
 - **Note:** India to switch to World's cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1,2020, when it proceeds to Bharat Stage (BS-VI) from BS-IV grades at present.
 - India will join the select league of nations using petrol & diesel which contains 10ppm (parts per millions) of Sulphur which cuts down vehicular discharge that is stated to be one of the reasons for pollution.
 - ✓ BioAsia 2020 was held at the life science capital of India i.e. in **Hyderabad**.
 - It was the 17th edition of the flagship international convention – BioAsia,



whose CEO is Shakthi Nagappan.

- ✓ The northeast frontier railway construction has constructed India's tallest railway pier bridge in **Manipur**.
 - **Note:** The northeast frontier railway construction has constructed India's tallest railway pier bridge.
 - It is built across the **Makru river in the Tamenglong district**, near Noney of Manipur
- ✓ 8th edition of the "**Ganga Kayak festival**" was inaugurated in **Devprayag, Uttarakhand**.
 - In male sprint category, **India's Ayodhya Prasad** stood first followed by Nepal's Man Bahadur Kandel, Rishi Rana of India coming 3rd place.
 - In the women's category, Elizabeth Health of Australia came in first followed by Ekaterina of Russia and Anna of Russia in the 3rd position.
- ✓ **India and Myanmar** signed an MoU for regular passenger bus service between Imphal and **Mandalay**.
 - Bus service from Mandalay will end at the border of Tamu from there Indian bus operators will take passengers to Moreh town in Manipur.
- ✓ **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research** ranked first in the Nature Ranking Index 2020 (**CSIR**).
 - Numbers in research output are designated by total citations in numbers and shares which indicates the sharing percentage per article.
- ✓ Union Minister of State for shipping Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated the India's first floating jetty in **Goa**.
- ✓ The National Organic Food Festival for women entrepreneurs was inaugurated at **New Delhi**.
 - It is jointly organized by both the ministries with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the industry partner.
 - The theme of the festival is 'Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential'.
- ✓ Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC) has installed a India's 1st squat machine at **Anand Vihar Railway Station in Delhi**.
 - **Note:** It was installed to promote the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi-led "**Fit India**" initiative.
- ✓ The first-ever 2 days long Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav 2020 was held in **Agartala, Tripura**.
- ✓ The International Judicial Conference – "**Judiciary and The Changing World**" was held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Note:** The theme of the conference was "Gender Just World".
 - The aim of the conference was to facilitate cross fertilisation of ideas between judges of India and those from abroad.
 - The Conference discussed the changes being introduced by the Government of India to bring Gender Equality in recruiting women.
- ✓ **Shyama Prasad Mukherji National Rurban Mission (SPMRM)** has completed **four years**.
 - Under this, rural clusters are identified in rural areas across India, where increasing signs of urbanization such as increasing urban density, high levels of non-agricultural employment, increasing economic activity and other socio-economic scale are being received.
- ✓ World's largest 'Export Cold Zone' to Store Agro, Pharma Products has been unveiled in **Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL)**.
- ✓ 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) was held in **Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat**.
 - **Note:** The theme of the conference was "Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home".
 - It was inspired by "Kolam", a traditional art form from southern India.
 -
- ✓ The final report submitted by the **Committee on Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE)** headed by **Yudhvir Singh Malik**.
- ✓ The **Assam Rifles (military unit)** has constructed a war memorial "**Veer Samriti**" in Nagaland.



- ✓ 1st ever Innovation festival was organized at **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - The two days festival aims to encourage the cultural innovation among the people and students of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ India's **1st Super Fab Lab facility** was inaugurated in **Kerala**.
- ✓ The **1st edition of Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations 2020** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Note:** The 1st edition of Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations 2020 based on the theme "Connectivity", between India & Russia was held in New Delhi.
- ✓ **France** will be the guest of honour at New Delhi World Book Fair for the year 2022.
- ✓ The **Department of Biotechnology** has organized a **2-day long International**

Summit on Women in STEM—"Visualizing the Future: New Skylines" in New Delhi.

- The aim of the summit is to increase the participation of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field for development of scientific career.
- ✓ **India's first e-waste clinic** was opened in **Bhopal**.
- ✓ **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has decided to observe 2020 as the "**Year of Mobility**" for the welfare of the troops.
- ✓ **India's flagship global conference on geopolitics and geo-economics Raisina Dialogue** held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Raisina Dialogue (fifth edition)** jointly organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and the Observer Research Foundation.

Important News-World

February 2021

Bangladesh Supreme Court launches Artificial Intelligence (AI) based translation software 'Amar Vasha'

- The software will translate orders and judgements of the Supreme Court from English to Bangla.
- **Note:** The Software has been developed with '**EkStep**' foundation of India. It is based on their 'Anuvaad' translation software used in India to translate from English to Indian languages including Bangla.
- Anuvaad was deployed by the Supreme Court of India as **SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software)** from November 2019.

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar launches the BRICS-2021 website

- The website will provide comprehensive information about events and activities during the BRICS under the Chairship of India. .
- He also launched the upgraded facilities at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan that will serve as the Secretariat for BRICS Summit.
- **Note:** The **13th BRICS Summit** will be held under India's Chairship in 2021, and it will

be the third time India will host the BRICS Summit after 2012 and 2016.

- The theme for India's Chairship for 2021 would be '**BRICS @ 15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus**'.
- **Facts about BRICS:**
Formation: 2009
Countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

India to gift 2 lakh coronavirus vaccine to UN peacekeepers

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made the announcement at the United Nations Security Council open debate on Implementation of Resolution 2532.
- 25 nations across the world have already received Made in India vaccines and 49 more countries will be supplied in the coming days under '**Vaccine Maitri**' initiatives.
- **Facts about UN (United Nations):**
Formation: 24 October 1945
Headquarter: New York, USA
Secretary General: Antonio Guterres

World Bank report, "Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on Indian Society"

- The report titled “Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on Indian Society”, was released by Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari.
- The report highlights the disproportionate impact of a road crash on poor households that pushes them into a vicious cycle of poverty and debt.
- It sheds light on the links between road crashes, poverty and inequality in India.
- Post-crash impact among Low Income Households is more severe compared to High Income Households with incidence of fatality among poor households as high as 44% in rural areas compared to 11.6% in urban areas, the report by the World Bank and Save Life Foundation.
- **Note:** India is also a signatory to the United Nation’s Brasilia Declaration with the target of reducing road fatalities by 50% by 2020. Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari also said the government aims to bring down road accidents and its related deaths down by 50 percent before 2025.

Indian-origin Preeti Sinha to lead United Nations Capital Development Fund

- The United Nations Capital Development Fund has appointed Indian-origin investment and development banker Preeti Sinha as its Executive Secretary.
- Sinha succeeds Judith Karl, who retired in February.
- **About The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF):** It makes public and private finance work for the poor in the world's 47 least developed countries.

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founded: 1966

Parent organizations: United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council

US extends New START Nuclear Arms Control Treaty with Russia for five years

- United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with Russia for five years.

- The treaty had been set to lapse on 5 February, as the Trump administration had refused to approve the extension. Now the pact has been extended to 5th February 2026.
- **Note:** The treaty, which first went into effect in 2011, limits the United States and Russia to deploying no more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads each and imposes restrictions on the land- and submarine-based missiles and bombers to deliver them.

14th International Children’s Film festival concludes in Bangladesh (ICFFB)

- 179 films from 37 countries were shown at various venues during the 7-day long festival organised by the Children’s Film Society (CFS) of Bangladesh.
- Apart from Bangladesh, films from India, Armenia, US, UK, Ireland, Japan and China among others were shown in the course of the festival.
- Dutch Film Jackie and Oopjen was awarded the Best International Feature Film Award. The Best Director award went to Ani Oganesyanyan for his film Stork’s Nest from Armenia. A total of 12 awards were presented to the winners at the concluding ceremony.

Bangladeshi film Maati got The Young Talent Award while Lottery won the Special mention under the Young Talent Award.

India, Afghanistan sign MoU to build Shahtoot Dam in Kabul

- External affairs minister S Jaishankar and his Afghan counterpart Haneef Atmar signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) for building Lalandar or Shatoot dam, which will meet the drinking water needs of two million people in Kabul, provide irrigation water to nearby areas and rejuvenate irrigation and drainage networks.
- **Note: Shahtoot dam** is the second major dam being built by India in Afghanistan, after the **Friendship Dam or Salma dam**, inaugurated by Modi and Ghani in June 2016.
- As a part of our Development Cooperation with Afghanistan, India has completed



more than 400 projects covering all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

US government moves to rejoin UN Human Rights Council

- President Joe Biden has moved to rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council- UNHRC three years after the former US President Donald Trump withdrew from the global body.
- **Note:** Reversing other decisions of former US President, Joe Biden has also joined the World Health Organisation and Paris Climate Accord which the Trump administration withdrew from while he was in office.
- **Facts about UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council):**
Founded: 15 March 2006
President: Nazhat Shameem
Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The UAE's Hope Probe has successfully entered orbit around Mars

- The United Arab Emirates' first mission to Mars arrived at the red planet and successfully entered orbit on its first attempt.
- The Emirates Mars Mission, known as the Hope Probe, marked the UAE as only the fifth country (after US, the Soviet Union, Europe and India) in history to reach the red planet and the Arab nation's first interplanetary mission.
- **Facts about the United Arab Emirates (UAE):**
Capital: Abu Dhabi
Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham
President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Nepal decides to award hydropower project to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam

- Nepal has decided to award the contract for construction of 679 megawatt Lower Arun Hydropower Project to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN).
- This was decided at a meeting of the Investment Board Nepal (IBN), chaired by Prime Minister of Nepal.
- The project was awarded to the SJVN under the Build, Own, Operate and

Transfer (BOOT) delivery method.

- **Facts about Nepal:**
Capital: Kathmandu
President: Bidya Devi Bhandari
Prime minister: K. P. Sharma Oli
Currency: Nepalese Rupee

The Myanmar Military Tatmadaw has announced a one year state of emergency in the country

- The Vice President Myint Swe has been made the acting President and all powers have been transferred to the Commander in Chief Min Aung Hlaing.
- The development follows detention of the State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint and other senior leaders from the ruling party National League for Democracy (NLD) by the military.
- **Note:** Aung San Suu Kyi took over as the head of the civilian government in 2015 after a long period of military rule in Myanmar. The National Elections held on November last year saw a massive victory for NLD with the military supported USDP performing poorly.
- Aung San Suu Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

Oxford names "Aatmanirbharta" as Hindi word of the year 2020

- The word was chosen by an advisory panel of language experts Kritika Agrawal, Poonam Nigam Sahay and Imogen Foxell.
- **Note:** Previous Hindi words of the year are *Aadhaar* (2017), *Nari Shakti* (2018) and *Samvidhaan* (2019).

January 2021

India begins its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on January 1, 2021

- In 2021, India, Norway, Kenya, Ireland and Mexico join non-permanent members Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam and the five permanent members China, France, Russia, UK and the US in the Council.
- It will be India's 8th term.



- India will be UNSC President in August 2021 and will preside over the Council again for a month in 2022.

Denmark's Oscar nominee 'Another Round' to be opening movie at 51st IFFI in Goa

- The 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in Goa from 16 to 24 January. The ceremony will begin with Thomas Winterberg's film Another Round.
- **Note:** The International Jury for 51st edition of International Film Festival of India has been announced with eminent filmmakers from across the world.

Argentine filmmaker Pablo Cesar has been named as the Chairman of the jury. The other jury members are Prasanna Vithanage of Sri Lanka, Abu Bakr Shawky of Austria, Priyadarshan of India and Rubaiyat Hossain of Bangladesh.

Japan to join Five Eyes alliance

- **Note:** The **Five Eyes is an alliance of five major nations** including the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.
- The US and the UK formed a secret treaty known as the 'BRUSA Agreement' in May 1943 for cooperation in intelligence sharing.
- This agreement was later formalized as the 'UKUSA Agreement' in 1946. The Five Eyes was an outcome of the UKUSA Agreement.

US Congress passes "Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act" for Pakistani women

- The US Congress has passed the "Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act" which will expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women to receive higher education under a merit and needs-based programme.
- 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.
- **Note:** On October 10, 2014, Malala shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Indian children's rights activist Kailash Satyarthi for her "struggle against the suppression of

children and young people and for the right of all children to education".

Japan to launch the first wood-based satellite by 2023

- Japan's Sumitomo Forestry firm and Kyoto University goals to launch the world's first wood-based space satellite to fight the drawback of space junk.
- **Note:** According to the European Space Agency (ESA) statistical model, there are greater than 130 million items of anthropogenic space debris due to human actions. The debris can journey at a pace of greater than 22,300 mph and may affect different satellites.

Cabinet approves signing of Memorandum of Cooperation between India and Japan on Partnership in "Specified Skilled Worker"

- The present Memorandum of Cooperation would set an institutional mechanism for partnership and cooperation between India and Japan on sending and accepting skilled Indian workers, who have qualified the required skill and Japanese language test, to work in fourteen specified sectors in Japan.
- These Indian workers would be granted a new status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker" by the Government of Japan.

India to chair 3 important committees of United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- India began its eighth term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC on January 4, 2021.
- The 3 key subsidiary bodies of UNSC are **Taliban Sanctions Committee** (also called the 1988 Sanctions Committee), **Counter Terrorism Committee** (for 2022) and **Libya Sanctions Committee**.

India and Japan Sign MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of ICT (Information and Communications Technology)

- MoU was signed by Union Minister for Communications, Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad and the Japanese Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Takeda Ryota.



- Department of Telecom, Government of India and Ministry of Communications, Government of Japan will enhance mutual cooperation in the field of 5G technologies, telecom security, submarine optical fiber cable system to islands of India, spectrum management, smart cities, high altitude platform for broadband in unconnected areas, disaster management and public safety etc.

Donald Trump becomes first US President to be impeached twice

- Donald Trump became the first US president in history to be impeached twice when the House of Representatives voted to charge him with inciting mob attack on Congress.
- The second impeachment of Donald Trump occurred on January 13, 2021, one week before his term was due to expire.
- He has been previously impeached in December 2019 for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Uganda's President Museveni wins sixth term

- Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has scored a decisive election victory to win a sixth term.
- The 76-year-old Museveni has been in power since 1986 and is one of Africa's longest-serving leaders.
- **Facts about Uganda:** Country in East Africa
Capital: Kampala
Currency: Ugandan shilling

Russia withdraws from Open Skies Treaty

- Russia announced that it was leaving the Open Skies Treaty (OST), an accord between over 30 countries that allows participants to fly unarmed reconnaissance flights over any part of their fellow member states.
- In November 2020, the United States left the OST.
- **Facts about Open Skies Treaty:** It establishes a program of unarmed aerial surveillance flights over the entire territory of its participants. It entered into force on January 1, 2002.

Iran, six other nations lose right to vote in UNGA

- Iran and six other nations lost their right to vote in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) because they have not paid their dues.
- The other countries losing their UNGA voting rights are Niger, Libya, the Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, South Sudan and Zimbabwe.
- Three more countries - Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia - will be allowed to continue to vote despite missing dues payments, because they sufficiently demonstrated that they are incapable of paying.
- **Note: Under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations,** a Member State in arrears in the payment of its dues in an amount that equals or exceeds the contributions due for two preceding years can lose its vote in the General Assembly.

United Nations Human Rights Office urges release of Bhima Koregaon Activists

- The UN Human Rights office has expressed serious concern about the detention of human rights defenders in India, including those arrested in the controversial Bhima Koregaon case, and has urged the Indian authorities to release the detainees "at the very least on bail".
- **Note: 2018 Bhima Koregaon violence** refers to violence during an annual celebratory gathering on 1 January 2018 at Bhima Koregaon to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Bhima Koregaon.
- A small village in Pune district of Maharashtra, Bhima-Koregaon is associated with an important phase of Maratha history. On January 1, 1818, a Dalit-dominated British Army had defeated a Peshwa army, led by Peshwa Bajirao II, in Koregaon.

First-ever treaty to ban nuclear weapons enters into force

- The first-ever treaty to ban nuclear



weapons (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons-TPNW) entered into force, hailed as a historic step to rid the world of its deadliest weapons but strongly opposed by the world's nuclear-armed nations.

- When the treaty was approved by the U.N. General Assembly in July 2017, more than 120 approved it. But none of the nine countries known or believed to possess nuclear weapons - the United States, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel - supported it and neither did the 30-nation NATO alliance.
- The treaty received its 50th ratification on 24 October 2020 and came into effect from 22 January 2021.

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has won a second term as Portugal's president

- The 72-year-old former leader of the Social Democratic Party won 61 percent of the vote.
- **Facts about Portugal:** Portugal is a southern European country on the Iberian Peninsula, bordering Spain.
- **Capital:** Lisbon
- **Currency:** Euro

UN report on Ageing Dams

- Ageing Dams in India, US, other nations pose growing threat according to UN report.
- The report, titled '**Ageing water infrastructure: An emerging global risk**' and compiled by United Nations University's Canadian-based Institute for Water, Environment and Health, says most of the 58,700 large dams worldwide were constructed between 1930 and 1970 with a design life of 50 to 100 years.
- In India, there are over 1,115 large dams that will be roughly 50 years old in 2025, more than 4,250 large dams in the country will be over 50 years old in 2050 and 64 large dams will be more than 150 years old in 2050.
- The report said that approximately 3.5 million people are at risk if India's

Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala, built over 100 years ago, "were to fail".

- **Note:** The report said that 32,716 large dams (55% of the world's total) are found in just four Asian countries: China, India, Japan, and South Korea - a majority of which will reach the 50-year threshold relatively soon.

India pledges \$150,000 for UN peacebuilding

- TS Tirumurti, permanent representative of India to the United Nations announced a pledge of USD 150,000 to activities of the UN fund for 2021.
- UN Secretary General António Guterres expressed that he was grateful to the countries that committed to provide over \$439 million in support of the UN's work toward peacebuilding & conflict prevention through the UN Peacebuilding Fund.
- As a part of its 2020-24 strategy, the Peacebuilding Fund has put forth a comprehensive scenario covering a horizon of five years. The Fund requires 1.5 billion dollars for 2020-2024.

December 2020

Singapore's 'Hawker' Culture gets UNESCO recognition

- The Hawker Culture in Singapore, a popular Singaporean style of street dining and culinary practices in a multicultural urban environment has been recognized by UNESCO.
- The Hawker culture of Street food in Singapore has been listed on the UN's prestigious '**Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**'.

India contributes USD 1 million to WADA for scientific research for Clean Sport globally

- India has pledged a sum of USD 1 million to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) towards the global agency's scientific research budget to ensure an atmosphere of Clean Sport globally, which will allow WADA to develop innovative anti-doping testing and detection methods.
- India's contribution of USD 1 million is the highest among contributions made by



other world governments, including China, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

- **About WADA:** The World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation initiated by the International Olympic Committee based in Canada to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports. It was founded on 10 November 1999.

Indian Embassy in Beijing launched a movie series “cinemaSCOpe”

- Indian Embassy in Beijing launched a movie series "cinemaSCOpe" exclusively for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in which more than two dozen Indian films dubbed in Russian language, will be screened on a monthly basis.
- The movie screening began with 'Three Idiots' and will continue till India's chairmanship of the SCO 'Council of Heads of State' meeting in 2023.

Forbes 2020 list of world's 100 most powerful women

- 1st rank- German Chancellor Angela Merkel
- 2nd rank- President, European Central Bank Christine Lagarde
- 3rd rank- US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris
- 41st rank- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- 55th rank- HCL Enterprise CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra
- 68th rank- Biocon Founder Kiran Mazumdar Shaw
- **Note:** Forbes is an American business magazine owned by Integrated Whale Media Investments and the Forbes family. Editor-in-chief is Steve Forbes.

Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched a 9 billion dollar vaccine initiative- the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)- offering rapid and equitable support to its developing members as they procure and deliver effective and safe coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines.
- **Note:** The financing of vaccines by ADB will also be in close coordination with other development partners including World

Health Organisation, World Bank Group, GAVI, COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility- COVAX and bilateral and multilateral partners.

UNESCO to launch international prize in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

- UNESCO has decided to launch an international prize in the field of ‘creative economy’ in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Starting November 2021, the dollar 50 thousand award will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth.
- **Sheikh Mujibur** was a Bangladeshi politician. He is called the “Father of the Nation”. He served as the first President of Bangladesh and later as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
- **Note:** UNESCO has declared 2021 as ‘International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development’.
- Currently, there are 23 UNESCO International Awards in the name of international celebrities and organisations.

India and the US sign MoU on Intellectual Property cooperation

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India signed the MoU with US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Department of Commerce of the US.
- The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) will facilitate exchange and dissemination of best practices, experiences and knowledge on IP among the public, and between and among the industry, universities, research and development organizations.
- **Note:** Recently India signed MoU with Denmark on Intellectual Property cooperation.

UN removes cannabis from ‘most dangerous drug’ category

- At its ongoing 63rd session, the 53-member CND (The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs) has chosen to affirm a World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendation



from 2019 to remove cannabis from its 'most dangerous' category.

- Note: Currently in India, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, illegalises any mixture with or without any neutral material, of any of the two forms of cannabis-charas and ganja-or any drink prepared from it.

Mt Everest is now 86 cms taller

- China and Nepal jointly announced that the new height of Mt Everest, the world's highest peak, is 8,848.86 meters.
- The new height is 86 cms more than the previous measurement. According to the measurement done in 1954 by Survey of India, the height of Mount Everest is 8,848 metres.

India hosts SCO Council of Heads of Government (SCO CHG) meet

- Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India chaired the 19th SCO Council of Heads of Government on 30 November.
- This is the first time that a Summit-level Meeting was held under India's Chairmanship, since India gained full-membership of the organization in 2017.
- India considers the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as an important regional organization to promote cooperation in the areas of peace, security, trade, economy and culture. India is committed to deepening its cooperation

Scotland becomes first nation to make sanitary pads, tampons free

- Scotland became the first country to make sanitary products free.
- It is the first nation in the world to take a step against period poverty, which refers to the prevalent phenomena of being unable to afford products such as pads or tampons to manage menstrual bleeding.

UNDP and Invest India launch the SDG Investor Map for India

- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and Invest India have launched the SDG (Sustainable

with SCO by playing a proactive, positive and constructive role in the organization.

- **Note:** Next SCO Council of Heads of Government in 2021 will be chaired by Kazakhstan.
- **Facts about SCO:** Shanghai Cooperation Organisation or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance.
 - **Formed:** 15 June 2001
 - **Members:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India & Pakistan.
 - **Headquarter:** Beijing, China

Dubai (United Arab Emirates) gets Arab Gulf's first coal power plant

- Dubai is starting up the \$3.4 billion Hassyan coal plant, with capacity being increased from an initial 600 megawatts to 2,400 by 2023. Japan's Jera Co. will supply coal under a long-term agreement with Acwa Power of Saudi Arabia, which is developing the plant.
- The International Energy Agency, which advises the world's richest economies on energy policy, said Hassyan will provide 20 per cent of Dubai's power when fully operational and "greatly reduce electricity costs for locals".

November 2020

Development Goal) Investor Map for India, laying out 18 Investment Opportunities Areas (IOAs) in 6 critical SDG enabling sectors.

- This is the first-ever SDG Investor Map for India.
- Key highlights of the SDG Investor Map:
- Of the 18 IOAs identified, 10 are already mature investable areas that have seen robust Private Equity and Venture Capital activity, and feature companies that have been able to unlock scale and demonstrate profitability. The remaining 8 IOAs are emerging opportunities, which have seen traction from early-stage investors.
- The map has also identified 8 White Spaces, which have seen investor interest and have



the potential to grow into IOAs within a 5-6-year horizon. However, these require further policy support and private sector participation to mature into commercially attractive IOAs.

- By mapping the overlaps and gaps between public sector priorities and private sector interest, the SDG Investor Map lays out pathways that can bring together private-sector investment and public sector support for 6 SDG-enabling sectors including Education, Healthcare, Agriculture & Allied Activities, Financial Services, Renewable Energy & Alternatives and Sustainable Environment.
- About Invest India, the national investment promotion agency, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It was set up in 2009.

APEC Summit 2020

- APEC 2020 (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation)'s Economic Leaders meetings were held under the chairmanship of Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.
- This is Malaysia's second time hosting an APEC meeting, having hosted one in 1998.
- After the virtual summit held on 20 November 2020, the APEC leaders issued the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 and Kuala Lumpur Declaration.
- The theme of the APEC Malaysia 2020 was "Optimising Human Potential Towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity: Pivot. Prioritise. Progress".
- **About Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC):** The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is an inter-governmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
 - **Headquarters:** Singapore
 - **Founded:** November 1989

India to host G20 Summit in 2023

- India is set to host the G20 summit in 2023, instead of 2022 — the 75th year of Independence.
- Indonesia will assume the G20 presidency in 2022 after a swap with India.
- Indonesia would also chair the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2023.
- **Note:** Now the G20 Summit is set to be hosted by Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, India in 2023 and Brazil in 2024.

15th G20 Summit

- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, participated in the 15th G20 Summit convened by Saudi Arabia, on 21-22 November 2020.
- The theme of the summit was "Realizing Opportunities of 21st Century for All" which has assumed greater importance in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The agenda of the Summit was focused on overcoming the pandemic, economic recovery and restoring jobs, and building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future.
- **Facts about G20:**
 - **Formation:** 26 September 1999
 - **Members:** 20 (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and European Union)
 - **Note:** It is the second G20 meeting this year (2020). The first G20 Extraordinary Leaders' summit was held in March this year (2020).
 - Italy will assume the Presidency of G-20 in December 2021 followed by India in 2022.
 - India will enter the **G20 Troika**, along with Saudi Arabia when Italy will take over the Presidency of the G-20 on 1st December 2020.
 - In order to sustain continuity and consistency, a system called the 'troika' is designed where three countries



– previous, present and future presidency holders, work in close cooperation and in dialogue with one another.

World's Best Cities: Only one Indian city features in the ranking

- The top 10 cities for 2021 in the world are – London, **2.** New York, **3.** Paris, **4.** Moscow, **5.** Tokyo, **6.** Dubai, **7.** Singapore, **8.** Barcelona, **9.** Los Angeles, and **10.** Madrid, as per a list revealed by Resonance Consultancy Ltd
- **India has only one city in the list. Delhi is ranked 62 on the list.**
- Resonance Consultancy ranks the world's best cities with populations of more than a million, using a combination of statistical performance and qualitative evaluations by locals and visitors in 25 areas grouped into six core categories. It identifies cities that are most desirable for locals, visitors, and business people.

PMs of India and Bhutan launched RuPay Card phase-2 in Bhutan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering virtually launched RuPay card Phase-II on 20th November.
- The phase-2 will now allow Bhutanese cardholders to access RuPay network in India.
- **Note:** The two Prime Ministers had jointly launched **phase-1** of the project during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan in August last year. Phase-1 of RuPay cards in Bhutan has enabled Indian visitors in Bhutan to access ATMs and points of sale terminals across Bhutan.
- The **RuPay card** is an Indian debit and credit card payment network, with acceptance at ATMs, POS devices and e-commerce websites.

India – Luxembourg Virtual Summit 2020

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a Bilateral Summit with Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg on

November 19, 2020.

- This is the first stand-alone summit between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades.
- The two Prime Ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation on realizing effective multilateralism and combating global challenges like the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in the areas of financial technology, green financing, space applications, digital innovations and start-ups, terrorism and climate change.
- **Note:** ISRO recently launched Luxembourg's four satellites and Prime Minister welcomed Luxembourg's announcement to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an global initiative led by India.

World Economic Forum selects 4 Indian cities to pioneer roadmap for smart cities

- The World Economic Forum has selected 36 cities out of 22 countries and 6 continents for pioneering a new global policy roadmap for the smart cities that are developed by the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance.
- The four Indian cities are Indore, Faridabad, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad.
- Other cities London, Toronto, Moscow, Dubai, Brasilia and Melbourne have also been selected.
- The pioneer cities launched their activities on November 17 at a global event broadcast by the Smart City Expo World Congress which is the world's premier smart cities event.
- The 36 pioneer cities that have been recruited will be collaborating with the global experts for enhancing their city policies in areas ranging from cyber security and privacy protection to better services for the differently-abled people as well as better broadband coverage.
- **Note:** The G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance- It was established in June 2019 during the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan.
- **Pioneer of Change Summit 2020:** This summit (16-20 November, 2020) has been inaugurated by the World Economic Forum



(WEF) to discuss digital business, sustainable production, health, infrastructure, financial innovation, new work models and frontier technologies.

against international best practices as well as supporting development of operational guidelines and capacity building for their implementation.

12th BRICS summit 2020

- The 12th BRICS summit, hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin, was also attended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Nov 17, 2020.
- The theme was BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that terrorism is the "biggest problem" facing the world, there is a need to ensure that countries supporting and assisting terrorists are held guilty.
- BRICS is known as an influential bloc that represents over 3.6 billion people, or half of the world's population. The BRICS countries have a combined GDP of \$16.6 trillion.
- **Note: India will host the 13th BRICS Summit next year. Since its inception, it would be the third BRICS Presidency for India, after 2012 and 2016.**

DIPAM signs an agreement with World Bank for advisory services on Asset Monetization

- **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** has signed an agreement with World Bank. Under the agreement, World Bank is to provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization.
- DIPAM is mandated with facilitating monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises) under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of value of INR 100 crores and above.
- The World Bank advisory project, approved by the Finance Minister, is aimed at analyzing public asset monetization in India and benchmarking its institutional and business models

15th East Asia Summit

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) on 14 November 2020.
- The Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Vietnam H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc in his capacity as ASEAN Chair. All the eighteen EAS countries participated in the virtual Summit.
- EAM noted the growing interest in the Indo-Pacific as an integrated and organic maritime space, with ASEAN at its centre. He appreciated the synergy between the ASEAN Outlook and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.
- The Summit discussed ways to strengthen the EAS platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary and adopted the Ha Noi Declaration. The Leaders underlined the importance of cooperation in ensuring safe, effective and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

RCEP: Asia-Pacific countries form world's largest trading bloc

- Fifteen countries have formed the world's largest trading bloc, covering nearly a third of the global economy.
- **The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** is made up of 10 Southeast Asian countries, as well as South Korea, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.
- The pact is seen as an extension of China's influence in the region.
- Negotiations over the new RCEP deal began in 2012 and it was finally signed on the sidelines of a 37th meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- The RCEP is expected to eliminate a range of tariffs on imports within 20 years. It also includes provisions on intellectual property, telecommunications, financial



services, e-commerce and professional services.

- **Note:** India was also part of the negotiations, but it pulled out last year over concerns that lower tariffs could hurt local producers.

1st BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 1st BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the BRICS Russian Chairmanship on 09 November.
- The agenda of the meeting included discussions on the outcomes of G20 Saudi Presidency in 2020, a digital platform to encourage infrastructure investments and expansion of the membership of the New Development Bank (NDB)
- **Note:** The Finance Minister observed that the G20, of which all BRICS countries are members, has delivered some very significant initiatives this year including the G20 Action Plan in response to COVID-19 which has provided broad guidance to navigate a collective global response to the crisis.

8th BRICS STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) ministerial meeting

- The Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Russia organized the meeting on November 13.
- The Meeting unanimously adopts BRICS STI Declaration 2020 and calendar of BRICS STI activities 2020-21.
- The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministers of the BRICS grouping (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) discussed Science & Technology cooperation among the member countries.
- From India, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan attended the meeting. Indian Research and Development are working relentlessly to develop effective interventions for combating the pandemic. More than 100 startups have developed innovative

products for COVID-19.

Armenia, Azerbaijan sign Russia brokered peace deal

- Armenia and Azerbaijan have signed an agreement to end military conflict over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- It follows six weeks of fighting between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenians.
- The peace deal which was signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.
- Under the deal, Azerbaijan will hold on to areas of Nagorno-Karabakh that it has taken during the conflict.
- Armenia has also agreed to withdraw from several other adjacent areas over the next few weeks.
- **Reason for Dispute: Nagorno-Karabakh: the border region claimed by both Armenia and Azerbaijan**

Aung San Suu Kyi's Democratic Party wins majority in Myanmar Election

- Aung San Suu Kyi's political party National League for Democracy (NLD) has secured a victorious majority in the 2020 Myanmar election, securing enough seats to form the next government.
- The Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), the military-backed party was, Suu Kyi's main opposition party.
- **Note:** With this win in Myanmar's second only general election since 50 years of oppressive military rule, NLD is set to serve its second term in Parliament. Nobel Laureate Suu Kyi has gained another five years as State Counsellor of Myanmar.

First-ever virtual Indo-Africa Summit 2020

- The **IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry** organized a three-day long Indo-Africa Virtual Summit 2020.
- The inaugural day of this Summit was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal and Hon'ble Cabinet Secretary (Minister) Kenya, Dr.



Amina Mohamed.

- *Its mission is to enhance ties to 100*100 matrix by 2025, i.e. A target of 100 billion USD of Bilateral Trade and 100 billion USD of Investment between India and Africa.*
- **Note:** The combined markets of India and Africa encompass 2.5 billion people and GDP of 5.5 trillion USD.
- *The African continental free trade came into force in 2019. Indian companies can benefit from setting up industry in Africa. As of June 2020, India had extended 121 lines of credit to 41 African countries to set up businesses there.*

20th Summit of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) Council of Heads of State held on November 10, 2020

- The Meeting was chaired by the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin.
- SCO summit was attended by the Heads of States of all 8 SCO Member States- Russia, India, China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The Heads of States of 4 observer states of SCO- Iran, Afghanistan, Mongolia and Belarus are also participated in the summit.
- The summit focused on regional peace, security and prosperity, against terrorism, smuggling of illegal weapons, drugs and money-laundering.
- **Note:**
 - India had become a full member of the SCO in 2017. Prior to that, India had an observer status, which was granted to it in 2005.
 - 21th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State will be chaired by the Republic of Tajikistan next year.
 - India will host summit of SCO Council of Heads of Government on November 30, 2020.

4th India – Philippines Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation

- The 4th Meeting of the India-Philippines

Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation, co-chaired by Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister and Mr. Teodoro Locsin Jr., Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Philippines, was held on 06 November 2020.

- The meeting focused on expanding trade and investment links, to work towards strengthening cooperation in agriculture, health and pharmaceuticals, tourism, energy, ICT, and science & technology
- Commitment to a multifaceted partnership in line with India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the ASEAN's Outlook on Indo-Pacific to achieve shared security, prosperity and growth for all in the region.

Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra elected to United Nations Advisory Committee

- In a significant victory for India at the United Nations, Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra was elected to the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly.
- The victory comes as India gets ready to sit in the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for a two-year term beginning January 2021.

Indian Army Chief General M M Naravane conferred honorary rank of General of Nepali Army by President of Nepal, Bidya Devi Bhandari

- He was honoured at a special ceremony at the President's official residence 'Shital Niwas' in Kathmandu. He was also presented with a sword and scroll during the function.

John Magufuli won a second term as Tanzanian President

- He got more than 84% of the vote in this election. His main opponent, Tundu Lissu, earned 13% of the vote.
 - **Facts about Tanzania**
 - Country in East Africa
 - **Capital:** Dodoma



- **Currency:** Tanzanian shilling

India-Italy Virtual Summit

- A Virtual Bilateral Summit between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Italy Prof. Giuseppe Conte was held on 6th November, 2020.
- The leaders discussed a wide range of issues including political, economic, scientific & technological, space and defence cooperation. On regional and international issues, both sides agreed to coordinate closely at multilateral fora especially G-20.
- 15 MoUs/Agreements in various sectors such as energy, fisheries, ship building, design etc. were signed coinciding with the Summit.
- **Note:** Italy will assume the Presidency of G-20 in December 2021 followed by India in 2022. Together, India and Italy will be part of the G20 Troika from December, 2020.

Joe Biden to be next US President; Kamala Harris becomes first woman in American history to be elected as Vice President

- Democrat Joe Biden beat Republican Donald Trump to become the 46th President of the United States.
- Indian-origin Kamala Harris, the first Black American and the first Asian American will become Vice President.

8th Meeting of the India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments

- The High Level meeting (Joint Task Force) was hosted by India. The meeting was co-chaired by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways, Government of India and His Highness Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- **Note:** The Joint Task Force, created in 2012 as a crucial forum for economic ties between the UAE and India. The mechanism has assumed greater importance as the two countries entrench the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in January 2017.

- Both sides reviewed the existing UAE special desk ('UAE Plus') and the Fast Track Mechanism created in 2018 to facilitate investments and to resolve any challenges experienced by UAE investors in India.

Mission Sagar-II

- Indian government is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic and towards the same INS (Indian Naval Ship) Airavat is carrying a consignment of 100 Tonnes of food aid for the people of Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.
- **Note:** 'Mission Sagar-I' undertaken in May-June 2020, wherein India provided food and medicines to Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros.
- **Mission Sagar** is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region 'SAGAR' and highlights the importance accorded by India to relations with her maritime neighbours and further strengthens the existing bond.

Duarte Pacheco of Portugal has been elected the new President of IPU (Inter Parliamentary Union) for the period 2020-2023

- **Note:**
 - **206th Session** of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is being held from November 1 to 4, 2020.
 - **About The Inter-Parliamentary Union:** It is an international organization of national parliaments. Its purpose is to promote democratic governance, accountability, and cooperation among its members.
 - **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
 - **President:** Gabriela Cuevas Barron
 - **Founded:** 1889

8th joint commission meeting between India



and Mexico

- India and Mexico on October 29, 2020, held their 8th Joint Commission Meeting and reviewed the bilateral cooperation in several areas including agriculture, education, trade, health and investment.
- The meeting was co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, H.E. Marcelo Ebrard.
- **Facts about Mexico**
 - Mexico, officially the United Mexican States, is a country in the southern portion of North America.
 - **Capital:** Mexico City
 - **President:** Andrés Manuel López Obrador

India extends \$1 billion credit line to Central Asian countries for priority projects

- The priority projects are connectivity, energy, IT and health care, with the move being perceived as part of New Delhi's efforts to boost its role as a transparent development partner.
- The line of credit was welcomed by ministers of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan during the second meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue held under the chairmanship of external affairs minister S. Jaishankar.

Dilip Rath elected to International Dairy Federation board (IDF)

- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Chairman Dilip Rath has been elected to the board of global dairy body International Dairy Federation.
- Rath has been associated with IDF for the last 10 years as Member Secretary of Indian National Committee and as a member of the Standing Committee on Dairy Policy and Economics.
- **Note: International Dairy Federation (IDF)** is an international non-governmental, non-profit association having members from national committees constituted by dairy organisations in each

country.

October 2020

India Released Commemorative Postage Stamp on 75th Anniversary of UN

- Department of Posts (DOP), Ministry of Communications released a commemorative postage stamp on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations Organisations.

India hosts meeting of SCO Ministers handling economy and foreign trade

- India hosted the 19th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Ministers responsible for Foreign Economy and Foreign Trade Activities on 28 October.
- In the meeting four documents were adopted: 1. Statement on the response to Covid-19, 2. Statement on the Multilateral Trading System of Ministers of SCO Countries who are WTO Members, 3. Statement on SCO Cooperation on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and 4. Action Plan for Implementation of MOU to stimulate cooperation within the framework of SCO in the field of MSMEs.
- **About SCO (The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) or Shanghai Pact:** It is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance.
 - **Headquarters:** Beijing, China
 - **Founded:** 15 June 2001
 - **Secretary General:** Vladimir Norov
 - **Members:** China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Indian Diplomat Dr Neena Malhotra appointed as next Ambassador to Republic of San Marino

- Dr Neena Malhotra, a 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of San Marino. Presently, she is serving as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Italy.



Indian Diplomat Sushil Kumar Singhal appointed as next Ambassador to Solomon Islands

- Sushil Kumar Singhal, a 2000-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Solomon Islands. He is presently serving as the High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

India, US hold 3rd bilateral two plus two (2+2) Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi

- From the Indian side, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar led the delegation. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark Esper led the US delegation.
- **India and US signed five agreements in total:**
 1. **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)** between the Ministry of Defence, Government of India and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Department of Defense of the United States of America.
 2. **Memorandum of Understanding for Technical Cooperation in Earth Observations and Earth Sciences** between the Ministry of Earth Sciences of India and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of USA.
 3. Arrangement extending the duration of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and USA concerning cooperation with the **Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership**, India.
 4. **Agreement for the Electronic Exchange of Customs Data** between the Postal Operators (India Post and United States Postal Service)
 5. Letter of Intent between the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, New Delhi, Ministry of Ayush, India and the Office of

Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Cancer Institute, Department of Health and Human Services, USA for cooperation in the **field of Ayurveda and Cancer Research.**

Note: First 2+2 dialogue was held in New Delhi in 2018. **Second 2+2 dialogue** was held in Washington D.C. in 2019.

6th BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- The 6th BRICS Parliamentary Forum under the **Russian Chairmanship** (Chairman- Vyachaslav Volodin) was held on 27 October. Five members of BRICS- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa participate in this forum.
- The theme was BRICS partnership in the interest of the global stability, general safety and innovative growth: parliamentary dimension.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that BRICS countries need to intensify their collective fight against terrorism which poses the biggest threat to humankind.
- **Note: 12th BRICS Summit** is scheduled to be held on 17th November 2020 under the chairmanship of Russia.

Luis Arce declared as Bolivia's president-elect

- Luis Arce, the candidate for the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) party, has won the presidential elections.
- **About Bolivia:**
 - **Capitals:** La Paz, Sucre
 - **Currency:** Boliviano
 - **Continent:** South America

The Principality of Andorra becomes the 190th member state of the IMF

- The Principality of Andorra became the 190th member state of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- **About Andorra:** Located between France and Spain, this principality has only 78,000 inhabitants. Its economy depends on trade and tourism. Not being a member of the European Union, this small state did



not benefit from the community recovery plan.

- **Capital:** Andorra la Vella
- **Currency:** Euro
- **Continent:** Europe

Indian-origin Wavel Ramkalawan is elected Seychelles President

- Ramkalawan, a former Anglican priest, defeated President Danny Faure after three decades of runs for the presidency of the East African nation. Wavel Ramkalawan, whose grandfather came from Gopalganj, Bihar.
- **About Seychelles**
 - Capital: Victoria
 - Currency: Seychellois rupee
 - Continent: Africa

Note:

- In June 2018, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India was extending Seychelles a USD\$100 million credit to develop its defence capabilities.
- The Seychelles government has leased the Assumption Island to the Indian Navy to build an overseas base of operations there.
- India and Seychelles have been conducting joint military exercise 'Lamitye' since 2001 with the aim of enhancing military cooperation and interoperability between the armies of the two countries.

Saad al-Hariri named as Lebanon's new prime minister

Lebanon's President Michel Aoun designated Sunni Muslim politician Saad al-Hariri as Prime Minister to form a new government.

- This will be Hariri's third stretch as prime minister.
- **About Lebanon:** Lebanon, officially known as the Lebanese Republic, is a country in the Levant region of Western Asia.
 - **Capital:** Beirut
 - **Currency:** Lebanese pound
 - **President:** Michel Aoun

Feni bridge connecting India and Bangladesh

- Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that 1.8 kilometre long Feni bridge connecting Sabrum in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh will be completed by December this year.
- This bridge will be built on Feni River. The Feni bridge being built at the cost of Rs. 129 crore will ease the transportation of goods from Chattogram and Kolkata ports. An integrated check post is also proposed to be built near Sabrum.
- **Note:** Feni River flows in southeast Bangladesh and Indian state of Tripura.

India gets Chairmanship of ILO Governing Body after a gap of 35 years

- Labour and Employment Secretary, Apurva Chandra, has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO for the period October 2020- June 2021.
- Mr. Chandra belongs to the 1988 batch of the Indian Administrative Service, Maharashtra Cadre.
- The Governing Body is the apex executive body of the ILO which decides policies, programmes, agenda, budget and elects the Director-General.
- **About ILO (International Labour Organization):** It is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Head:** Guy Ryder
- **Founder:** Paris Peace Conference
- **Founded:** 1919
- **Parent organizations:** United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council

Singapore in the world first for facial verification

- Singapore will be the first country in the world to use facial verification in its national identity scheme.
- **Note:** London-based biometric and facial authentication company, iProov, provides this technology. The technology will be integrated with the country's digital identity scheme SingPass and allows access to



government services.

Vishal V. Sharma has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to UNESCO

- **Facts about UNESCO** (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- **Formation:** 1945
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Head-Director General:** Audrey Azoulay

Pakistan to remain on “Grey List” of FATF

Facts about FATF:

- It is an inter-governmental body established in **1989** under the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** & headquarter is in **Paris**.
- The main aims of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- **Member Countries:** 37 countries (including India).

Two lists of FATF:

Grey List: Those Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering. It serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

Black List: Those Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

India to attend Seventh Justice Ministers Meet of SCO

- The Union Minister of law and Justice Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad attended the seventh

meeting of ministers of justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

- The ministers during the meet will share the knowledge on creating a conducive environment to promote dispute resolution mechanism, forensic activities and other legal services. Also, the ministers will discuss the action plan of the working groups of experts on legal services and forensic activities.

Facts about SCO:

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance.
- **Formed:** 15 June 2001
- **Members:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India & Pakistan.
- **Headquarter:** Beijing, China

IMF's World Economic Outlook Report, October 2020

- International Monetary Fund predicted a deep global recession this year and the world growth to be - 4.4 percent, asserting that the global economic crisis is far from over mainly due to the impact of the corona virus pandemic.
- **India's economy** is projected to contract by -10.3% in FY21 which is 5.8% lower than the June projections. The economy is expected to recover to 8.8% in FY22. In June 2020, IMF had projected the Indian economy to contract by 4.5% in FY21.
- **Note: International Monetary Fund** is an organization to promote global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty. Created in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 189 countries that make up its near-global membership. India Joined on December 27, 1945.

India Gets Re-elected As President of International Solar Alliance

During a virtual meeting of the International Solar



Alliance, India was re-elected as the President of the organization for a term of two years with France as the Co-President.

Note: International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an association of 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. It aims to work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Facts about International Solar Alliance

Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India

Director General: Upendra Tripathy

Founded: 30 November 2015

Membership: All members of UN

Facts about IMF

- ✓ Nagorno-Karabakh region (Territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan)
- Nagorno-Karabakh region is mostly mountainous and forested. It is a landlocked region in the South Caucasus, within the mountainous range of Karabakh, lying between Lower Karabakh and Zangezur, and covering the southeastern range of the Lesser Caucasus Mountains.
- Reason for Dispute: Nagorno-Karabakh: the border region claimed by both Armenia and Azerbaijan
- Nagorno-Karabakh is recognized as part of Azerbaijan but mostly governed by the Republic of Artsakh (formerly named the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic), a de facto independent state with an Armenian ethnic majority established because of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. Azerbaijan has no political authority over the region since the advent of the Karabakh movement in 1988. Since the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh War in 1994, representatives of the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan have been

- **Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva
- **Chief Economist:** Gita Gopinath
- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C. U.S

On 17th November, 12th BRICS Summit to be held virtually.

- The theme of this summit is “BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”.
- The Summit is being held under Russia's Chairmanship and aims at multifaceted cooperation between the member countries. The five-member countries have continued close strategic partnership on all the three significant pillars of peace and security, economy and finance, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Note: BRICS is an association of five countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The BRICS members are known for their significant influence on regional affairs.

September 2020

- holding peace talks mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group (an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) on the region's disputed status.
- Economic Impact: This could also disrupt oil and gas exports from the region, since Azerbaijan, are a significant oil and gas exporter to Europe and Central Asia. This may even lead to higher oil prices globally.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses at the 75th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session 2020
- Narendra Modi said that reforms in the United Nations are the need of the hour. People of India have been waiting for a long time for the UN reform process to get completed. There were several stellar achievements of the UN over the last 75 years, but there were also several instances that point to the need for a serious introspection of the work of the United Nations.
- Note: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established in 1945, as policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, comprised of all 193 members, it provides a unique forum for



multilateral discussion on international issues.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi features: Time Magazine's '100 most influential people of 2020'
 - Other Indians are on the list Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Actor Ayushmann Khurrana, HIV research researcher Ravinder Gupta and 82-year-old Bilkis, also known as Dadi, Shaheen Bagh.
 - PM Modi has appeared four times on the list since coming to power in 2014. His name has appeared on the list in 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2020.
 - Note: Time magazine is an American weekly news magazine and news website published and based in New York City.
 - ✓ 17-year-old Surat girl Khushi Chindaliya appointed as UNEP's Indian Green Ambassador
 - A Green Ambassador as a volunteer leader and commits to motivating others to become more energy-efficient, adopt environmentally-friendly lifestyles, and use renewable energy.
 - Note: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is responsible for coordinating the UN's environmental activities and assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.
 - ✓ UAE, Israel and Bahrain sign Abraham Accord; Trump says "dawn of new the Middle East":
 - According to the agreements, the UAE and Bahrain will establish embassies, exchange ambassadors, cooperate and work together with Israel.
 - ✓ India joins the Djibouti Code of Conduct as Observer:
 - Note: DCOC/JA is a grouping on maritime matters comprising 18 member states adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, the East coast of Africa and Island countries in the IOR. India joins Japan, Norway, the
- **Great Britain** is considering minting a coin to remember Mahatma Gandhi.
 - Former king of **Spain** Juan Carlos decided to leave his country to protect the monarchy after a barrage of corruption allegations surfaced

UK and the US as Observers to the DCOC/JA.

- The DCOC, established in January 2009, is aimed at the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.
- ✓ Yoshihide Suga elected to the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan:
- He was elected to the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
- He served as Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications during Shinzo Abe's first tenure as Prime Minister from 2006 to 2007, and as Chief Cabinet Secretary during Abe's second tenure from 2012 to 2020.
- ✓ Bahrain: the latest Arab nation to recognize Israel:
- Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation to agree to establish a relationship with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump and his administration to fully integrate the Israel, Jewish State into the Middle East.
- ✓ India becomes a member of the UN's women panel; China fails to secure a seat:
- TS Tirumurti, permanent representative of India to the United Nations, said India secured its place as a member of the United Nations Commission on Status of Women, a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- India elected a member of Commission on Status of Women (CSW). It's an endorsement for the commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all our endeavours. India, China and Afghanistan contested for the elections to reserve a seat in the Commission on Status of Women.
- India will be a member of the United Nations Commission on Status of Women for four years—2021 to 2025.

August 2020

- against him.
- Barakah Nuclear Plant of **UAE** has achieved first criticality and successfully started up is located in which country.
- **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.

- 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.

- **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.

- 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 neighboring 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.

- 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.

- **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.

- 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.

- **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.

- 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.

- **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.

- The first meeting of the National Coordination Committees for monitoring implementation of mutually agreed projects between India and **Uzbekistan**.

Note: Both nations re-examined 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 ShavkatMirziyoyev.

- 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.

- **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.

July 2020

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

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

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

- ✓ **New Zealand** has cancelled the 2021 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) due to

multifunctional test satellite and another satellite named Tiantuo-5 was also launched via the rocket.

- 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.

- 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.

- **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.

the COVID-19 pandemic and is opting to lead a virtual summit.

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

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

Note: Ofek 16 is a small electro-optical imaging satellite, which will capture high-resolution images of the Earth for Israel’s Ministry of Defence.

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

- pandemic.
- ✓ **Sri Lanka and Maldives** became the first two countries from the South East Asia Region of WHO to have **successfully eliminated both the Measles and Rubella Virus**.
 - ✓ **Germany** become the first industrialized country to phase out of both coal and nuclear energy.
 - ✓ India's rank among 10 Asia-Pacific countries in the "Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control" prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)-- **eighth**.
 - ✓ **Nepal** has imposed a ban on all private Indian news channel.
 - ✓ The rise in mean average global temperature in next 5 years as per the report "Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2020-24" released by the WMO - **1.5°C**.
 - ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) has formulated an independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response to evaluate the world's response to the COVID-19 - **Helen Elizabeth Clark & Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**.
Note: The Panel will be co-chaired by former Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Elizabeth Clark and former President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
 - ✓ The ADB has entered into a 5-year agreement with Qatar-based Education Above All Foundation to work jointly for project worth of **\$100 million**.
Note: It will put at least 3.2 lakh out-of-school children, including refugees and internally displaced children into quality primary education. Initially, 10 nations have been selected for projects namely- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.
 - ✓ Recently **UAE** has expressed interest to have an Open Sky Agreement with India.
Note: Open Sky Agreements are bilateral agreements that the two countries negotiate to provide rights for airlines to offer international passenger and cargo services. It expands international passenger and cargo flights.
 - ✓ **Kuwait** has approved an Expat Quota Bill.
Note: According to the bill, Indians should not exceed 15% of the population and if it is enacted into law, over 8 lakh Indians could be forced out of Kuwait.
 - ✓ World's first gold-plated hotel was unveiled in **Vietnam**.
 - ✓ **Russian** Gamalei Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology's COVID-19 vaccine becomes the first in the world to successfully completed the Human Clinical Trials.
 - ✓ According to the data released by the United Kingdom, **India** has become the second largest Foreign Direct Investor in the United Kingdom (UK) after the United States in 2019.
 - ✓ **Iran** has dropped India from Chabahar rail project, citing funding delay.
Note: Four years after India and Iran signed an agreement to construct a rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan, the Iranian government has decided to proceed with the construction on its own, citing delays from the Indian side in funding and starting the project.
 - ✓ **China** has successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite via a Long March 3B carrier rocket.
 - ✓ Elyes Fakhfakh resigned from the post of prime minister of **Tunisia**.
 - ✓ **UNICEF** has partnered with SAP India to improve the employability skills of young people in a COVID-19 as well as post COVID-19 era.
 - ✓ Pakistan and China signed an agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project being built on **Jhelum** river of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).
 - ✓ **Jordan** apex court dissolved the country's branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, a transnational Islamist movement.
 - ✓ The first Arab space mission dubbed as 'HOPE Probe' was launched by United Arab Amirate (UAE) from **Japan**.
 - ✓ **India** and Maldives signed an agreement to establish "Emergency Medical Services" in Male.
Note: The Emergency Medical Service is financed by India under grant assistance of 20 million USD for neighbouring countries. This will help to increase the collaboration between the countries, especially in the areas of health care facilities, disaster responses during critical times, etc.
 - ✓ **Saudi Arabia** hosted the G20 Digital Ministers'



Meet 2020.

- ✓ **75th** session of United Nations General Assembly is to be conducted virtually in 2020 for the first time in its history.
- ✓ **Nicaragua** has become the 87th country to join the **International Solar Alliance** Framework Agreement, an initiative led by India to promote sustainable energy.
- ✓ World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council has granted the “Observer” status to Asian country **Turkmenistan**.
- ✓ **China** has successfully launched “Tianwen-1” its first independent mission to Mars.
Note: China had launched an orbiter destined for Mars on a Russian rocket in 2011, but the mission failed because the rocket malfunctioned. Tianwen-1, whose name means “Questions to Heaven,” is a combined orbiter, lander and rover that aims to explore the Martian environment and search for hints of life.
- ✓ India handed over 10 Railway Locomotives to **Bangladesh** to bolster its Neighborhood First Policy.

June 2020

- ✓ **SpaceX** become the first private rocket company to send astronauts to space.
 - **Note:** SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft with two NASA astronauts successfully docked with the International Space Station last night after a historic launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- ✓ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has extended the individual sanctions, travel ban and an arms embargo on **South Sudan** country till May 2021.
 - **Note:** An arms embargo is a restriction or a set of sanctions that applies solely to weaponry.
- ✓ In association with **Costa Rica** country the World Health Organization has launched COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).
 - **Note:** More than 30 countries have signed up to support this initiative. C-TAP was first proposed by Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado in March 2020.
- ✓ India's rank in the “**Countries Global**

- ✓ The **World Wildlife Crime Report 2020** is published by **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** organization that says that India and Thailand are the main source of (82%) of illegal shipment of tiger body parts.
- ✓ Kali temple (300 years-old) is being reconstructed in **Bangladesh** with the support of India.
- ✓ **Delhi** government has launched a free website ‘Rozgaar Bazaar 2020’, that will connect the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform.
Note: The portal connects the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform. The aim of the portal is to boost the economy and employment in Delhi. In this website, the employers and companies can post their jobs and vacancies.
- ✓ Under the aegis of International Solar Alliance (ISA) NTPC Ltd planned to establish solar power plants in **Sri Lanka**.
- ✓ The polycarbonate facility of SABIC in **Spain** is set to become the world's first large scale chemical production plant which will run entirely on renewable energy.

Ranking of Startup Ecosystem 2020” report prepared by Zurich based global innovation mapping and research company **StartupBlink -- 23rd**.

- ✓ **South African National Space Agency (SANS)** has partnered with NASA to host a deep-space ground station, which will support human spaceflight missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond.
- ✓ **United Kingdom** has hosted Virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020.
- ✓ **Australia** signed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) with India to increase military inter-operability through defence exercises between the two countries.
- ✓ The theme of the 51st WEF annual summit to be held in January 2021 --- **The Great Reset**.
- ✓ An Unmanned submersible of **China** to dived deep down to 10,907 metres to the world's deepest point Mariana Trench,
- ✓ **Kathy Sullivan** has become the first woman and the fifth person in history to descend to the deepest known spot in the world's oceans called the 'Challenger



Deep' in the Mariana Trench.

- Challenger Deep is the deepest point in the Earth's seabed. It is at a depth of 10,902 metres.
- ✓ **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** institute/university maintains its position as the top institution in world in the QS World University Rankings 2021 released recently.
 - Only three educational institutes from India IIT Bombay (172), IISc Bengaluru (185), and IIT Delhi (193) featured in the top 200 list.
- ✓ **New Zealand** has declared that the nation has become free from "Coronavirus".
- ✓ **Bangladesh** has launched an initiative named 'Shohojodha', an online network to facilitate plasma exchange between recovered patients of COVID-19.
- ✓ **United Kingdom** has announced 'Jet Zero' plan to drive down aviation emissions and to make carbon-free transatlantic flights possible.
- ✓ **Western Railway** has created a new world benchmark by successfully running first Double-Stack Container Train in high-rise in Over Head Equipment electrified territory on.
 - **Note:** This achievement is a first of its kind in the entire world and will also boost the ambitious mission of Green India.
 - The Operations successfully commenced on 10th June from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat.
- ✓ **India** has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term.
 - **Note:** Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway also won the Security Council elections held last night.
- ✓ India will send 75-member Tri-Service contingent to participate in the military parade to **Russia** on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War.
 - **Note:** The parade will honour the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russian and other friendly people.
- Defence Minister of Russia had invited an Indian contingent to take part in the Victory Day Parade scheduled to be held on 24th of this month.
- ✓ Accordance to the annual report on displacement titled "Global Trends- Forced Displacement in 2019" released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with **approx 1.0 per cent** of world population faced forced displacement.
- ✓ **China** has decided to join the multilateral Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).
- ✓ **China** has successfully launched the last Satellite of its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).
- ✓ Mt. Merapi an active volcano erupted twice in June, 2020 is in **Indonesia**.
- ✓ As a commemorations of the 6th International Yoga Day, world's first Yoga University outside India was launched in **Los Angeles** United State.
 - **Note:** The university will be known by the name- Vivekananda Yoga University. The University was launched as a part of the commemorations for the 6th International Yoga Day.
- ✓ African country **Mali** granted the Project Management Consultancy (PMC) contract for the development of a 500 MW solar park to NTPC Limited.
- ✓ A Tripartite Power Purchase Agreement was signed for the construction of the 1124 MW Kohala Hydro Power Project between Pakistan, China, and Azad Kashmir. The Project is built on **Jhelum** river.
- ✓ **India** become the first country to control locusts through drones.
- ✓ According to latest study by **OECD's 'Global Forum on transparency'** and exchange of information for tax purposes, which are top three countries as Exchange of Information partners of Switzerland -- **India, France and Germany**.
- ✓ The theme of the '36th ASEAN Summit held via video conference under chairmanship of Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc -- **Cohesive**



and Responsive ASEAN.

May 2020

- ✓ The **geological survey of USA** has released the **first ever digital, unified, global, geological map** of the moon namely “**Unified Geologic Map of the Moon**”.
 - **Note:** The scientists from **United States Geological Survey (USGS) Astrogeology Science Center**, in collaboration with **NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)** and the **Lunar Planetary Institute** have virtually released the first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon namely “**Unified Geologic Map of the Moon**”.
- ✓ **Russia** to launch its **first Arktika-M satellite** for monitoring the **Arctic climate and environment** at the end of the year.
- ✓ **Iran** has decided to change its currency from **Rial to Toman** by slashing four zeros from the rial.
- ✓ **China** country has successfully launched a new rocket named “**Long March 5B**” into space which will pave the way of its Moon landing plans.
 - **Tiangong** is the space station programme of China.
- ✓ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **United Nation (UN) postal agency** released a commemorative postage stamp on the **40th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox**.
- ✓ As per the **World Health Organization’s Global Nutrition Report, 2020** India is one

April 2020

- ✓ As per the **UNCTAD report** titled the World will witness recession except **India and China**.
- ✓ The **World Bank** in its Economic Update for East Asia and Pacific (EAP) titled “**East Asia and Pacific in the Time of COVID-19**” stated that poverty is estimated to increase **11 Million**.
- ✓ **United Nation’s COP 26** climate change summit postponed till **2021**.
 - **Note:** The conference was planned to take place from 9-19 November 2020, in Glasgow, Scotland in the

- among the 88 countries that are to miss global nutrition targets set for the year **2025**.
- ✓ **World Health Organization (WHO)** has released the first “**The State of the World’s Nursing 2020**” report amid COVID19 pandemic in partnership with **Nursing and International Council of Nurses (ICN)**.
- ✓ **Russia** hosted the **SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting** via video conferencing on COVID-19 which was attended by the **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar**.
 - **India and Pakistan** became the members of the **SCO in 2017**.
- ✓ **Slovenia** becomes the first country in Europe to declare an end to its COVID-19 epidemic.
- ✓ **India** hands over war **game center** named as “**INDIA**” to **Uganda**.
 - **Note:** The state-of-the-art military training facility was handover by the **Indian Association Uganda (IAU)**, in association with the **Indian Military Advisory and Training Team** to the **UPDF**.
- ✓ **NASA** has renamed its next-generation space telescope “**Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST)**”, which is set to launch in 2025 in honour of **Nancy Grace Roman**.
- ✓ **India** hold the chair of the **World Health Organization** in May 2020 after Japan completes its tenure.
 - **Note:** India is to hold the chair of the **World Health Organization** in May 2020 after Japan completes its tenure. India will continue to hold the chair for the next three years.

United Kingdom (UK).

- ✓ **USD 2.9 million** amounts has been announced by the aid agency **USAID to India** to fight against Coronavirus.
- ✓ **China** has become the world leader in international patent filings via **WIPO’s Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)**.
 - **Note:** China has filled a total of 58,990 applications surpassing the **United States (US)**, which was at top spot since the **PCT** began operations in 1978.
- ✓ **United States** has **stopped its funding**



towards World Health Organization (WHO).

- ✓ South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu affected by Harold cyclone for which UN releases \$ 2.5 million.
- ✓ Special ASEAN Summit and special ASEAN plus 3 summits held via video conferencing was chaired by Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Vietnam.
- ✓ In accordance with the Gartner 2019 Digital Workplace Survey, India becomes the world's most digitally dexterous (skilful) country in the world.
- ✓ South Korea becomes the first country to hold national election amidst COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Annual Global Report on Food Crises titled "2020 Global Report on Food Crises-Joint Analysis for better decisions" by United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP).
 - The 10 countries faced worst food crisis in 2019 by number of people

March 2020

- ✓ To restore peace in Afghanistan the United States and Taliban militants have signed historic peace agreement in Doha, Qatar.
 - **Note:** The agreement, signed by the US special envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in the presence of Michael Richard Pompeo, United States Secretary of State, would end the 18 years-long American war in Afghanistan. India's Ambassador to Qatar, P. Kumaran attend the US-Taliban peace deal in Doha on behalf of India.
 - This is the first time India has officially joined any Taliban related case.
- ✓ Luxembourg has become the world's 1st nation to make all public transport free.

It became the first country in the world to do so. However, this free public transport system does not include 1st - class travel tickets on trains and certain night bus services.
- ✓ India's rank in the 'Freedom in the World 2020' report released by the Freedom House, a U.S (United States) -based

in Crisis are Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Nigeria and Haiti.

- ✓ Lebanon becomes the 1st Arab nation to legalise cannabis (also known as marijuana) farming for medicinal & industrial use.
 - As per the United Nations (UN), Lebanon is the 3rd largest supplier of cannabis resin in the world after Morocco and Afghanistan.
- ✓ Pakistan hosted the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) health ministers virtual conference.
 - India was represented by Rajiv Garg, the Director General of Health Services

watchdog that conducts research and advocacy on democracy -- 83rd.

- **Note:** According to the 'Freedom in the World 2020' report, released by the Freedom House, a U.S (United States) -based watchdog that conducts research and advocacy on democracy, India has ranked 83rd in the report along with Timor-Leste and Senegal in 'Free' category.
- While, Finland topped the list as the free democratic country.
- ✓ The European Commission has launched a new global coalition for biodiversity called 'United for Biodiversity' in Monaco.
 - **Note:** On the occasion of the World Wildlife Day on March 3, 2020, the European Commission has launched a new global coalition for biodiversity called 'United for Biodiversity' in Monaco.
 - The coalition consists of national parks, aquariums, botanical gardens, zoos, science and natural history museums from around the world to boost public awareness about the nature crisis



✓ **India joined the Indian Ocean Commission as the fifth observer.**

- **Note:** The other four observers in the grouping are Malta, China, European Union and OIF (International Organization of La Francophonie).
- It is important for India to join as an observer at the Commission because, it will help India in expanding its plans in Western Indian Ocean.
- The Western Indian Ocean strategically connects South Eastern Coast of Africa.

✓ To contain COVID-19, the Corona Virus what amount will be provided by the Asian Development Bank is to its members countries **4 million USD.**

- **Note:** The fund is being allocated for buying emergency supplies, assessing health systems, improve resilience and respond to animal human disease outbreaks.
- The main objective of fund allocation is to strengthen immediate response in China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam.

✓ According to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) India study female labour-force participation has declined from 34% in 2006 to **24.8% in 2020.**

- **Note:** In accordance with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) India study, India is the only country among the 153 surveyed countries where the economic gender gap is larger than the political gap.
- If women participation raised in the labour force same as men, then it can boost India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 27%. Globally, 38.7% of employed women are working in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, but only 13.8% of landholders are women.

✓ The 5th edition of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit 2020 to be held in **Colombo, Sri Lanka.**

- **Note:** This was informed by BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) Mohammad Shahidul Islam during his meeting with Sri Lankan Prime

Minister (PM) Mahinda Rajapaksa.

- The summit will be preceded by the 17th Ministerial Meeting and 21st Senior Officials Meeting by the end of 2020.

✓ India has joined Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as its **5th observer state.**

- **Note:** India has joined **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** as its 5th observer state to strengthen its Indo-Pacific vision and also to boost strategic partnership with France, and Vanilla Islands.
- The decision has been taken during the meeting of the Commission's council of ministers in **Seychell.**

✓ India's rank in the Inclusive Internet Index 2020, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) -- **46th.**

- **Note:** Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the 4th iteration of the Inclusive Internet Index 2020 for 100 countries where India is overall ranked in 46th place & Sweden in 1st place.
- The index aims to measure the extent to which the Internet is not only accessible & affordable, but also relevant to all, allowing usage that enables positive social & economic outcomes at the individual & group level.

✓ **Pakistan** ranks first according to the **1st edition of 'Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2020'.**

- **Note:** According to the 1st edition of 'Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2020', released by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), about 90 % or 9 in 10 of the world's population has some bias against women.
- This index studied 75 countries covering over 80 % of the world's population & measures social beliefs that obstruct gender equality in areas like politics, work, and education.

✓ India's rank in the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) annual report titled "Trends in international arms transfers, 2019" -- **Second.**

- **Note:** India is the world's second



largest arms importer during 2015-19 with its global share of 9.2% after Saudi Arabia, who has topped the ranking with global share of 12%.

- On the other hand, India ranked 23rd in terms of world's largest arms exporters with global share of 0.2% and its main clients being Myanmar (46%), Sri Lanka (25%), and Mauritius (14%). United States (US) topped the list in this section with a share of 36%.
- ✓ In the 2nd edition of global Animal Protection Index (API) 2020 released by the World Animal Protection India gained --- **Grade C**.
 - **Note:** World Animal Protection released the 2nd edition of global Animal Protection Index (API) 2020, where India gained C grade with other 8 countries which indicates India is one of the better-performing countries. Tragically no country gained A grade.
- ✓ **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has initiated the creation of the COVID Action Platform with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), and Wellcome Trust.
 - **Note:** The World Economic Forum (WEF) has initiated the creation of the COVID Action Platform with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), and Wellcome Trust.
 - This first of its kind platform, operating globally, is open to all businesses and industry groups, as well as other stakeholders, for integrated and collective business action to mitigate the risk and impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The Forum has established a special team to support the platform's work.
- ✓ 3rd edition of WION Global Summit 2020 held in **Dubai, UAE**.
 - **Note:** WION (World Is One News), the India's first International News Channel, has organized its 3rd edition of Global summit 2020 based on the theme "Navigating and negotiating global imperatives" at The Oberoi, in Dubai.
 - It saw the participation of global leaders to engage in dialogue on a

common global agenda to underscore the critical challenges of climate change, global governance, economic slowdown, and global crisis that threatens to become the new normal.

- ✓ First country to close its financial markets due to the COVID 19 (Coronavirus) outbreak -- **Philippines**.
 - **Note:** It resumed its trading on March 19, 2020. This measure was taken to ensure the safety of their employees and the people they interact with. Now the speculations are if other countries may take similar measures then there is a fear of a global recession.
- ✓ The 7th World Cities Summit (WCS) is to be held from July 5 to 9, 2020 in **Singapore**.
 - **Note:** It is organized by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.
 - The theme for WCS 2020 is "Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Adapting to a Disrupted World". The WCS 2020 is held in conjunction with the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) and the Clean Enviro Summit Singapore (CESG).
 - Singapore Government invited Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to the WCS-2020.
- ✓ **USD 1 million dollars**. has been donated by the WhatsApp to Poynter Institute's International Fast-Checking Network (IFCN) in order to avoid fake information about the disease.
- ✓ India's rank in the 8th World Happiness Report 2020 released by the United Nations (UN) -- **144th**.
 - **Note:** The survey ranks the countries using Gallup World Poll, GDP levels, life expectancy, generosity, social support, and freedom & corruption income.
 - This year's report mainly focuses on happiness in the environment especially in social, urban, rural & natural areas and also links happiness & sustainable development.
 - Finland tops the report for the 3rd time.
- ✓ India's rank in the 26th annual edition of Economic Freedom Index 2020 -- **120th**.



- **Note:** The Heritage Foundation published its 26th annual edition of Economic Freedom Index 2020 to measure the level of economic freedom in 186 countries. Singapore (89.4) tops the index for the 1st time.
- Hong Kong (89.1) for the 1st time secured 2nd rank since the 1st publication in 1995
- ✓ Singapore has rescheduled the 7th World Cities Summit (WCS) 2020 to **20 – 24 June 2021**.
- ✓
 - **Note:** The summit is organized by Singapore’s Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.
 - The theme of WCS is Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Adapting to a

Maldives has once again become a member of the Commonwealth family.

- **Note:** The Maldives became the 54th family member of the Commonwealth family.
- ✓ **Bhutan** ends free entry for Indian tourists.
 - **Note:** The Government of Bhutan, Thimphu decided to implement a daily fee of Rs.1200 (\$17) for “**regional tourists**” from India, the Maldives, Bangladesh from July 2020.
 - The fee is called SDF “**Sustainable Development Fees**” in order to regulate a new tourism policy
- ✓ In the **8th International Intellectual Property (IP) Index** for 2020 India slips to **40th rank**.
 - **Note:** The US Chamber of Commerce’s Global Innovation Policy Center has released the 8th edition of International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020.
 - The index has been topped by the United States (US) followed by **UK (United Kingdom), Sweden, France and Germany**.
- ✓ **27-nation International Religious Freedom Alliance** is being launched by the **United States**.
 - **Note:** The Alliance will try to adopt a

Disrupted World, it was earlier scheduled from July 5 to 9, 2020.

- ✓ **Canada** has become the first country in the world to withdraw from Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
 - **Note:** The decision has been taken in view of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - The Canadian Olympic Committee announced that holding the Tokyo 2020 Olympics as per schedule would threaten the health of its athletes.
 - ✓ **IMF** has organization has launched a “Tracker of Policies Governments are Taking in Response to COVID-19”.
 - ✓ **Note:** The policy tracker outlines the key economic responses taken by the government of various countries in order to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy tracker has the updated data till March 24, 2020
-
- collective approach in protecting and preserving religious freedom across the world.
- ✓ According to the **Global Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) Business School Rankings 2020**, the rank of Indian Institute of Management Bengaluru (IIMB) is **third**.
 - ✓ Fifth Edition of Joint **Military Exercise Ajeya Warrior -2020** is conducted between India and **United Kingdom (UK)**.
 - ✓ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has officially renamed Coronavirus as ‘**COVID-19**’.
 - **Note:** “co” stands for “corona”, “vi” for “virus” and “d” for “disease”, while “19” was for the year, as the outbreak was first originated in China’s Wuhan area in December 2019.
 - ✓ The **43rd session of the annual Governing Council** meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) 2020 was held in **Rome, Italy**.
 - **Note:** The theme of this year is “Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030”.
 - ✓ Astronaut **Christina Koch** returned to Earth after record stay in space.
 - **Note:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)’s astronaut Christina Koch has returned to Earth after her record stay in space.
 - With her 328 days stay in space, she



has surpassed Peggy Whitson's record for an American woman on a single spaceflight at 289 days.

- ✓ The **Mobile World Congress** was cancelled due to coronavirus fears which was scheduled to be held in **Barcelona**.
- ✓ The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC is scheduled to be held in **Glasgow UK**.
- ✓ **UAE** becomes the 1st Arab Nation to issue license to operate a reactor at its Nuclear power plant.
- ✓ **Hindi** becomes the 3rd most spoken language in the world after English & Mandarin.
- ✓ The Worldwide Education for The Future Index (WEFFI) 2019 ranked India in **35th position**.
 - The WEFFI report is created by The Economist Intelligence unit and commissioned by Yidan Prize foundation.
 - The index is topped by Finland, followed by Sweden in second place and New Zealand in third place.
- ✓ Air-launched cruise missile Ra'ad-II has been launched by **Pakistan**.
- ✓ To combat Climate Change, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has announced the launch of "Bezos Earth Fund" worth **\$10 billion**.
- ✓ **Piyush Jaiswal** has been awarded the Global Bihar Excellence Award 2019.
 - **Note:** The award was given for contribution towards social welfare, women empowerment and introducing new talent in the field of arts and culture.
- ✓ **Indian Army to sign MoU for AK-203** assault rifles with **Russia**.
- ✓ **Naval Exercise 'Naseem-Al-Bahr'** will be conducted in **Goa**.
 - **Note:** 12th edition of the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise "Naseem-Al-Bahr" will be conducted in Goa.
- ✓ **50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF)** was held in **Davos, Switzerland**.
 - This year 50th Annual Meeting of the **World Economic Forum** theme will be "Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World".
- **Note:**The Bezos Earth Fund will fund the scientists, activists, NGOs to save Earth to tackle the issue of climate change.
- ✓ **Ashraf Ghani** has won the Presidential elections of Afghanistan and will become the President of Afghanistan for the 2nd time.
- ✓ The Paris based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) continue to keep Pakistan in **Grey List**.
 - **Note:** Islamabad (Pakistan) continues to remain on grey list & If it does not curb the financing of terrorism by June 2020, it will be put on the blacklist.
- ✓ The 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety was held in **Stockholm, Sweden**.
 - The aim of the meet was to chart future strategic directions for global road safety and to share successes and lessons from implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020.
 - It should be noted that United Nations (UN) has set a goal under the UN Decade of Action of reducing road crashes by 2030.
- ✓ 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group meeting of SCO held in **Islamabad, Pakistan**.
- ✓ **Microsoft** company has announced that it would become "carbon negative" by year 2030.
- ✓ **Robert Abela** elected as **14th prime minister of Malta**
- ✓ The 10th edition of World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2020 was held at **Abu Dhabi, UAE**.
 - The theme for the year 2020 was "Rethinking Global Consumption, Production, and Investment".
- ✓ **World Health Organisation (WHO)** released the Global challenges for 2020 and identified health challenges in this decade.
- ✓ As per the **9th edition of Tomtom Traffic Index 2019** which city is emerged as the worst traffic congested cities in the world -- **Bengaluru**.
- ✓ **Britain** has launched a **£4 Mn (about Rs 37 crore)** 'Innovation Challenge Fund' in India.



- The fund is focused on 2 main tech platforms including artificial intelligence (AI) and big data in

Karnataka and future mobility in Maharashtra.

- ✓ **The Pacific nation of Palau** has become the first country in the world to ban sunscreen that is harmful to corals and sea life.

Important News: Economy

February 2021

Government approves eight toy manufacturing clusters worth Rs 2,300 crore to boost India's traditional toys industry

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) are looking to develop toy clusters under existing schemes such as the **Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)**.
- The government has approved three clusters in Madhya Pradesh, two in Rajasthan, and one each in Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- **Note: The first virtual India Toy Fair-2021** will be held from February 27 to March 2, which will offer opportunities to buy toys from over 1,000 exhibitors across the country.
- Recently, Union Minister, Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 50 SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries) clusters in 18 States, which will support over 42,000 artisans in traditional crafts.

China returns as top India's trade partner

- China regained its position as **India's top trade partner in 2020** because India was still dependent on the import of heavy machines, home appliances and telecom equipment.
- Two-way trade between India and China stood at \$77.7 billion in 2020, according to provisional data from India's commerce ministry.
- As a result, the bilateral trade gap with China was at almost \$40 billion in 2020, making it India's largest.
- **Note:** Total imports from China at \$58.7 billion were more than India's combined

purchases from the U.S. and the U.A.E, which are its second- and third-largest trade partners, respectively.

RBI sets up panel to suggest steps for strengthening urban co-operative banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an expert committee on Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) to strengthen and examine the issues within the sector.
- **Former RBI Deputy Governor NS Vishwanathan will be the chairman of the eight-member committee.**
- The committee has been directed to submit its report within three months from the date of its first meeting.
- The committee will also "review the current regulatory/supervisory approach and recommend suitable measures/changes to strengthen the sector, taking into account recent amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949."

Amazon to set up its first device manufacturing line in India

- Amazon is setting up its first device manufacturing line in India to make Fire TV sticks locally and has partnered with Cloud Network Technology, a subsidiary of Foxconn, to begin producing the device at its Chennai plant later this year.
- It reiterated its commitment to invest \$1 billion into the country to digitise 10 million small and medium businesses by 2025 and create 1 million additional jobs by then.

Note: Amazon Fire TV stick is one of the best-selling devices. It is powered by a 1.7 GHz quad-core processor that enables faster streaming in 1080p at 60fps with HDR compatibility.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s latest news

- RBI projects **GDP at 10.5 percent in the Financial Year 2021-22.**
- **RBI keeps Key Rates Unchanged:** The monetary



policy review has decided to continue with an accommodative stance of monetary policy to maintain status quo on key policy rates. The repo rate is kept unchanged at 4 percent and the reverse repo rate at 3.35 percent.

- **RBI introduced a risk-based internal audit (RBIA) system for select non-bank lenders and urban co-operative banks (UCBs):** All deposit-taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), NBFCs with an asset size of Rs 5,000 crore, and UCBs with an asset size of Rs 500 crore will have to implement the system by March 31, 2022.
- RBI to set up a **24x7 helpline for digital payment services**
- RBI has decided to implement, **‘One Nation One Ombudsman’** approach for grievance redressal. The Integrated Ombudsman Scheme will be rolled out in June 2021.

MCA21 Version 3.0 to be launched in Fiscal 2021-22

- During the fiscal 2021-22, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) will launch data analytics driven MCA21 Version 3.0.
- MCA21 system is the first Mission Mode e-Governance project of the Government of India.
- MCA21 Version 3.0 Project is a technology-driven forward looking project, envisioned to strengthen enforcement, promote Ease of Doing Business, enhance user experience, facilitate seamless integration and data exchange among Regulators.
- **Note:** The key components of MCA21 to be launched during Fiscal Year 2021-22 are: **e-Scrutiny, e-Adjudication, e-Consultation, Compliance Management System (CMS), MCA Lab.**

PM SVANidhi scheme: Zomato sign MoU to take street food vendors' businesses online

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Zomato for empowering street food vendors with new digital technology and to provide greater income-earning

opportunities on the food delivery platform.

- **Note:** Recently, MoHUA has signed a MoU with Swiggy to take street food vendors online under the PM SVANidhi scheme.
- **About PM SVANidhi (Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi) scheme:** It was launched on June 1, 2020, to help the street vendors resume their livelihood activities that were impacted by COVID-19.

“Formation and Promotion of 10,000 new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)” of Rs. 6865 crore

- Government of India has launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations" with a clear strategy and committed resources to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs in the country with budgetary provision of Rs 6865 crore.
- **NAFED** would form the specialized FPOs which should necessarily be forwardly linked to the market, agri-value chain, etc. NAFED will provide market and value chain linkages to the FPOs formed by other Implementing Agencies.
- **Note:** Recently, during 2020-21, a total of 2200 FPO produce clusters have been allocated for formation of FPOs.
- Recently, NAFED has formed & registered **05 Honey FPOs** during current year in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar & West Bengal.
- **About NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India):** It is an apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India. It was established on the auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 1958.

Economic Survey 2021

- Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey that details the state of the economy ahead of the government's budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021.



- The Economic Survey 2020-2021, authored by a team led by chief economic adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy V Subramanian, focused on the state of different sectors of the economy.
- The Economic Survey has been **dedicated to all the COVID-19 warriors**, who have really helped in upholding India.
- **Key highlights:** India's GDP is estimated to contract by 7.7% in FY2020-21.
- The survey expects the Indian economy to grow by 11 percent during 2021-22 which is close to the growth forecast of 11.5 percent made by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- V-shaped economic recovery due to mega vaccination drive, robust recovery in the services sector and robust growth in consumption and investment.

Union Budget 2021-22

- The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2021-22 in Parliament on 01 February, which is the first budget of this new decade and also a digital one in the backdrop of unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.
- Additionally, also on the path to fast-implementation are the 13 promises of Budget 2015-16-which were to materialize during the AmrutMahotsav of 2022, on the 75th year of our Independence.
- **The Budget proposals for 2021-22 rest on 6 pillars:** Health and Wellbeing, Physical & Financial Capital and Infrastructure, Inclusive Development for Aspirational India, Reinvigorating Human Capital, Innovation and R&D, Minimum Government and Maximum Governance
- **The key highlights of the Union Budget 2021-22 are as follows:**
- Total spend of around Rs 2 lakh crore on healthcare, **Rs 35,000 crore for the Covid-19 vaccine**, Rs 1.10 lakh crore outlay for railways. To impose Rs 2.5 per litre agri infra cess on petrol and Rs 4 on diesel.

- The forthcoming Census could be India's first digital Census, allocating Rs 3,768 crore for FY21.
- Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA), Mission Poshan 2.0, PM Aatmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana will be launched.
- Government has increased the FDI limit from 49 to 74 per cent in Insurance Companies.
- No change in the Income Tax Slabs. Senior citizens who are of 75 years of age and above, having an only pension and interest income will be exempted from filing their income tax return.
- Set up of an asset reconstruction company and an asset management company to clean up non-performing assets in the banking sector.
- A *voluntary vehicle scrappage policy* has been introduced.
- **Note: 15th Finance Commission's final report:** The 15th Finance Commission (Chairman: Mr N. K. Singh) was required to submit two reports. The first report, consisting of recommendations for the financial year 2020-21, was tabled in Parliament on February 1, 2020.
- The final report with recommendations for 2021-22 to 2025-26 was tabled along with Budget 2021-22.

CCI approves acquisition of Indo Gulf Fertilisers by Indorama India Private Limited

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of Indo Gulf Fertilisers by Indorama India Private Limited (IIPL) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.
- **IIPL** is principally engaged in manufacture, trading and sale of fertilisers, primarily, phosphatic fertilisers and speciality plant nutrients.
- **Grasim's fertiliser division, Indo Gulf Fertilisers (IGF)** is a leading agri-solutions provider. Indo Gulf Fertilisers is an Indian company (a unit of Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd.) based in Mumbai and is part of the Aditya Birla Group of companies.

14 new Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items included

under Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme to provide fair prices to tribal gatherers

- The government has decided to include 14 new minor forest produce items under the mechanism for marketing of minor forest produce through a minimum support price scheme to provide remunerative and fair prices to tribal gatherers of forest produces.
- Newly included items are Tasar Cocoon, elephant apple dry, bamboo shoot, malkangani seed and wild dry mushroom among others.
- **About MFP (Minor Forest Produce):** The Central government had introduced a minimum support price for a selected list of minor produce items through mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and development of Value Chain of MFP Scheme in 2011.

RBI cancels license of Kolhapur's Shivam Sahakari Bank

According to the RBI, the licence of Maharashtra-based Shivam Sahakari Bank has been cancelled as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on January 29, 2021.

With the cancellation of licence and commencement of liquidation proceedings, the process of paying the depositors of Shivam Sahakari Bank as per the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) Act, 1961 will be set in motion.

Note: Recently, RBI cancelled the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Osmanabad, Maharashtra.

January 2021

'Toycathon 2021' to promote manufacturing of indigenous toys

- Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani launched a virtual toy hackathon 'Toycathon 2021'.

- The ToyCathon2021 is being organised to create awareness among school students about the rich cultural heritage of our country.
- **Note:** The toys market is Rs 7 lakh crores in the world. In our country, 80 per cent of toys are imported.

IRDAI to launch standard home insurance policy- Bharat Griha Raksha

- Bharat Griha Raksha is an effective home insurance policy that offers coverage against a wide range of perils, like fire, natural catastrophes, impact damage of any kind, riot, strike, malicious damages, acts of terrorism, and bursting and overflowing of water tanks etc.
- **Note:** The IRDAI (The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) had issued guidelines on 4 January, announcing that the Standard Fire and Special Perils (SFSP) Policy provided for in the erstwhile All India Fire Tariff (AIFT) 2001 will be replaced by the following standard products that shall be mandatorily offered by all general insurers from 1 April.

Union Minister for Railways Piyush Goyal launched Indian Railways' Freight Business Development Portal as the one-stop solution for all the needs of freight customers.

- The new portal will be a game-changer in ensuring ease of doing business with Railways as it aims to bring more transparency and professional support.
- The portal will ensure that all operations stay customer-centric, reduce the costs for logistics providers, provide an online tracking facility for suppliers, and also simplify the process of goods transportation.

RBI cancels the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Osmanabad, Maharashtra

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Osmanabad, Maharashtra with effect from the close of business on January 11, 2021.
- Consequent to the cancellation of its



licence, Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Osmanabad, Maharashtra is prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking' which includes acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits as defined in Section 5(b) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with immediate effect.

First time in history, Union Budget 2021 to be paperless

- Union Budget 2021, slated to be presented on February 1, is going to be completely paperless in the wake of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.
- The Budget papers - the Union Budget and Economic Survey - will not get printed, soft copies will be provided.

“New Foreign Trade Policy 2021-2026” to be rolled out from April

- Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that India's new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2021-2026, under formulation, will come into effect from April 1, 2021, for five years and will strive to make the country a leader in international trade.
- **Note:** District Export Hubs Initiative will be an important part of the new FTP.

Tesla incorporates fully owned subsidiary in Bengaluru for its electric vehicles

- US-based Electric car maker, Tesla has incorporated a fully owned subsidiary in Bengaluru as a first step to set up an R&D unit and a manufacturing plant for its electric vehicles in the country.
- Tesla has registered its 100 percent subsidiary, as - Tesla India Motors and Energy Pvt Ltd, according to disclosures with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Reserve Bank of India has set up a working group to study digital lending activities of the regulated and unregulated players

- The group will suggest steps to regulate digital lending including online lending platform and mobile lending.
- The six-member panel comprising four RBI internal and two external members is expected to submit its report

within three months. Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI will be chairman of the group.

Flipkart, NITI Aayog collaborate to enhance Women Entrepreneurship Platform

- In an effort to enhance community experience for women entrepreneurs in India, e-commerce marketplace Flipkart and NITI Aayog have come together to launch the revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
- **Note:** The idea of the platform was first mooted by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant who announced the setting-up of a Women Entrepreneurship Platform at 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit held in Hyderabad during 2017, with an overarching theme of 'Women First, Prosperity for All.'

RBI proposes 4-tier structure for tighter regulation of NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a tighter regulatory framework for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) by creating a four-tier structure with a progressive increase in intensity of regulation.
- The regulatory and supervisory framework of NBFCs should be based on a four-layered structure: NBFC-Base Layer, NBFC-Middle Layer, NBFC-Upper Layer, NBFC-Top Layer.
- **Note: Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances.
- **Facts about RBI:**

Headquarters: Mumbai

Established: 1 April 1935

Governor: Shaktikanta Das (25th Governor)

Cabinet approved Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Copra for 2021 season

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of copra for the 2021 season.



- The MSP for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of milling copra has been increased, by Rs.375/-, to Rs. 10335/- per quintal for 2021 season from Rs. 9960/- per quintal in 2020.
- The MSP for ball copra has been increased, by Rs.300/-, to Rs. 10,600/- per quintal for 2021 season from Rs. 10300/- per quintal in 2020.
- The approval is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACAP).
- **Note:** India is number one in production and productivity of copra in the World. It is mainly grown in the 12 coastal states.

- The IMF has projected the world economy to contract by 3.5 percent in 2020. The global economy is projected to grow 5.5% in 2021 and 4.2% in 2022.
- **Note: FICCI** survey forecasts 8% GDP contraction in FY21.
- Indian economy may grow at 7.3% in the calendar year 2021 by the **United Nations**.

India: Total FDI inflow of US\$ 58.37 billion received during April to November, 2020

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is a major driver of economic growth and an important source of non-debt finance for the economic development of India.
- India received a total FDI inflow of US\$ 58.37 billion during April to November, 2020. It is the highest ever for the first 8 months of a financial year and 22% higher as compared to the first 8 months of 2019-20 (US\$ 47.67 billion).
- **Note: UN report:** FDI inflows into India jump by 13% to \$57 billion in 2020.
- The report said China became the largest recipient of FDI, attracting an estimated \$163 billion in inflows, followed by the US with \$134 billion.

Indian economy to report narrow contraction of 8% in FY21, 11.5% GDP growth in FY22: IMF

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on January 26, 2021 revised its gross domestic product (GDP) projections upward for the current fiscal year and FY 2022 in its forecast update submitted to the World Economic Outlook report.
- The IMF has predicted India's economy to **contract narrowly by 8 percent** in the current financial year in comparison to the earlier **projected contraction of 10.3 percent**.
- India is predicted to **grow by 11.5% in 2021-22** and 6.8% in 2022-23.

December 2020

Cabinet approves 100% FDI in DTH services

- The Union Cabinet approved revised guidelines for Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcasting services, allowing 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) as well as increasing the licence period to 20 years.
- Under the revised guidelines the licenses will be issued for a period of 20 years, compared to 10 years at the moment, and will be renewed for a 10-year period.

'Positive Pay System' for cheque transactions

- On January 1, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will introduce the 'Positive Pay System' for cheque transactions above Rs 50,000 in a bid to enhance safety and eliminate frauds.
- Under this process, the issuer of the cheque submits electronically, through channels like SMS, mobile app, Internet banking and ATM, certain minimum details of that cheque (like date, name of the beneficiary, or payee and amount) to the drawee bank, details of which are cross-checked with the presented cheque by Cheque Truncation System (CTS).

India Post Payments Bank launches its digital payments' services 'DakPay'

- Department of Posts (DoP) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) unveiled a new digital payment app 'DakPay'. The App is launched as part of its ongoing efforts to provide Digital Financial inclusion at the last mile across India.
- **About India Post Payments Bank:** IPPB has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India. It was launched on September 1, 2018.
- Recently Meghdoot award 2020 has been



conferred by the Department of Posts to postal employees for their achievements in 2019-20.

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) launches E-agricultural spot market platform

- BSE has launched an electronic spot platform for agricultural commodities - "BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd. (BEAM)" - through its subsidiary BSE Investments.
- The platform facilitates spot agricultural commodities transactions across value chain consisting of producers, intermediaries, ancillary services and consumers.
- **Note: BSE Limited**, formerly known as the Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd., is an Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai. Established in 1875, it is Asia's oldest stock exchange.

RBI to set up Automated Banknote Processing Centre in Jaipur

- With a view to effectively deal with increasing circulation of banknotes, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in Jaipur for receipt, storage and dispatch of currency notes.
- **Note:** The volume of banknotes in circulation has increased three-fold from March 2001 to March 2019, and is expected to rise further in the years to come.

Re-appointment of Uday Kotak as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India approved re-appointment of Kotak Mahindra Bank's founder Uday Kotak as managing director and chief executive officer of the bank for a period of three years with effect from January 1, 2021.

- ✓ RBI secures cheque payments via 'positive pay' feature
- Reserve Bank of India decides to introduce the 'positive pay system' for cheque, under which re-confirmation of key details may be needed for payments beyond Rs 50,000 from January 1, 2021, in order to check banking fraud. Banks can consider making

- The central bank has also approved re-appointment of Prakash Apte as part-time chairman and Dipak Gupta as joint managing director.

- **About Kotak Mahindra Bank:** Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai. It was founded in 2003.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman releases the 'Smuggling in India Report 2019-20'

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 63rd Founding Day Celebrations of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
- On the occasion, Mrs Sitharaman released the Smuggling in India Report 2019-20 which analyses organised smuggling trends on Gold and Foreign Currency, Narcotic Drugs, Security, Environment and Commercial Frauds.

On the occasion, Bravery Awards were conferred upon Najimudheen T S of DRI Cochin Zonal Unit and Sumer Sen, an independent witness of a case booked by DRI, Jaipur.

- The DRI Utkrisht Seva Samman, 2020 was awarded to B. Sankaran, an officer of the Indian Revenue Service.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of AYUSH decides to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council (AEPC)

- This decision was taken recently in a joint review of AYUSH trade and Industry by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Shri Shripad Naik, Minister of AYUSH.
- **Note:** The entire AYUSH sector will work together to achieve price and quality competitiveness to boost AYUSH exports.
- AYUSH will figure appropriately in the "Brand India" activities being presently undertaken.

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it compulsory in case of cheques for amounts of Rs 5 lakh and above. Under this system, the issuer will be required to submit electronically, through SMS, mobile app, internet banking or ATM certain minimum details of that cheque like date, name of the beneficiary, payee, and amount to the drawee bank.



- NPCI(The National Payments Corporation of India) will develop the facility of positive pay in CTS (Cheque Truncation System) and make it accessible to participant banks.
- ✓ Parliament passes Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020
- Note: The bill ensures that foreign funds are not utilized to tamper the social fabric or disturb the internal security in the country. The legislation will bring transparency in the transaction of foreign contributions and their usage. The Bill seeks to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 which regulates the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution by individuals, associations, NGOs and companies in the country.
- ✓ Govt increases MSP of six Rabi Crops including Wheat, Chana, Masoor, Mustard, Jowar, Safflower
- The MSP of wheat has been increased by Rs. 50 and now stands at Rs. 1,975 per quintal whereas the MSP for Masoor has been hiked by Rs. 300. Mustard's MSP has been raised by Rs. 225 while the same for Chana has been hiked by Rs. 225. Increase in Jowar's MSP is by Rs. 75 while the same for Safflower has been hiked by Rs. 112 per quintal.
- Note: The (MSP) minimum support price is an agricultural product price set by the government of India to purchase directly from the farmer.
- ✓ IFC to provide two trillion dollars to India:
- The International Finance Corporation has said that two trillion dollars will be provided to India to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy.
- Note: International Finance Corporation (IFC) provides advisory, asset-management services and investment to encourage private-sector development in developing countries. IFC is a member of the World Bank Group and headquartered in Washington, United States.
- ✓ Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar passed two farm sector legislation in the Lok Sabha:
- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020
- Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020
- Note: The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 also permits the electronic trading of farmers' produce and allows setting up of transaction platforms for facilitating their direct online buying and selling through electronic devices and internet. The legislation prohibits state governments from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders, and electronic trading platforms for the trade of farmers' produce conducted outside the State Mandis.
- ✓ Food sectoral committees to tap new markets and investment announced by TPCI:
- Three committees are Food & Beverages, Food Processing Technology and Chemical and Allied Products.
- Food & Beverages: Chairman- Laxman Singh Rathore
- Food Processing Technology: Chairman- R Senguttuvan
- Chemical and Allied Products: Chairman- Manish Shah
- Note: TPCI is an organization of trade and investment promotion notified in the Foreign Trade Policy. TPCI is supported and recognized by the Department. of Commerce, Govt. of India. The TPCI council focuses on various strategies for intensifying business internationally, by organizing specialized business events and working with the Government by providing policy suggestions which are essentially based on inputs collated from research and industry stakeholders.
- ✓ FCRA registration to Golden temple:
- The Ministry of Home Affairs approved the registration of Sri Harmandir Sahib under the FCRA, 2010, allowing it to receive foreign funding.
- Note: The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 is an act of the Parliament of India, by the 42nd Act of 2010. The FCRA act is to regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign



contribution or foreign hospitality by any individuals or associations or companies and to prohibit utilization and acceptance of foreign contribution and foreign hospitality or any activities detrimental to the national interest.

- ✓ Doorstep banking services
- Finance Minister recently inaugurated Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks.
- The services can be availed by customers of Public Sector Banks at nominal charges.
- EASE 2.0 Index:
 - First Rank: Bank of Baroda
 - Second Rank: State Bank of India
 - Third Rank: Oriental bank of commerce
 - Top improvers category
 - 1st: Bank of Maharashtra
 - 2nd: Central Bank of India
 - 3rd: Corporation Bank
- EASE Agenda is aimed at institutionalizing clean and smart banking. It was launched in January 2018. PSBs have shown a healthy trajectory in their performance over four quarters since the launch of EASE 2.0 Reforms Agenda.
- ✓ EPFO decides to pay 8.5% interest during 2019-20

The Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar on Wednesday chaired the 227th Meeting of the Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund. In view of the exceptional circumstances arising out of Covid-19, the Central Board has recommended the interest rate of 8.50 per cent to the Central Government.

- It would comprise of 8.15 per cent from debt income and balance 0.35 per cent capital gain from the sale of Exchange Traded Funds, ETFs subject to their redemption by 31st December this year.
- ✓ . Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM)
- Union Minister of State(IC) of Ministry of Power R K Singh on recently launched the Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) for electricity.
- A move that will lead to an increase in the participants in the renewable energy sector. The initiative will also help in achieving the renewable energy(RE) capacity addition targets of the country.

- The introduction of GTAM platform would lessen the burden on RE-rich states and incentivize them to develop RE capacity beyond their own RPO (Renewable Purchase Obligation).
- This would promote RE merchant capacity addition and help in achieving RE capacity addition targets of the country.
- GTAM will lead to an increase in the number of participants in the renewable energy sector and benefit buyers of RE through competitive prices and transparent and flexible procurement.
- The key features of GTAM include bilateral transaction (of RE) in nature with clear identification of corresponding buyers and sellers. Thus, there will not be any difficulty in accounting for RPO.
- The GTAM contracts will be segregated into Solar RPO and Non-Solar RPO as RPO targets are also segregated.
- ✓ Telecom Companies granted 10 years to pay AGR dues: SC
- Supreme Court has given telecom companies 10 years to clear AGR (adjusted gross revenue) dues of around 1.43 lakh crore rupees to the Centre by March 31, 2031
- The companies must pay the dues without further review as it granted the firms a 10-year window to pay the amount in annual instalments.
- It directed the companies to pay the first instalment of 10% of dues by March 31, 2021.

Background

- AGR is a fee-sharing mechanism between government and the telcos who shifted to 'revenue-sharing fee' model in 1999, from the 'fixed license fee' model.
- The dispute between the telcos and the government has been mainly on the definition of AGR.
- While the government says that AGR includes all revenues from both telecom as well as non-telecom services, the operators suggest that it should include only the revenue from core services.
- The Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) calculation is what the government and telecom majors have had a disagreement

over since 2005.

- The two sides were locked in a legal battle over the definition of AGR for more than a decade. On October 24, 2019, the top court widened the definition of AGR to include the government's view.
- ✓ Development Assistance loan sanctioned to India
- Japan has committed an official Development Assistance loan of 3500 crore rupees for the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support.
- The Notes were exchanged between the two countries for a Health sector programme loan to fight the COVID-19 crisis.
- This programme loan aims to support India's efforts in fighting COVID-19 and to prepare the health system to manage

future epidemics and to improve the resilience of India's health systems against infectious diseases.

- Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA is a governmental agency that coordinates Official Development Assistance for the Government of Japan.

India-Japan Relations

- India and Japan have had a long and fruitful history of bilateral development cooperation since 1958.
- In the last few years, the economic cooperation between India and Japan has strengthened and grown into a strategic partnership.
- It further consolidates and strengthens the Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan.

August 2020

- ✓ **SIDBI** in association with **TransUnion CIBIL Limited** launched a comprehensive financial education and one-stop knowledge platform for micro, small and medium enterprises "**MSMESaksham**" for MSMEs.
Note: The portal is focused on two key pillars of financial knowledge and access to credit. The portal will have a consolidated list of all the schemes launched by the Centre and state governments for MSMEs. It will be a knowledge hub with informative articles, business insights to help entrepreneurs and business owners start or grow businesses.
- ✓ The National Digital Conference on "**Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat**" organised by **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
- ✓ Payment system **MobiKwik** has launched **mpay.me**, a UPI payment link service that allows users to send and receive money from any UPI payment app.
Note: Through mpay.me, users and merchants can set up a personalized link using their mobile number. The link can be created through the MobiKwik app or the MobiKwik website and can be shared anywhere with anyone over chat, SMS, email etc.
- ✓ Indian Power Company **Reliance Power** and Japanese energy major **JERA** have inked a pact with a group of banks for financing their new gas-fired thermal power generation

project in Bangladesh.

Note: Both partners will develop a new 745 MW natural gas combined-cycle power project in Meghnaghat in Bangladesh. In September, 2019 Reliance Power inducted JERA as a partner for the 750 mw-gas based combined cycle power project in Bangladesh as a part of its understanding with the country in 2015 to set up a total of 3,000 mw.

- ✓ As per the revised Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, listed entities will get **3 years** to meet criteria of minimum public shareholding of 25 per cent.
Note: listed entities get one more year to comply with the rules of MPS, benefitting more than three dozen PSUs (public sector undertakings) who have been unable to meet this requirement amid COVID-19.
- ✓ Country's national bank **Bahrain, National Bank of Bahrain (NBB)** has decided to adopt the Finacle Cash Management Suite of Infosys Finacle to digitally transform its transaction banking business.
- ✓ AI-powered multilingual voice bot **AXAA** has been launched by Axis Bank to resolve customer queries.
Note: The BOT has been launched in collaboration with Bengaluru startup Vernacular.ai, an AI-based SaaS voice automation platform. AXAA will optimise voice AI solutions and help automate customer



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interactions through intelligent human-like dialogue.

- ✓ **Mozambique**, Export-Import (EXIM) Bank has to improve the power supply quality of the country.
- ✓ **International Financial Corporation (IFC)** entities committed to invest Rs 75 crore in Endiya Partners Fund II.
Note: In addition to this, IFC has also committed an additional USD 10 million for direct co-investments. The partnership will provide financial and strategic support to Endiya portfolio companies, resulting in increased access to growth opportunities and sustainable scalability.
- ✓ **National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched ‘**nth Rewards**’, a business intelligence and analytics enabled omni-channel multi-branded loyalty platform.
Note: This platform enables users to earn ‘nth’ (denoting infinite possibilities) points through various bank transactions and redeem them instantly on various products, such as e-vouchers, donations, hotel and flight bookings. The platform aims to become a one stop shop for the bank which will enable them to retain and grow their customer base.
- ✓ **Paytm** has launched **India’s 1st Pocket Android POS** (Point of Sale) Device for contactless ordering and payments in India.
Note: It is an effort to digitise and empower a large number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The company aims to issue over 2 lakh devices within the next few months which will generate over 20 million transactions per month.
- ✓ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the platform “**Honoring the Honest**” for **Transparent Taxation**.
Note: In a major reform the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has carried out several major tax reforms in direct taxes in recent years. Last year, the Corporate Tax rates were reduced from 30 per cent to 22 per cent and for new manufacturing units, the rates were reduced to 15 per cent. Dividend distribution tax was also abolished.
- ✓ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced to introduce a mechanism of ‘**Positive Pay**’ feature for all cheques of value of **Rs 50,000 and above**.

Note: This feature helps to avert cheque frauds. The limit of Rs 50,000 will cover approximately 20 per cent of transactions by volume and 80 per cent by value. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced to introduce a mechanism of ‘Positive Pay’ feature for all cheques of value Rs 50,000 and above.

- ✓ The National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) was funded by Government of India and **World Bank (WB)**.
Note: The Government of India-World Bank-funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project is designed for strengthening the national agricultural education system in the country. The overall objective to provide more relevant and high-quality education to the agricultural university students that are in tune with the New Education Policy – 2020.
- ✓ **Punjab National Bank** has launched ‘**DIGITAL APNAYEN**’ campaign to encourage customers to use digital banking channels.
Note: The campaign launched by the bank’s Managing Director S Smallikarjuna Rao on the occasion of Independence Day is till March 31, 2021. PNB encourage customers to use digital channels and participate in the noble cause of donating to the PM CARES Fund for COVID-19.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has decided to transfer as dividend **Rs 57,128 crore**. to the central government accounting year 2019-20.
Note: It has decided to maintain a contingency risk buffer of 5.5 percent at the minimum threshold recommended by the Jalan committee to review RBI’s capital framework. The central board approved the dividend at its 584th meeting through video conferencing to discuss the financial operations and the balance sheet for the financial year 2019-20 .
- ✓ **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)** exchanges is going to launch India’s first bullion index named “**Bulldex**”.
Note: Bullions, viz. gold and silver are already being traded as individual commodities on the country’s premier commodity exchange. With gold and silver as underlying, Bulldex will have a market lot size of 50 and be cash-settled



futures contract. MCX had tested bullion index futures trade in mock trading exercises in July.

- ✓ Indian company **Biological E** announced the acquisition of Akorn India, a subsidiary of U.S. firm Akorn Inc.

Note: The acquisition, for an undisclosed sum, comes days after BE entered into an agreement with Johnson & Johnson firm Janssen Pharmaceutica, whose COVID-19 vaccine candidate (Ad26.COVS.2.S) is undergoing clinical trials.

- ✓ **Fino Payments Bank** has launched an Aadhaar Authentication based digital savings account Jan BachatKhata (JBK).

Note: Under the JBK, customers can transact at a Fino branch or merchant point with fingerprint and OTP combination, while at non-Fino points they need Aadhaar authentication. Earlier, Fino Payments Bank had introduced Shubh and Bhavishya, subscription-based savings accounts targeted at specific customer segments.

- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** has approved a total of 1 billion USD loan to provide assistance for the construction of modern, high-speed Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System.

Note: ADB'S finance will include the construction of railway tracks, station buildings, maintenance facilities, and traction, and power supply. The project aims at smoothening regional connectivity by establishing transit options across the densely populated sectors of the National Capital Region connecting Delhi to Meerut in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

- ✓ **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** has launched 'DigiGo', a digital initiative to enable the opening of savings account instantly.

Note: LVB's new initiative will help people to avail the most required banking services instantly through the website. As a Lakshmi DigiGo customer, one can visit the nearest LVB Branch and convert his/her "Lakshmi DigiGo", account to a fully-featured regular account of choice and avail cheque book, debit card and a host of other facilities.

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank has approved **USD 1 billion** package to support the construction of the modern, high-speed Delhi-Meerut

regional rapid transit system, a first of its kind in India.

Note: The transit system project aims to help decongest the city and improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options through densely populated sections of the NCR connecting Delhi to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.

- ✓ **Axis Bank** has launched a new initiative named '**Gig-a-Opportunities**' to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely.

Note: The initiative aims to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely, from anywhere in the country. This hiring model comprises two working patterns.

- ✓ **Tata Group** has launched "**super app**", an e-commerce app with an aim to take on Amazon and Reliance Industries in the country's booming e-commerce sector.

Note: The app will offer food and grocery ordering, fashion and lifestyle, consumer electronics and consumer durables, insurance and financial services, education, healthcare and bill payments. The app will put the conglomerate in competition with giants of the region like Reliance Industries and global titans like Amazon.

- ✓ **ICICI Bank** becomes the first bank in India to use satellite data to assess the creditworthiness of farmers.

Note: The satellite data with demographic and financial details provides strong information on the land asset of the farmers. Usage of this technology will help farmers with existing credit to expand their eligibility and help new-to-credit farmers to get better access to formal credit.

- ✓ **NABARD** has introduced, '**Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Program for Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC)-Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)**.

Note: It is a dedicated debt and credit guarantee product to ensure uninterrupted flow of credit to the last mile in rural areas hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ✓ **Axis Bank** has '**Liberty Savings Account**' for the Indian Youth, to address the ever-changing lifestyle needs of young and digitally interested Indians.

Note: It offers a complimentary hospital cash insurance



cover of up to Rs 20,000 per year, which covers hospital expenses incurred under COVID -19, which makes this a 1st of its kind savings account to cover the pandemic.

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Annual Report for 2019-20 projected India's growth at what percent for 2020-21-- **minus 4.5%**.

Note: It is the Report of the Central Board of Directors on the working of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the year ended June 30, 2020 submitted to the Central Government in terms of Section 53(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. In the report, RBI projected that India's growth at minus 4.5% for 2020-21.

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Annual Report for 2019-20 has decided to dissolve **Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI)**.

Note: It was set up in February 2006 as an independent and autonomous body for formulating codes of conduct to be adopted by banks voluntarily for ensuring fair treatment of customers. BCSBI, in collaboration with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), has evolved

- ✓ **World Bank** has approved a USD 750 million Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Emergency Response Program to support severely impacted MSMEs in India due to COVID-19 crisis.
- ✓ **SAP India** has launched the Global Bharat program, designed to enable Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) become globally competitive by equipping them with digital technologies.
- ✓ **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** has released USD 50 million in the first tranche of assistance to L&T Infrastructure Finance Ltd (LTIF), to fund renewable Energy Projects in India.
- ✓ As per the Reserve Bank of India data Indian state **Tamil Nadu** is at the top in market borrowings in the fiscal 2020-21(FY 21).
- ✓ As per the data from the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, **USA** remains as the top trading partner of India during the Financial Year 2019-20.

Note: This is the second consecutive Financial Year that the United States has become the top trading partner of India.

two codes – Code of Bank's Commitment to Customers and the Code of Bank's Commitment to Micro and Small Enterprises.

- ✓ The Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd. has partnered with **Visa** to develop an instalment platform, which will enable the issuers to extend credit to their cardholders at face-to-face Point of Sale (PoS) in India.

Note: The installments platform with the suite of platform capabilities leveraging **Innoviti's uniPAYNEXT** platform and Visa's APIs, provides shoppers the ability to choose how they pay during the purchase.

- ✓ **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited** has launched 'Smart Assist', a 1st of its kind technology service in the insurance industry.

Note: It helps the customers to know about product details while enjoying virtual assistance and maintaining social distance protocol. It is the latest in the series of initiatives by Bajaj Allianz Life to enhance the customer experience by digitizing its operations, making them easy-to-use and completely secure

July 2020

- ✓ Technology giant google announced to invest **Rs 75,000 crore** in India over the next five to seven years with a focus on digitizing the economy and building India-first products and services.
- ✓ **In Andaman and Nicobar Islands** NABARD has launched development projects of Rs 44 lakhs to strengthen the Atmanirbhar Bharat through rural entrepreneurship.
- ✓ In the new World Bank country classifications by income level 2020-2021, India remains in the classification of **Lower Middle-income economy**.
- ✓ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) would lend \$250 million to **Pakistan** to help the country deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Amount of rescue package has been announced by the European Union (EU) to rebuild the bloc's economies ravaged by COVID-19 -- **€750 billion**.
- ✓ **Airtel Payments Bank** partnered with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to train and skill young people in rural areas on financial services.



- ✓ As per the Financial Stability Report, July 2020 released the Reserve Bank of India what will be the Gross Nonperforming Assets (GNPA) ratio of all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) by March 2021 -- **12.5 per cent.**
- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** has agreed to partner with Green Climate Fund (GCF) toward a 'green recovery' for members confronting the harsh economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: This collaboration focuses on enhancing the steps to reduce the carbon emission and for climate-resilient development in Asia-Pacific. ABD has offered a support package of USD 20 billion for COVID-19. Under the Strategy 2030, ADB will ensure that 75% of its committed projects will support climate change mitigation and adaptation by 2030.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed an agreement with **Sri Lanka** for extending a \$400-million currency swap facility till November 2020.
Note: This currency swap is used to boost the foreign reserves and ensure the financial stability of the country, which is badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The currency swap arrangement will remain available till November 2022.
- ✓ What per cent of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been decided by the union government in defence sector -- **74 per cent.**

- ✓ Worker population ratio is (**35.3%**) as per the **'Annual Report of Periodic Labour Force Survey launched by National Statistical Office (NSO).**
- ✓ **14** kharif crops the central government has announced minimum support price (MSP) on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
 - **Note:** The Minimum Support Price of Paddy has been increased by Rs 53 per quintal. The MSP of paddy has been fixed at Rs 1,868 per quintal for the year 2020-21.
 - The rates of pulses, oil seeds and cereals have also been increased. The MSP of cotton has been increased from Rs 5,255 per quintal to Rs 5,515 per quintal.
- ✓ Grade **Baa3** has been given by ratings

Note: The second draft of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020, now renamed as the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, was put out in public domain for comments from stakeholders and public.

- ✓ The Central Government in collaboration with **World Bank** has decided to convert the area of ravines in the region of Gwalior-Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh into cultivable land.
Note: Around 3 lakh hectares land of this region are non-cultivable, this conversion will improve and support the integrated development of the Bihad area in the region of Gwalior-Chambal. In addition to the agricultural and environmental development this project will also create employment opportunities and will support the substantive development of this region.
- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** has approved USD 3 million (Rs 22 crore) grant to India from the **Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund** to support India's battle against COVID-19.
Note: The grant is financed by the Japanese government. It will be used to seek thermal scanners, enhancement of disease surveillance and early detection, contact tracing, and treatment. COVID-19 pandemic response option (CPRO) was established to provide assistance to the member countries' pandemic response.

June 2020

agency Moody's Investors Service towards India's sovereign rating.

- **Note:** Baa3 is the lowest investment grade in Moody's rating ladder. This means, India is just one notch above the non-investment grade or junk grade.
- ✓ **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** is the technical partner for implementation of PM Svanidhi, or Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi scheme launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ✓ **GAIL India Limited** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) for development of "trigeneration" projects in India.



- **Note:** An equal (50:50) joint venture between the two companies will be incorporated for undertaking trigeneration projects if the studies made by 2 companies are viable.
- ✓ As per the 64th survey of Professional Forecasters (SPF) on Macroeconomic Indicators released by RBI in FY 2021 India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth may contract by **1.5 per cent**.
- ✓ The World Bank (WB) has granted loan worth of Rs. 1,950 crores to **West Bengal govt.** for tackling COVID-19 situation and developmental work.
- ✓ **Harsh Vardhan** chaired the Committee on Development of Housing Finance Securitization Market in India on the recommendation of which RBI draft Framework for Securitization of Standard Assets.
- ✓ Growth of India in FY2020-21 as per World Bank's Global Economic Prospect (GEP) June 2020 - **3.2 per cent**.
- ✓ According to World bank's report, global economy will contract by in 2020 - **5.2 per cent**.
- ✓ **PK Mohanty** will chair the committee formed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to review the guidelines related to ownership, governance and corporate structure of private sector banks.
- ✓ **Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)** has provided a line of credit (LOC) of \$215.68 million to **Malawi** country for Drinking Water Supply Scheme.
- ✓ As per the new framework of the **RBI**, the **National Payment Corporation of India** and **National Electronic Fund Transfer** will be treated as **Financial Market Infrastructure (FMI)**.
- ✓ In accordance with the weekly statistical data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's foreign reserves crossed the **\$500 billion mark**.
- ✓ According to **UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2020**, the **Global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** flows are forecast to decrease by up to **40%** in 2020.
- ✓ According to **UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2020** what is the position of India as recipient of the foreign direct investment in 2019-- **9th largest**.
- ✓ According to the payroll data of EPFO witnessed **28.6 %** increase in formal employment in 2019-20.
- ✓ According to **Asian Development Outlook by the Asian Development Bank**, in FY 2020-21 Indian economy is projected to contract by **4 per cent**.
- ✓ As per the new Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) released by the World Bank, India's global position as an economy in terms of PPPs - **3rd**.
- ✓ World Bank approved **USD 500 million** to improve the learning outcome and governance of government schools in six Indian states under STARS Programme.
 - **Note:** The project, Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS), will be implemented through the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, the flagship central scheme, in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.
- ✓ Minimum amount can be invested in the newly launched Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable) Scheme -- **Rs 1000**.
 - **Note:** The Floating Rate Savings Bonds 2020 (FRSB Bonds) will have a tenure of 7 years and the interest rate will keep varying during the tenure of the scheme.
- ✓ The tenure of the **Floating Rate Savings Bonds 2020 (FRSB Bonds)** launched by the Government of India in of 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 -- **7 years**.
- ✓ **World Bank** has **approved \$500 million** to build road connectivity along the **Jashore-Jhenaidah corridor** directly connecting Dhaka in Bangladesh with India and Bhutan.
 - **Note:** It will also support the Bangladesh government's plan of developing a 260 km economic corridor in the western part and benefitting over 20 million masses.
 - The Western Economic Corridor



and the Regional Enhancement (WeCARE) Phase I project is the first of a multi-phased \$1.4 billion World Bank program to upgrade the existing 110 km two-lane

highway, Bhomra-Satkhira-Navaron and Jashore-Jhenaidah, to a safer and climate-resilient four-lane highway in western Bangladesh.

- ✓ According to Mercom India Research's '**India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020**' report **7.3 Giga Watt (GW)** solar energy generation capacity India has added during calendar year 2019.
- ✓ **Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) India Private Limited** has started the production of Coal for the first time.
- ✓ Under chairmanship the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set up a **committee to frame standard professional indemnity**

April 2020

- ✓ **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a loan agreement worth of \$60 million with affordable housing loan provider **Aavas Financiers Ltd.**
- ✓ Standard & Poor Global Ratings has slashed down India's growth forecast for financial year 2020-21 to **3.5%**.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in consultation with the Government of India (GoI), has hiked the limit of **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the first half of the financial year 2020-21 for the centre to **Rs 1.2 lakh crore.**
- ✓ The **United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) World Economic Forecasting Model** estimates that the global economy could shrink by **1%**.
- ✓ According to the Fitch Solutions India's fiscal deficit is expected to go up to what per cent of GDP -- **6.2 %.**
- ✓ **Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2020** has forecasted a slowdown in Indian economic growth to **4%**.
- ✓ The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has announced to provide emergency working capital to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) up to **one crore.**
 - **Note:** The SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response

May 2020

policy for insurance intermediaries that can be issued by all the insurers-- **Yegnapriya Bharat.**

- ✓ **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has organized the digital conference, RE-START – 'Reboot the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations is association with Technology Development Board (TDB)
- ✓ **World Bank** has approved 1 billion USD to increase India's COVID-19 Social Protection response Program.

against coronavirus (SAFE) loan limit has been increased to 2 crores from Rs 50 lakhs. It is a financial assistance program launched by SIDBI for (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) MSMEs that engage in the manufacturing of products (hand sanitizers, masks, gloves, head gear, bodysuits, shoe covers, ventilators, goggles, among others) or offer services to combat the novel coronavirus.

- ✓ According to the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) report** India's GDP growth for FY 20-21 is likely to be declined to **4.8%**.
- ✓ The **rate of interest** in the "**Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21**" to be launched by the RBI on behalf of GoI-- **2.50 per annum.**
- ✓ **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** in its "**World Economic Outlook, April 2020**" has decreased **India's GDP growth rate to 1.9%.**
- ✓ The **Reserve Bank of India** has increased the limit for **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for Central Government to **Rs 2,00,000 crores.**
 - **Note:** RBI has increased the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) by 66% for Central Government to Rs



2,00,000 crore from Rs 1,20,000 crore for the remaining part of first half of the financial year 2020-21 to tackle the financial crisis arisen due to COVID-19 pandemic.

- ✓ **World Bank** has approved **Rs 585 cr for Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project.**
- ✓ **SIDBI** has launched special liquidity schemes to support MSMEs due to lockdown.
 - **Note:** The schemes will cover all eligible entities with investment-grade ratings irrespective of the entity’s size & the quantum of the loans is 90 days.
 - Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has received Rs 15,000

March 2020

- ✓ The **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has cuts interest rate to **8.5%.**
 - **Note:** The EPFO has declined interest rate on EPF deposits for 2019-20 to seven years low by 0.15% or 15 basis points from 8.65% to 8.5%.
 - The decision has been taken during the meeting of EPFO’s apex decision making body, Central Board of Trustees (CBT) chaired by Minister of State (MoS) for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar in New Delhi.
- ✓ Name the world’s first Digital Solutions Exchange Cloud launched in India -- **GOKADDAL.**
 - **Note:** GOKADDAL, the World’s first Digital Solutions Exchange in Cloud, was launched in India on March 11, 2020. www.gokaddal.com, a cloud-based solution exchange platform mainly focuses on 4A’s – Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Analytics and Augmentative Technologies.
 - It is a Business to Business (B2B), Business to Government (B2G), Business to Consumer (B2C) solution platform which connects solution providers to solution seekers and an innovative platform for Startups and SME companies.
- ✓ 39th GST Council meet on **‘Know your**

crore from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to provide financial aid to MSMEs.

- The central bank provided the capital through a Special Liquidity Facility (SLF). SIDBI will provide the financing to MSMEs through banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and micro-finance institutions (MFIs).
- ✓ **Transcorp International Ltd (TIL)** becomes the **1st non-bank company** to receive Reserve Bank of India (RBI) nod to enter into co-branding arrangements for prepaid Instruments.

Supplier’ was held in New Delhi.

- **Note:** It was headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. During the summit several decisions have been taken regarding the GST mechanism on particular sections.
- One of the decisions includes calculation of delayed GST payment on the net tax liability w.e.f. 1st July 2017, the day the GST came into force.
- Net cash tax liability is arrived at after deducting the input tax credits available from gross tax liability.
- ✓ An **‘Innovate for accessible India campaign’** has been launched by Microsoft India and **NASSCOM Foundation.**
 - **Note:** It is a nation-wide innovation challenge aimed at empowering people with disabilities with the new technologies required for better integration into society and access to equal opportunities.
 - The campaign was launched in partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology and National Research and Education Network (NREN).
- ✓ For Research in Cybersecurity Programs L&T Technology Services has signed with **IIT-**

Kanpur.

- **Note:** L&T Technology Services (LTTS) signed a multi-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) to collaborate on research industrial and infrastructure cybersecurity.
 - The MoU is signed between Dr Keshab Panda, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of LTTS and Professor Manindra Agarwal, Padma Shri Awardee, Deputy Director at IIT-Kanpur.
- ✓ RBI has injected **30,000 crores rupees** through open market operations (OMOs) in the economy.
- **Note:** The RBI will purchase government securities under OMOs in two tranches of Rs 15,000 crore each.
 - OMO is the sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by the central bank of the country.
 - Already, RBI infused Rs 10,000 crore through open market operations, last week.
 - RBI will purchase securities with a coupon rate of 6.84 per cent (maturity December 19, 2022); 7.72 per cent (May 25, 2025); 8.33 per cent (July 9, 2026) and 7.26 per cent (January 14, 2029).
- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** will invest 100 million US Dollars in India's infrastructure
- ✓ Union Cabinet Approves Amendments to Banking Regulation Act to regulate **Urban Co-Operative banks**.
- These amendments will apply to the urban co-operative banks and multi-state cooperative banks.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conducted the "Financial Literacy Week 2020" from **February 10 to February 14, 2020**.
- **Note:** The theme of the Financial Literacy Week 2020 is "Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)".
- ✓ As per the notified '**Printing of One Rupee Currency Notes Rules, 2020**, the currency notes of rupees one to have **pink green**

sector through the government-promoted National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

- **Note:** With this, the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund has now received a total of \$700 million in commitments.
 - The investment comes at a time when India's economy is expected to suffer huge losses due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic.
 - This will help in increasing the capital of domestic private equity funds in India. It will also contribute a great deal in providing long term growth financing for private sector companies, social infrastructure development and economic development.
- ✓ Fitch Ratings Inc has lowered India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast to **- 4.6%**.
- **Note:** It cuts the rate due to weak domestic demand and private consumption, which put pressure on the investment amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
 - Earlier on March 2, 2020, Fitch has lowered India's GDP growth forecast to 4.9% for the fiscal year –FY20 (2019-2020) ending March 31, 2020 from 5.1% due to coronavirus and supply disruptions.

colour.

- The pink green colour note will have a design of grains, which depicts the "agricultural dominance of the country".
- ✓ "We Think Digital" Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women launched by **Facebook**.
- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has signed a \$ 450 million (mn) loan agreement to support **Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)** with **the World Bank**.
- The main aim of this agreement is to stop the decreasing level of ground water in India and strengthen the institutions related to ground water.



- ✓ To promote UPI as Easy, Safe, and Instant mode of payment a campaign named “UPI Chalega” has been launched by NPCI.
 - The “UPI Chalega” campaign is aimed to guide users towards the right usage of
- ✓ India may **overtake Germany** to become the **fourth-largest** economy by **2026**.
 - **Note:** The report titled 'World Economic League Table 2020' was released by the UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).

According to the “**Global Investment Trend Monitor report 2020**” released by **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** what is **India’s rank in attracting FDI in 2019 -- 8th**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has been ranked at **6th** position in buying gold abroad among the central banks of the world.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and help create a habitual change, use of UPI in their daily life.

- **Note:** According to World Gold Council(WGC) report titled “Outlook 2020: Global economic trends and their impact on gold”, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) became the sixth largest buyer when it purchased 25.2 tonnes in first 10 months of 2019 to hedge government’s sovereign gold bond issue.

- ✓ The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched a platform to make payments fast & secure -- “**Vajra Platform**”.

Awards and Honours

Team TRIFED bags the award for excellence in PSU for Investment in Start-ups in the Organisational Awards category of the Business Leader of the Year awards

- Team TRIFED (Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India), led by Shri Pravir Krishna, Managing Director, TRIFED, has won 4 awards in the 19th Global edition and the 4th India Edition of World Leadership Congress and Awards.
- TRIFED won a collective award of Excellence in PSU – for investment in start-ups in the Organisational Award Category.
- Shri Pravir Krishna, Managing Director won three awards in the Individual Category for his exemplary and inspirational leadership – CEO of the year; Brand Builder of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year.

Development Board (TDB), a statutory body of the Government of India functioning under Department of Science of Technology for the year 2019-20.

- **About TDB (Technology Development Board):** It was established in 1996 with a novel aim of providing financial assistance to Indian companies for commercialization of innovative indigenous technologies.

US announces anti-corruption award for social activist Anjali Bhardwaj

- India’s Anjali Bhardwaj was among 12 anti-corruption activists from around the world named by US secretary of state Antony Blinken as the first recipients of the new ‘**International Anti-corruption Champions Award**’.
- Bhardwaj established a foundation by the name of **Stark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS)** that encouraged citizens with a mandate of promoting accountability in the public and government institutions.
- For over two decades, she has remained an active member of the right to information (RTI) movement in India.

12 companies selected for the prestigious National Technology Awards 2020 for commercialization of innovative indigenous technologies

- The companies have been selected under three categories --indigenous technologies, MSME, and startups.
- The awards were given by the Technology

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2021

• **Important winner list:**

Best Actress	Deepika Padukone (Chhapaak)
Best Actor	Akshay Kumar (Laxmii)
Critic’s Best Actor	Sushant Singh Rajput (Dil Bechara)
Critic’s Best Actress	Kiara Advani (Guilty)
Best Film	Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
Best International Feature Film	Parasite
Best Director	Anurag Basu (Ludo)
Best Actor (Web Series)	Bobby Deol (Aashram)
Best Actress (Web Series)	Sushmita Sen (Aarya)
Best Web Series	Scam: 1992

- **Note:** This year's awards also included the OTT (over-the-top) category.
- **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards** were introduced by the Government of India in 1969 to commemorate the Father of the Indian Cinema Dadasaheb Phalke.

SERB announces Women Excellence Award 2021

- Four young women fellows of National Science Academies have been awarded for excelling in science and engineering on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2021.
- The SERB Women Excellence Award that has been conferred on them provides a grant of Rs. 15 lakhs for a period of three years to the awardees to pursue their research ideas.
- The four women scientists selected for the awards include Dr. Shobhna Kapoor, Dr. Antara Banerjee, Dr. Sonu Gandhi and Dr. Ritu Gupta.
- **About Women Excellence Award 2021:** The award given by the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) supporting basic

research in the frontier areas of science and engineering, was launched in the year 2013. It is a one-time award given to women scientists below 40 years of age.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs bags Award of Appreciation in the 18th CSI SIG e-Governance Awards 2020

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs bags the prestigious Award of Appreciation in the Project Category-Central Government Entity – in the 18th CSI SIG eGov Awards 2020 for their Performance Dashboard Empowering Tribals Transforming India through various ICT initiatives.
- **About the award:** The Computer Society of India (CSI) has instituted a series of awards for recognizing the contributions made in the field of e-Governance in the country. These awards have been conducted by CSI-SIGegov.
- **Note:** The Ministry also recently received the prestigious 5 SKOCH awards for different project, including the prestigious SKOCH Challenger Award for its “Best Performance in eGovernance”.

Tamil film Koozhangal wins Tiger award at Rotterdam film festival 2021

- Koozhangal (Pebbles) became the first Tamil film to win the coveted Tiger Award at the 50th Rotterdam Film Festival 2021.
- Directed by debutant P S Vinothraj, the film has been produced by actor Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan.
- **Note:** Koozhangal has become the second Indian film ever to have won the award.
- The first Indian film to have won the honour was Malayalam filmmaker Sanal Kumar Sasidharan's Durga in 2017.

Theodore Baskaran wins Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020

- Sanctuary Nature Foundation honours conservation hero S Theodore Baskaran with Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020 for his role in wildlife conservation and his continuing legacy of writings in Tamil and English to the conservation discourse.

- **Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award** was instituted by the Sanctuary Nature Foundation's Sanctuary Wildlife Service Awards in the year 2000 to recognise and draw national attention to the contribution of individuals working for the protection of wildlife and natural habitats in India.

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) awards dedicated for Animal Welfare and Protection-2021

- Shri Giriraj Singh, Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India distributed the awards on the auspicious day of Vasant Panchami.
- The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), the apex body in the country for the welfare and protection of animals, established under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 conferred 14 Prani Mitra awards and JeevDaya awards 2021 to the individuals, organizations and corporates for their outstanding performance in the field of animal welfare.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy conferred Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award

- The Award has been presented to the CM by Chairman, Skoch group, Sameer Kochhar personally at Tadepalli in Andhra Pradesh.
- **About SKOCH Award:** SKOCH Award, independently instituted in 2003, is India's honest civilian honour conferred by an independent organisation as a third party assessment. It is the only award in the country that is based on felt-needs assessment and outcome evaluation based on evidence. It recognises people, projects and institutions.

WCCB receives Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020

- The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has received the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020 awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Union Environment Minister Prakash

Javadekar said that WCCB getting the award twice in three years is a testimony of India's commitment towards ending wildlife crime.

- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been awarded this year under the Innovation category.
- **Note:** Earlier, the Bureau had received the award in 2018 under the same category.

Rishabh Pant wins the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for January 2021

- India's wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant became the first winner of the inaugural ICC Player of the Month award.
- Pant won the award for his spectacular performances in the two Tests against Australia.
- South Africa's Shabnim Ismail was named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for January 2021.
- She was rewarded for her incredible performances across three ODIs and two T20Is against Pakistan.

Bengaluru airport achieves ACI World's 'Voice of the Customer' recognition

- The Bangalore International Airport Limited's (BIAL) or Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru has bagged global recognition from the Airports Council International (ACI) World's 'Voice of the Customer' award.
- The 'Voice of the Customer' recognises airports that continued to prioritise their customers and remained committed to ensuring that their voice was heard during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.
- **Note:** Bengaluru Airport has made significant efforts in gathering passenger feedback through ACI's Airport Service Quality (ASQ) programme.

Manasa Varanasi crowned Miss India World 2020

- Manasa Varanasi, an engineer from Telangana, emerged as the winner of VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020.
- While Haryana's Manika Sheokand was declared VLCC Femina Miss Grand India 2020, Uttar Pradesh's Manya Singh was crowned



VLCC Femina Miss India 2020 - runner-up.

- **Note:** Manasa Varanasi will represent India at the 70th Miss World pageant in December 2021.

Robert Irwin wins Wildlife Photographer of the Year

- Famous wildlife Australian zookeeper and wildlife expert Steve Irwin's son, Robert Irwin has won the first prize in the Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award.
- The image was titled 'bushfire' and was captured through a drone that shows a line of fire burning in between the bushes, dividing it into parts.
- Robert captured this image near the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve in Cape York, Queensland.

A.R. Rahman presented 'Alert Being Icon Award'

- Oscar Award-winning music director A.R. Rahman and social activist from Saidapet Hari Krishnan were among the 14 people who were presented the **4th edition of the Alert Being Awards 2020 by the NGO ALERT.**
- The equivalent award for organisations was given to Biocon Foundation founded by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.
- **Note:** This year, a special category, Alert Being Covid Warriors, was added, and 30 Covid warriors received the Alert Being Covid Frontline Warrior Award for their contribution amid the pandemic.

Pt. Satish Vyas conferred upon the prestigious Tansen Samman 2020

- Madhya Pradesh recently hosted Tansen Music Festival in the city of Gwalior. In the inaugural ceremony renowned santoor player Pt. Satish Vyas was conferred upon the prestigious Tansen Samman.
- Bhopal-based institution Abhinav Kala Parishad was honoured with Raja Mansingh Tomar award.
- Tansen Samaroh is organized jointly by Ustad Alauddin Khan Kala Evam Sangeet Academy and Department of Culture,

Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

Indian Railways bags 13 awards at the 'National Energy Conservation awards 2020'

- Indian Railway has bagged 13 awards in three prestigious categories of National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) for the year 2020, organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power.
- Some important awards are: In the transport category', Western Railway has been awarded the First Prize.
- In the Building Category, Divisional Railway Manager's offices at Bhavnagar have won the first prize.
- In Railway workshops subcategory, Diesel Loco Shed, South Central Railway, Vijayawada has bagged the First prize.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and family Welfare inaugurated the 5th National Kayakalp Awards

- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India launched a National Initiative 'Kayakalp' on 15th May 2015 to ensure hygiene, sanitation and cleanliness in Public Health Facilities in India.
- Some Important awards are: **AIIMS (All India Institutes of Medical Sciences) Bhubaneswar** has been adjudged as the best central government hospital under B category for cleanliness for third consecutive year. It had earlier received the award in 2018 as well as in 2019 for becoming the second cleanest hospital among category B hospitals.
- **JIPMER (Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research)** has been awarded the second prize for the year 2019-20. The award was for the category Group A Central government health facilities. JIPMER had bagged the second place in 2018-19 and third place in 2017-18.

Shri Amresh Kumar Chaudhary has been awarded prestigious "Chief of Army Staff Commendation."

- Shri Amresh Kumar Chaudhary has been awarded prestigious "Chief of Army Staff



Commendation” for his outstanding contribution to Armed Forces during critical period of Covid19 pandemic and its various operations.

- He is currently working as Chief Controller in Mil Rail.
- **About Mil Rail:** Mil Rail is responsible for overall coordination, strategic planning & execution of Railway Logistics support to Defence forces during peace & emergency situations.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) received the coveted “SKOCH Challenger Award”-“Best Performance in e-Governance” for its various initiatives taken during last year

- The Ministry also received **3 Gold Awards** for its initiatives namely “Eco-Rehabilitation of tribal villages through Innovative design in water management using Ice-stupa”, Swasthya: Tribal Health and Nutritional Portal and the Performance Dashboard “Empowering Tribals Transforming India”.
- SKOCH Challenger Award conferred to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) under “Transparency in Governance” category for IT-led initiatives and transformational reforms.
- **Note:** The SKOCH Challenger Award was given virtually during the 70th SKOCH Summit (SKOCH Public Policy Forum).

Indian Mathematician Nikhil Srivastava named joint winner of Michael and Sheila Held Prize

- Nikhil Srivastava from the University of California, Berkeley, Adam Marcus, EPFL and Daniel Alan Spielman from Yale University will receive the 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize.
- **Note: Michael and Sheila Held Prize** is presented annually and honours outstanding, innovative, creative, and influential research in the areas of combinatorial and discrete optimisation, or related parts of computer science, such as the design and analysis of algorithms and complexity theory.
- It was established in 2017 by the bequest of Michael and Sheila Held.

Coal India arms NCL, CCL and WCL get the Coal Minister’s Award 2020

- Union Minister of Coal & Mines Shri Pralhad Joshi presented “Coal Minister’s Award” to three coal companies of Coal India Ltd. - Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL), Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) and Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL).
- Shri Joshi also launched ‘**Project Passion**’-the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) of Coal India Ltd (CIL) which will help improve business performance and growth of the company with enhanced data integrity.
- The Minister inaugurated a **new Coal Handling Plant (CHP)** at Krishnashila Coal Project of NCL.

Padma Awards 2021

- Padma Awards, the highest civilian award, which were instituted in 1954, is announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day.
- This year the President has approved conferment of 119 Padma Awards. The list comprises 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri Awards. 29 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, 16 Posthumous awardees and 1 transgender awardee.
- **7 persons will get Padma Vibhushan-** They include former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, sculptor Sudarshan Sahoo, Islamic scholar Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, Eminent Singer S P Balasubramaniam (Posthumous), Dr. Belle Monappa Hegde (Medicine), Narinder Singh Kapany (Posthumous) from United States of America and B. B. Lal (Archaeology).
- **10 persons will get Padma Bhushan-** They include former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, Singer K S Chithra, prominent poet Chandrashekhara Kambara and retired Civil Servant Nripendra Misra. Former Gujarat Chief Minister late Keshubhai Patel, Former Assam Chief Minister late Tarun Gogoi and Former



Union Minister late Ram Vilas Paswan will be honoured with Padma Bhushan posthumously.

- **102 persons will get Padma Shri-** They include Social Worker Sindutai Sapkal, Musician Bombay Jayashri, British film director Peter Brook and Greek Indologist Nicholas Kazanas. Former Governor of Goa late Mridula Sinha, Spanish-Indian Jesuit priest and author late Father Vallés will be given the award posthumously.
- **Note: Maha Vir Chakra Award:** Colonel B Santosh Babu, the Commanding Officer of 16 Bihar Regiment, who lost his life during the Galwan Valley clash last year, will be posthumously awarded with Maha Vir Chakra.

Danish World War II drama 'Into the Darkness' bags Golden Peacock Award at 51st IFFI

- The epic World War II film 'Into the Darkness' (De forbandede år) which portrays the story of a Danish electronics factory owner who is forced to produce for the occupying Nazi forces, has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the just-concluded 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI). It is directed by Anders Refn.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar- 2021

- 32 children have been awarded the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar-2021.
- **About Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:** It, formerly known as the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement, is India's Highest Civilian Honour bestowed upon exceptional achievers under the age of 18.
- The award was instituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India in 1996 to recognize children with exceptional abilities and outstanding status in various fields such as arts, culture, design, innovation, research, sports, social service and bravery.

ICC announces introduction of 'ICC Player of the Month' awards

- The award will recognise and celebrate the best performances of both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket.
- An independent ICC Voting Academy comprising former players, broadcasters, and journalists from around the world, will team up with fans to vote for the ICC Men's Player of the Month and ICC Women's Player of the Month.
- **Facts about ICC (International Cricket Council):**
Chairperson: Greg Barclay
CEO: Manu Sawhney
Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

1. Ezhuthachan Puraskaram

- It is the highest literary honor of the Kerala government given by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi.
- Writer Paul Zacharia has been selected for the 28th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram.

2. Lilavati Award 2020

- It is institutionalized by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- Theme- Women's Empowerment.

3. 2020 Booker Prize

- The 2020 Booker Prize was given by Scottish author Douglas Stuart.
- The Booker Prize is the leading literary award in the English speaking world.
- The Prize is awarded annually for a single book, translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.

4. Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace

- Noted broadcaster Sir David Attenborough to be presented with Indira Gandhi peace prize 2019.

5. Jnanpith Award

- It is given to Malayalam 'Mahakavi' Akkitham.

6. CogX Award

- It is given to the best-of-the-best in AI and emerging technologies across the world.



- AI enabled MyGov Corona Helpdesk bagged two awards under categories
 - “Best Innovation for Covid-19 – Society” and
 - “People’s Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner”, at the recently held CogX 2020.

7. Ramon Magsaysay Award

- It is Asia’s highest honour and is often regarded as the region’s equivalent of the Nobel Prize.
- This year the award was presented to none.

8. Pulitzer Prize 2020

- It was presented to three photojournalists (Yasin Dar, Mukhtar Khan, and Channi Anand) from Jammu & Kashmir.

9. Gandhi Peace Prize

- This year the award was presented to no one.
- In 2019, the award was given to David Attenborough.

10. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize

Biological Sciences:

- Dr Subhadeep Chatterjee,
- Dr Vatsala Thirumalai

Chemical Sciences

- Dr Jyotirmayee Dash,
- Dr Subi Jacob George

Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences

- Dr Abhijit Mukherjee
- Dr Suryendu Dutta

Engineering Sciences

- Dr Amol Arvindrao Kulkarni
- Dr Kinshuk Dasgupta

Mathematics Sciences

- Dr UK Anandavardhanan,
- Dr Rajat Subhra Hazra

Medicine Sciences

- Dr Bushra Ateeq,
- Dr Ritesh Agarwal

Physics Sciences

- Dr Rajesh Ganapathy
- Dr Surajit Dhara

11. Sahitya Academy Award

In the year 2019 the award has been given to the following:

Language	Title & Genre	Author Name
Assamese	Chanakya (Novel)	Joysree Goswami Mahanta
Bengali	Ghumer Darja Thele (Essays)	Chinmoy Guha
Bodo	Akhai Athumniphrai (Poetry)	Phukan Ch. Basumatary
Dogri	Bandralta Darpan (Essays)	Om Sharma Jandriari
English	An Era of Darkness (Non-Fiction)	Shashi Tharoor
Gujarati	Mojma Revu Re (Essays)	Ratilal Borisagar
Hindi	Chheelate Hue Apne Ko (Potery)	Nand Kishore Acharya
Kannada	Kudi Esaru (Autobiography)	Vijaya
Kashmiri	Akh Yaad Akh Qayamat (Short Stories)	Abdul AhadHajini
Konkani	The Words (Potery)	Nilba A Khandekar
Maithili	Jingik Oriakon Kariat (Poetry)	Kumar Manish Arvind
Malayalam	Achan Piranna Veedu (Poetry)	V Madhusoodanan Nair
Manipuri	EiAmadi Adungeigi Eethat (Novel)	L Birmangol Singh (Beryl Thanga)
Odia	Bhaswati (Short Stories)	Tarun Kanti Mishra
Punjabi	Antheen (Short Stories)	Kirpal Kazak
Rajasthani	BareekBaat (Short Stories)	Ramswaroop Kisan
Sanskrit	Prajnachakshusham (Poetry)	Penna Madhusudan
Santali	Sisirkali (Short Stories)	Kali Charan Hembram
Sindhi	Jeejal (Short Stories)	Ishwar Moorjani
Tamil	Sool (Novel)	Cho Dharman



Telugu	Septabhoomi (Novel)	Bandi Narayana Swamy
Urdu	Sawaneh-E-Sir Syed: Ek Bazadeed (Biography)	Shafey Kidwai

12. Nobel Awards

Fields	Nobel 2020 Winners
Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology	Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice
Nobel Prize in Physics	Roger Penrose
	Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez
Nobel Prize in Chemistry	Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna
Nobel Prize in Literature	Louise Gluck
Nobel Peace Prize	World Food Programme (WFP)
Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences	Paul R. Milgrom, Robert B. Wilson

13. Saraswati Samman

- Won by Sindhi poet and writer Vasdev Mohi
- Given by KK Foundation.

14. Moortidevi Award

- Given by Bharatiya Jnanpith organisation
- Won by Malayalam author M P Veerendra Kumar

15. Bihari Puruskar

- Dr. Aidan Singh Bhati will be awarded the 29th Bihari Puraskar for his poetry collection, Aankh Heeyae Ra Hariyal Sapna.
- Given by KK Birla Foundation.

16. Vyas Saman

- Hindi author and Sahitya Akademi awardee Nasera Sharma was conferred with this award.
- Given by KK Birla Foundation

17. International Booker Prize 2020

- Won by Marieke Lucas Rijneveld for The Discomfort of Evening

18. International Press Freedom Award

- The Committee to Protect Journalists has announced that the recipients of the 2020 International Press Freedom Awards include Shahidul Alam from Bangladesh, Mohammad Mosaed from Iran, Dapo Olorunyomi from Nigeria and Svetlana Prokopyeva from Russia.

19. Von Karman Award

- Given by International Academy of Astronautics
- Will be conferred to ISRO Chairman K. Sivan.

20. UN Nelson Mandela Prize

- Given by Marianna Vardinoyannis (Greece) and Dr. Morissana Kouyate (Guinea).

21. World Food Prize

- Given to Dr. Rattan Lal
- Presented by World Food Prize Foundation

22. Pritzker Architecture Award

- Presented by Royal Institute of British Architects
- Given to Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara

23. Abel Prize

- Presented by Norwegian Academy of Science
- Given to Hillel Furstenberg and Gregory Margulis.

24. Global Goal keeper Award

- Presented by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Given to Indian PM Narendra Modi

25. Sastra Ramanujan Award

- Presented to Adam Harper

26. Oscar Award 2020

- **Best picture-** Parasite
- **Best actress in a leading role-** Renee Zellweger - Judy
- **Best actor in a leading role-** Joaquin

Phoenix - Joker

- **Best director-** Bong Joon Ho- Parasite
- **Best actor in supporting role-** Brad Pitt - Once Upon A Time in Hollywood
- **Best actress in a supporting role-** Laura Dern - Marriage Story
- **Best international feature film-** South Korea, Parasite
- **Best adapted screenplay-** Taika Waititi - Jojo Rabbit
- **Best animated feature film-** Toy Story 4
- **Best documentary feature-** Steven Bognar, Julia Reichert and Jeff Reichert - American Factory
- **Best documentary short subject-** Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You're A Girl)
- **Best animated short film-** Matthew A Cherry and Karen Rupert Toliver - Hair Love
- **Best live-action short film-** Marshall Curry - The Neighbors' Window
- **Best editing-** Micheal McCusker and Andrew Buckland - Ford v Ferrari
- **Best cinematography-** Roger Deakins- 1917
- **Best original song-** (I'm Gonna) Love Me Again from Rocketman by Elton John (Music) and Bernie Taupin (Lyrics)
- **Best visual effects-** Guillaume Rocheron, Greg Butler and Dominic Tuohy - 1917
- **Best production design-** Barbara Ling and Nancy Heigh - Once Upon A Time in Hollywood
- **Best makeup and hairstyling-** Kazu Hiro, Anne Morgan and Vivian Baker - Bombshell
- **Best costume design-** Jacqueline Durran - Little Women
- **Best sound mixing-** Mark Taylor and Stuart Wilson - 1917
- **Best sound editing-** Donald Sylvester - Ford v Ferrari
- **Best Original score-** Hildur Gudnadottir - Joker

28. Gallantry Award 2020

- Shaurya Chakra awarded to Lt. Col. Krishan Singh Rawat from the elite Special Forces, Major Anil Urs and Havildar Alok Kumar Dubey.

29. National Film Awards 2019

- Bollywood stars Ayushmann Khurrana and Vicky Kaushal were jointly awarded the best actor award for their roles in Andhadhun and Uri.
- Vicky Kaushal said it was a great honour for him to receive the award.
- Keerthy Suresh got the best actress award for her portrayal of yesteryear's star Savitri in Telugu film Mahanati.
- Gujarati movie Hellaro was awarded for the best feature film.
- Aditya Dhar was awarded the Best Director award for his debut Uri: The Surgical Strike. Andhadhun was awarded for Best Hindi film.
- Akshay Kumar-starrer Padman was awarded for the best film on social issues.

30. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2020

- Rohit Sharma (Cricket)
- Vinesh Phogat (Wrestling)
- Manika Batra (Table Tennis)
- Paralympian M Thangavelu

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2020

- The jury of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay New India Foundation (NIF) Book Prize 2020 has for this year announced two joint winners—Amit Ahuja (Mobilising the Marginalised: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements) and Jairam Ramesh (A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon).
- **Note:** Established in 2018, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize builds on the New India Foundation's mission of sponsoring high-quality research and writing on all aspects of independent India.

DRDO scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey conferred with 'Scientist of the Year Award'

- Hemant Kumar Pandey was conferred with 'Scientist of the Year Award' for his contribution in developing a herbal drug for leucoderma, an autoimmune disorder characterised by the loss of skin colour in parts of a body.



- Pandey, who heads the Herbal Medicine Division of DRDO's Defence Institute of Bio-energy Research (DIBER), was conferred with the prestigious award by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Virat Kohli wins the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for Male Cricketer of the Decade

- India captain Virat Kohli won the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade. He also won the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Decade Award.
- MS Dhoni won the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade.
- Steve Smith from Australia won the ICC Men's Test player of the decade.
- Rashid Khan from Afghanistan won the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Decade award.
- Ellyse Perry from Australia won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade.

NTPC wins prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020

- Country's largest power producer, NTPC Ltd. has been conferred "Excellence" in the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020 in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Domain.
- **Note:** 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.

Srinagar's Amar Singh College recognised with UNESCO award

- Srinagar based Amar Singh College has been recognized with the 'Award of Merit' in the 2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- The college building is 80 years old and INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) chapter in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had carried out the conservation work at the Amar Singh College.

AFSCB adjudged as the "Best Company Promoting Sports (Public Sector) 2020"

- **Air Force Sports Control Board (AFSCB)** has been annotated as the winner in the category of "Best Company Promoting Sports (Public Sector) 2020" at FICCI India Sports Awards 2020.
- **Note:** Earlier the AFSCB was also conferred with 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' on 28 Aug 2020 for 'Employment of Sports Persons and Sports Welfare measures'.

Dr. Narendra Dabholkar Memorial Award 2020 for Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani

- Veeramani has dedicated his entire life to propagate rationalism and served for the cause of social justice in society.

Note: The U.S.-based Maharashtra Foundation had instituted the award in the memory of the Maharashtra-based rationalist Dabholkar, a release issued by the Dravidar Kazhagam.

US President confers 'Legion of Merit' award to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- The Legion of Merit, in the highest degree of the Chief Commander, is a prestigious award conferred by the President of the United States, typically upon Heads of State or Heads of Government of other countries.
- **Note:** At the ceremony, The Legion of Merit, was also awarded to the Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison, and former Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe.

Lewis Hamilton wins 2020 Sports Personality of the Year

- Formula 1 world champion Lewis Hamilton has won BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020.
- **Note:** It is the second time Hamilton has been crowned Sports Personality of the Year, having first won the award in 2014.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards

- Shri. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications and Electronics & IT



presented the **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards** including cash awards of Rs 50,000 and Rs 30,000 respectively, to both awardees.

- **Shri. Sreenivas Karanam, Bangalore** was selected for the **FIRST prize** for his contribution in developing a cost-effective customized technical solution under the brand 'C mobile'.
- **Prof. Subrat Kar, New Delhi** was selected for the **SECOND prize** for his innovative solution on development & deployment of a large scale sensor network and devices to avoid train-animal collision.

Vidyut Mohan named among 'Young Champions of the Earth' winners by UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

- A 29-year-old Indian entrepreneur Mohan is among the seven winners of the prestigious "Young Champions of the Earth" 2020 prize.
- **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.

Ratan Tata to receive with 'Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace' award

- Ratan Tata will be honoured with the award during the launch of the Federation of Indo-Israel Chamber of Commerce's international chapter in Dubai on December 21.
- **Note:** The 82-year-old industrialist and philanthropist is the recipient of India's highest civilian award - Padma Vibhushan.

Robert Lewandowski, Lucy Bronze win FIFA Football Player of the Year Awards 2020

- Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski was named men's player of the year at FIFA's 'The Best' awards ceremony in Zurich. The 32-year-old Lewandowski came out ahead of the other two nominees, Lionel Messi and Cristiano

Ronaldo.

- England defender Lucy Bronze took the women's award.
- It was the first occasion for both Lewandowski and Bronze to win the award.

SAIL gets Golden Peacock Environment Management Award

- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been awarded with the prestigious Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020 in the Steel Sector by the Institute of Directors.
- The company has been the winner of this award for successive two years and this bears testimony to the efforts made by it for sustainable and environmentally responsible steel making.
- **About SAIL:** It is one of the largest steel-making companies in India and one of the Maharatna's of the country's Central Public Sector Enterprises.

Raj Kamal Jha wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020

- Indian journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha has been honored with the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 for his novel 'The City and The Sea'.
- Jha's book is based on the December 2012 Nirbhaya rape and murder case.
- **Note:** Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was founded in 2018 by a US-based publisher Bundalo. The prize serves as a platform for world peace, literature, art, education and human rights.

Bajrang Punia (Wrestler) and Elavenil Valarivan (Shooter) awarded "Sportsperson of the year" at FICCI India Sports Awards 2020

- The sports awards are an attempt by industry body, FICCI to acknowledge and recognise the contribution of sportspersons and various stakeholders who deliver excellent results throughout the year.
- **Note:** Madhya Pradesh received the Best State Promoting Sports Award and Cricket legend Anil Kumble received the Best Company



Promoting Sports (Private Sector).

Social Entrepreneur of the year 2020 awarded to Ashraf Patel

- Ashraf Patel is one such person who has recently won the Social Entrepreneur of the Year award instituted by the Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation.
- **Note:** Ashraf Patel is the co-founder of Pravah and ComMutiny Youth Collective. In partnership with UNICEF ROSA, they developed an appreciative enquiry tool to assess the impact of COVID 19 on the lives of adolescents in 8 South Asian countries.

Joe Biden & Kamala Harris named Time magazine's Person of the Year 2020

- U.S. President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris were jointly named Time magazine's 2020 Person of the Year.
- **Note:** The Person of the Year is usually an individual, but multiple people have been named in the past. Time began its tradition for declaring person of the year in 1927.

Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020 awarded to Dr. Carolina Araujo

- Dr. Carolina Araujo is a mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Dr. Araujo, who is Vice President of the Committee for Women in Mathematics at the International Mathematical Union, is the first non-Indian to receive this prize for her outstanding work in algebraic geometry.
- **Note:** The prize awarded annually to a researcher from a developing country funded by the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India in collaboration with ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics) and the International Mathematical Union.

2020 United Nations Population Award

- This year's winners are HelpAge India, in the institutional category, and Gyalum

Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan, in the individual category.

- **HelpAge India** has been working with and for disadvantaged elderly people in India for nearly four decades, enabling them to live active, dignified and healthier lives.
- **Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck** is a longtime champion of sexual and reproductive health and rights and said that there is need to end violence against women, girls and children in Bhutan. She founded a volunteer organization called "Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women" (RENEW) in 2004.

Global Teacher Prize 2020

- Ranjitsinh Disale, a government school (Zilla Parishad Primary School) teacher from Solapur, Maharashtra, won the Global Teacher Prize 2020 with prize money of 1 million dollar.
- It is an annual prize founded by the Varkey Foundation in partnership with UNESCO in 2014 to recognise an exceptional teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession.
- **Note:** Disale is best known for embedding QR codes in textbooks which was adopted by NCERT.

Police Station Award 2020

- Top 3 police stations:
 - 1st- Nongpok Sekmai in Manipur's Thoubal district
 - 2nd- AWPS-Suramangalam in Tamil Nadu's Salem district
 - 3rd - Kharsang in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district
- **Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 sought the laying down of parameters for grading police stations on the basis of their performances and citizens' feedback to rank the top 10 among them annually.



Gitanjali Rao, Time's first-ever 'Kid of the Year'

world.

- Selected from more than 5,000 nominees as Time Magazine's first-ever 'Kid of the Year', 15-year-old Indian American, Gitanjali Rao was chosen for her "astonishing work" and using technology to tackle issues from contaminated drinking water to opioid addiction and cyber bullying.
- **Note:** Last year, Rao was featured in Forbes' '30 Under 30' list for her innovations. In 2017, she won the Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge and was awarded USD 25,000 for creating a device called Tethys.

United Nations declares Invest India the winner of the Investment Promotion Award 2020

- The United Nations (UNCTAD-United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) has declared Invest India as a winner of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award.
- **Note:** UNCTAD is a central agency that monitors performance of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and identifies global best practices. Germany, South Korea and Singapore have been some of the past winners of the award.
- **About Invest India,** the national investment promotion agency, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It was set up in 2009.

ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) wins the International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award 2020

- This announcement was made on a virtual function by the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) on World Soil Day (5th December 2020).
- **Note:** ICAR is the organization responsible for the coordination, guidance and management of agricultural research and education in India as well as in the



Important Events: Sports

February 2021

IPL Auction 2021: Chris Morris becomes most expensive player in auction history

- South-African all-rounder Chris Morris became the costliest player in the history of Indian Premier League (IPL) auction when Rajasthan Royals snapped him up for Rs 16.25 crore.
- **Note:** Earlier, Yuvraj Singh was the costliest-ever buy in auction history as he was bought for Rs 16 crore by Delhi Daredevils in IPL 2015.

Kings XI Punjab renamed as 'Punjab Kings'

- Kings XI Punjab has been renamed as 'Punjab Kings' as a part of the franchise's rebranding strategy ahead of the IPL 2021 auction in Chennai.
- The Punjab side has been a part of the Indian Premier League since its inaugural season in 2008, and is co-owned by Bollywood actor Preity Zinta, along with businessman Ness Wadia, Mohit Burman and Karn Pau

Australian Open 2021

- **Location:** Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (8–21 February 2021)
- **List of winners:**

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Winner- Novak Djokovic (Serbia) Runner-up- Daniil Medvedev (Russia)	Winner- Naomi Osaka (Japan) Runner-up- Jennifer Brady (America)	Winner- Ivan Dodig (Croatia), Filip Polasek (Slovakia) Runner-up- Rajeev Ram (America), Joe Salisbury (UK)	Winner- Elise Mertens (Belgium), Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) Runner-up- Barbora Krejckova (Czech Republic), Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)	Winner- Barbora Krejckova (Czech Republic), Rajeev Ram (America) Runner-up- Samantha Stosur (Australia), Matthew Ebden (Australia)

- **Note:** Novak Djokovic (Serbia) has won his ninth Australian Open title. He has now won 18 Grand Slam men's singles titles.
- Naomi Osaka (Japan) has now won two Australian Open and the two US Open.

Karnataka to host second Khelo India University Games in 2021

- Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced that the second Khelo India University Games (KIUG) will be hosted by Karnataka in 2021.
- The Games will be held in Bengaluru's Jain

University and other venues in the state, in partnership with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

- **Note:** In the second edition of the games, **Yogasana and Mallakhamb** have been added.
- The **first edition of University games** was held in Bhubaneswar in 2020.

India's women's contingent finishes at top in 30th 'Adriatic Pearl' tournament in Budva, Montenegro

- In Boxing, Arundhati Choudhary, Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu, Alfiya Pathan, Vinka and T Sanamacha Chanu won gold medals, with **five gold, three silver and two bronze medals**.
- India's women's contingent thus finished top at the tournament. Uzbekistan (2 gold) and Czech Republic (1 gold) ended at second and third position respectively.
- Vinka received the best women's boxer of the tournament award.
- With two medals in the men's category, the 19-member Indian team concluded its campaign with an **overall second position (12 medals) with Uzbekistan first and Ukraine third**.

Naman Ojha announces retirement from all forms of Cricket

- India wicketkeeper-batsman Naman Ojha has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on February 15, 2021.
- He made his first-class debut for Madhya Pradesh in 2000-01.
- He holds the record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in the Ranji Trophy, featured in one Test, one ODI and two T20 Internationals.

Japan Olympics Minister Hashimoto to accept role as head of Tokyo 2020

- Japanese Olympics Minister Seiko Hashimoto, a woman who has competed in seven Olympic Games, intends to accept the job of Head of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee.
- Former chairman of the committee Yoshiro Mori had resigned from the post last week over indecent remarks on women.
- **Note:** Originally scheduled to take place between 24 July and 9 August 2020, the Olympic Games are now rescheduled for 23 July to 8 August 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joe Root becomes first batsman to score 200 in 100th Test

- England skipper Joe Root became the first cricketer to notch up a double century in his 100th Test, touching the milestone on the second day of the first Test against India, at the M.A. Chidambaram stadium in Chennai.
- **Note:** Former Pakistan skipper Inzamam ul Haq, who hit 184 against India in Bengaluru in 2005, held the previous best score in the 100th Test.

Drass Red wins 13th CEC Cup Ice Hockey Championship

- In Kargil Ladakh, Drass Red has won the 13th CEC Cup Ice Hockey Championship beating Hockey Club Chiktan team in the Final match.
- The 1st Women CEC Ice Hockey Cup 2021 was lifted by Shakar Chiktan Team defeating Wakha Mulbekh Team.

Note: 32 Men teams and 5 Women Teams participated in the tournament which was organized by the District Youth Services & Sports.

Ishant Sharma becomes 3rd Indian pacer to take 300 Test wickets

- Fast bowler Ishant Sharma became the 6th Indian and the 3rd pacer from the country to take 300 wickets in Test cricket.
- **Note:** Besides Kumble (619) and Kapil (434), Ravichandran Ashwin (377 before this game), Harbhajan Singh (417), and Zaheer Khan (311) are the other bowlers from the country who have reached the landmark.

Tamil Nadu beat Baroda to lift Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy

- In Cricket, Tamil Nadu lifted the coveted Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy after defeating Baroda by seven wickets in the final at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad.
- This was Tamil Nadu's second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy triumph, after winning their first title way back in 2006-07.



- Baroda had won the title twice in the past (in 2011-12 and 2013-14).

No Ranji Trophy for first time in 87 years

- For the first time in 87 years, the BCCI decided that it won't be conducting country's premier first-class domestic tournament Ranji Trophy 2020-21.
- The cricket body decided to conduct the Vijay Hazare Trophy, instead of having a truncated Ranji Trophy. BCCI has also decided to host the U-19 National One Day tournament for the Vinoo Mankad Trophy and the Women's national 50-over tournament.
- **About Ranji Trophy:** The first edition of the Ranji Trophy was held in 1934 and it was the only national cricket championship that was played even during the World War 2.

India top medals tally at first Asian Online Shooting Championship

- India's 24-member shooting contingent topped the medals tally in the first Asian Online Shooting Championship.
- The squad won four out of the eight gold medals on offer, besides two silver and five bronze medals, for a total of 11 podium finishes.
- India's gold winners were Saurabh Chaudhary in the men's 10m air pistol, Divyansh Singh Panwar in the men's 10m air rifle, Kynan Chenai in men's trap and Rajeshwari Kumari in women's trap.
- **Note:** The two-day competition was organised by the Kuwait Shooting Federation and saw 274 shooters from 22 Asian countries take part.

Indian Cricketer Ashok Dinda announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- Fast bowler, Dinda, who has 420 first-class wickets in his bag, has also played 13 ODIs and nine T20s for India, taking 12 and 17 wickets respectively.
- Dinda made his T20 international Debut for

India in December 2009 against Sri Lanka and his ODI debut against Zimbabwe in May 2010.

December 2020

The Sports Ministry approves inclusion of four indigenous sports in Khelo India Youth Games 2021

- The games include Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba.
- **Kalaripayattu** has its origin from Kerala and has practitioners all over the world.
- **Mallakhamba** has been well-known across India and Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have been the hotspots of this sport.
- **Gatka** originates from Punjab and this traditional fighting style of the Nihang Sikh Warriors is used both as self-defense as well as a sport.
- **Thang-Ta** is Manipur's martial art.

Cologne Boxing World Cup 2020

- Indian boxers bagged nine medals including three gold, two silver and four bronze at the Cologne Boxing World Cup in Germany.
- Amit Panghal won gold in men's category while Manisha Moun and Simranjit Kaur won gold in Women's category.

Note: India finished 2nd in the overall medal list and Germany topped the list with 16 medals.

Formal recognition of Yogasana as a competitive sport

- The Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the formal recognition of Yogasana as a competitive sport.
- Yogasana is an integral and important component of Yoga, which is psycho-physical in nature and popular across the globe for its efficacy in fitness and general wellness.
- **Note:** The sports discipline of Yogasana is likely to have 51 medals in 4 events & 7 categories.

AIFF announces candidature to host AFC Asian



Cup 2027

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has formally announced its candidature to host the AFC Asian Cup 2027 and deliver a brighter future together for football in India and across Asia.
- **Note:** In addition to the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017, India is also due to host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup and the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022.

Yash Vardhan wins Gold in Air Rifle at 6th IOSC

- 17-year-old Junior Asian champion, Yash Vardhan of India won the 10m air rifle event at the 6th edition of the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC).
- **Note:** The IOSC organised by former Indian shooter Shimon Sharif saw participation of shooters from around 20 different countries.

Doha to host 2030 Asian Games, Riyadh in 2034

- The Olympic Council of Asia announced that Doha, Qatar will host the 2030 Asian Games while Riyadh, Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 edition.
- **Note:** Qatar will also host the 2022 FIFA World Cup.
- China will host the 2022 Asian Games.

Government to start 1000 Khelo India small centres to encourage sports culture in country

- Addressing the 10th Global Sports Summit, TURF 2020, The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju, announced that the government will be starting 1000 Khelo India centres all over the country to help retired sportspersons get employment and to encourage the sports culture in the country.
- **Note:** FICCI in association with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Government of India, organized International Conference on Business of Sports & Fitness 10th TURF 2020, the virtual edition on 8-9 December.

Breakdancing gets Olympic status to debut at Paris in 2024

- **Note:** Three sports (skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing) will make their Olympic debuts at the Tokyo Games which were postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic by one year to open on July 23, 2021.

F1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020

- **Max Verstappen (Red Bull)** won the F1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020.
- **Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes)** got second position and **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)** got third position.

Ankita Raina wins ITF doubles title in Dubai

- Indian tennis player Ankita Raina won her third doubles title, clinching the Al Habtoor challenge with Ekaterine Gorgodze.
- The unseeded Indo-Georgian pair won against Aliona Bolsova Zadoinov from Spain and Slovakian Kaja Juvan in the final event.

Kuldeep Handoo appointed as 'Fit India Movement' Ambassador

First Dronacharya Awardee from Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in 2020, Wushu Coach of Team India, Kuldeep Handoo has been appointed as the Ambassador of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Fit India Movement'.

Sakhir Grand Prix 2020

- Jehan Daruvala creates history, becomes first Indian to win a Formula 2 race
- Yuki Tsunoda got second position and Daniel Ticktum got third position.

Parthiv Patel announces retirement from all forms of Cricket

- Wicketkeeper-batsman Patel, made his international debut in 2002 at the age of 17 in an away Test series against England



- He last wore Indian jersey in 2018 during a Test match against South Africa in Johannesburg.

Mondo Duplantis and Yulimar Rojas win '2020 World Athlete of the Year'

- Swedish pole vaulter Mondo Duplantis and Venezuelan triple jumper Yulimar Rojas are the 2020 Male and Female World Athletes of the Year.
- They are their countries' first recipients of the prestigious athletics award announced during the virtual World Athletics Awards.

Delhi Half Marathon 2020 (16th edition)

- **Men's winner:** Amedework Walegn (Ethiopia)
- **Women's winner:** Yalemzerf Yehualaw (Ethiopia)
- India's Avinash Sable, who qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in 3000m steeplechase, emerged winner among Indian elite runners.
- **Note:** Airtel Delhi Half Marathon (ADHM) is an annual half marathon foot-race held in New Delhi, India. Established in 2005, it is both an elite runner and mass participation event.

Madhu Sharma was appointed as Joint Secretary of Amateur Baseball Federation of India.

- Treasurer of Baseball Association of Bihar Ms. Madhu Sharma appointed as Joint Secretary of Amateur Baseball Federation of India.

F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020

- British **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)** won the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020 held at Bahrain International Circuit.
- **Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing)** got second position and **Alexander Albon (Red Bull Racing)** got third position.

November 2020

New Zealand's Greg Barclay Elected ICC Chairman

- New Zealand's Greg Barclay was elected as the new independent chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC). He succeeds India's Shashank Manohar who stepped down in July 2020 and will replace Imran Khwaja, who is currently the interim chairman.
- **Note:** Barclay, an Auckland-based commercial lawyer, has been a director of New Zealand Cricket (NZC) since 2012 and is currently NZC's representative on the board of the International Cricket Council.

ATP Finals 2020

(Men's tennis tournament- London, Great Britain, November 15 - November 22)

- **Singles**

Winner: Daniil Medvedev

Runner-Up: Dominic Thiem

- **Doubles**

Winner: Wesley Koolhof, Nikola Pietrangeli

Runner-Up: Jurgen Melzer, Edouard Roger-Vasselin

Djokovic honoured with 2020 year-end No. 1 Trophy

- Novak Djokovic was honoured at the Nitto ATP Finals, receiving his ATP Tour No. 1 trophy from ATP Chairman Andrea Gaudenzi for finishing as the year-end No. 1 in the FedEx ATP Rankings for sixth time.
- The Serbian finishes as World No. 1 for the sixth time in the past 10 years (also in 2011-12, 14-15 and 18).
- Before this, only American Pete Sampras, who ended six straight years at the pinnacle

of men's professional tennis between 1993 and 1998.

F1 Turkish Grand Prix 2020

- British **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)** won the Turkish Grand Prix 2020 at Istanbul Park.
- Sergio Perez (**Racing Point**) got second position and Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) got third position.

2020 Masters Tournament

- **Dustin Johnson** won the 84th Masters Tournament with a record-shattering performance at the Masters golf tournament Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia.
- He was ahead of Australia's Cameron Smith and Sungjae Im of South Korea.

Dishang 2020 ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) Women's World Cup

- World No.1 Table Tennis player Chen Meng defeated Chinese compatriot Sun Yingsha to bag her first ITTF Women's World Cup title in Weihai, China.

13th IPL (Indian Premier League) 2020

- **Winner:** Mumbai Indians
- **Runner Up:** Delhi Capitals
- **Orange Cap:** KL Rahul (Kings XI Punjab)
- **Purple Cap:** Kagiso Rabada (Delhi Capitals)
- **Player of the series:** Jofra Archer (Rajasthan Royals)
- **Venue:** United Arab Emirates
- **Number of teams-** 8 (Chennai Super Kings, Delhi Capitals, Kings XI Punjab, Kolkata Knight Riders, Mumbai Indians, Rajasthan Royals, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Sunrisers Hyderabad)
- This is the fifth IPL title for the Mumbai Indians

2020 Women's T20 Challenge

- **Winner:** Trailblazers
- **Runner Up:** Supernovas
- **Player of the series:** Radha Yadav (Supernovas)
- **Venue:** Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates.
- **Number of teams-** 3 (Supernovas, Trailblazers and Velocity)

Rolex Paris Masters: Paris, France, November 02 – 08, 2020

Singles

- Winner: Daniil Medvedev
- Runner-Up: Alexander Zverev

Doubles

- Winner: Felix Auger-Aliassime, Hubert Hurkacz
- Runner-Up: Mate Pavic, Bruno Soares

Gyanendro Ningomban elected as Hockey India president

- Manipur's Gyanendro Ningombam was elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India while former President Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad is back in the Hockey India Executive Board after being Elected Unopposed for the Senior Vice President post.
- Gyanendro becomes the first President from the north east India to spearhead Hockey India. He was Senior Vice President of Hockey India, Senior Vice President of Manipur Hockey, and also Chief Executive Officer of Manipur Hockey.
- **About Hockey India:** It is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India as the sole body responsible towards promoting Hockey in India.
- Founded: 20 May 2009
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Affiliation: International Hockey Federation (FIH)

Rafael Nadal becomes fourth man to win 1,000 ATP Tour matches

- Spaniard Rafael Nadal defeated his countryman Feliciano Lopez in the first round of the Rolex Paris Masters to achieve what was his 1000th victory.
- Note: Nadal joins Jimmy Connors (1,274), Roger Federer (1,242) and Ivan Lendl (1,068) in the elusive 1,000 wins club.

- Ashish Kumar (75 Kg), Asian silver-winner, won a gold medal.
- Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg), Asian silver-medallist, won a silver medal.

Ritu Phogat wins third straight MMA title at ONE Championship Inside the Matrix Event

- Phogat defeated Cambodia's Nou Srey Pov with a technical knockout.

Astana Open-2020, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan Singles

- Winner: John Millman
- Runner-Up: Adrian Mannarino

Doubles

- Winner: Sander Gille, Joran Vliegen
- Runner-Up: Max Purcell, Luke Saville

Adille Sumariwalla elected as Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president

- Adille Sumariwalla was elected as the AFI president for the third time.
- Former athlete Anju Bobby George was elected as the senior vice-president **SaarLorLux Open 2020 (Germany)**

Jio as title sponsor of Women's T20 Challenge 2020

- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced Reliance Jio as the title sponsor of the Women's T20 Challenge 2020. This is the first time a sponsor is partnering with the BCCI exclusively for the women's counterpart to the IPL.
- **Note:** The women's T20 challenge is scheduled to run from November 4-9 in Sharjah.
 - **BCCI president:** Sourav Ganguly
 - **Reliance Foundation's Founder and Chairperson:** Nita Ambani

Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2020

- British **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)** won the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2020 Formula1 in Imola, Italy.
- **Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes)** got second position and **Daniel Ricciardo (Renault)** got third position.

Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament

- Amit Panghal (52kg), also an Asian Games champion besides being Commonwealth Games silver-medallist, won a gold medal.
- Sanjeet (91kg), a former India Open gold-medallist, won a gold medal.

List of winners

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Winner- Toma Junior Popov Runner-up- Mark Caljouw	Winner- Kirsty Gilmour Runner-up- Yvonne Li	Winner- Jeppe Bay, Lasse Moelhede Runner-up- Daniel Lundgaard, Mathias Thyri	Winner- Gabriela Stoeva, Stefani Stoeva Runner-up- Amalie Magelund, Freja Ravn	Winner- Mathias Christiansen, Alexandra Boje Runner-up- Mark Lamsfuss, Isabel Herttrich

October 2020

Portuguese Grand Prix 2020

- British **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) won the Portuguese Grand Prix 2020** Formula One F1 held at **Algarve International Circuit, Portugal.**
- Finland **Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) got second position** and Netherland **Max Verstappen (Red Bull) got third position.**

DANISA Denmark Open 2020

- **Location:** Odense Sports Park

Cologne Tennis Tournament 2020 (bett1HULKS Championship)

- **Singles**
 - Winner: Alexander Zverev
 - Runner-Up: Diego Schwartzman
- **Doubles**
 - Winner: Raven Klaasen, Ben McLachlan
 - Runner-Up: Kevin Krawietz, Andreas Mies
- The **Denmark Open**, or formerly known as **Danish Open**, is an annual badminton tournament held in Denmark and organized by Danmarks Badminton Forbund.
- **List of winners**

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Winner- Anders Antonsen Runner-up- Rasmus Gemke	Winner- Nozomi Okuhara Runner-up- Carolina Marin	Winner- Marcus Ellis, Chris Langridge Runner-up- Vladimir Ivanov, Ivan Sozonov	Winner- Yuki Fukushima, Sayaka Hirota Runner-up- Mayu Mastsumoto, Wakana, Nagahara	Winner- Mark Lamsfuss, Isabel Herttrich Runner-up- Chris Adcock, Gabrielle Adcock

Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship 2020

- Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF) organized the championsh **Winners List:**

Medal	Men’s Event	Women’s Event
Gold	Naoya Okada (Japan)	Elavenil Valarivan (India)
Silver	Shahu Tushar Mane (India)	Shiori Hirata (Japan)
Bronze	Baki Abdullah Hel (Bangladesh)	Vidya Toyyiba (Indonesia)

Rafael Nadal wins French Open Men's Singles Final 2020

- Rafael Nadal Defeats Novak Djokovic to win 13th French Open Men's Singles Final.
- He has won the Wimbledon twice, Australian Open once and the US Open four times.

September 2020

- ✓ Gurpreet, Sanju declared winners of AIFF Player of the Year Awards (2019-20)
- Indian football team goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu is the winner in Men's Footballer. Indian football team midfielder Sanju is the winner in Women's Footballer.
- Note: The All India Football Federation is the governing body of association football in India. Formed in 1937, the federation was one of the founding members of the Asian Football confederation, the overseer of football in Asia. The AIFF sanctions and runs all competitive football tournaments and leagues at a national level, namely the Indian Super League, I-League and Super Cup.
- ✓ Foundation Stone of ‘Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior’ to be Laid on 26 September 2020
- The foundation stone of ‘Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh’ will be laid at a function organized by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment through video conferencing on 26 September 2020.
- At present no training facilities are available in the country for sports person with

Polish teenager Iga Swiatek becomes the new French Open Champion

- In Tennis, Polish teenager Iga Swiatek has become the new French Open Champion. She beats the American Australian Open winner Sofia Kenin in the Women Singles final.

disabilities. The proposed Centre will make available the specialized training facilities for Persons with Disabilities.

- ✓ 2020 Italian Open (Tennis)
- Winners List:

Category	Name of the Sportsperson
Men’s Single	Novak Djokovic
Women’s Single	Simona Halep
Men’s Double	Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos
Women’s Double	Hsieh Su-Wei and Barbora Strýcová

- Note: Italian Open is a tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts at the Foro Italico in Rome, Italy.
- ✓ Sports Ministry identified sports facilities in eight states to be upgraded to Khelo India State Centre of Excellence:
- 8 states that have been approved for setting up of KISCEs are Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Telangana, Manipur, Karnataka, Kerala and Odisha.
- It aims to upgrade with an effort to identify and groom Olympic level talent.
- ✓ Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister lay foundation stones for various sports facilities in Leh:



- Their existing centres will be upgraded into Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE).

The six centres include:

- Assam – State Sports Academy, Sarjusajai Sports Complex, Guwahati
- Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu - New Sports Complex, Silvassa
- Maharashtra - Sree Shiv Chhatrapati Shivaji Sports Complex, Balewadi, Pune
- Madhya Pradesh - MP Academy, Bhopal
- Meghalaya - JNS Complex Shillong
- Sikkim - Paljor Stadium, Gangtok
- US Open Tennis Tournament 2020:

- ✓ Japan’s Naomi Osaka wins US Open title
- Japan’s Naomi Osaka defeated Victoria Azarenka of Belarus to clinch the Women’s Singles title in the 2020 US Open Tennis tournament.
- 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.
- ✓ Dominic Thiem wins US Open Men’s Tennis
- Austria’s Dominic Thiem defeated Alexander Zverev to win the men’s singles title.
- new Japan Olympic Museum, and will be on display for at least the next two months.
- The flame arrived in Japan from Greece in March and has been largely hidden away in Tokyo since the Olympics were postponed until next year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Yoshiro Mori, the president of the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee, and Yasuhiro Yamashita, the president of the

August 2020

- ✓ **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

- ✓ Jitendra Singh, Union Minister lays foundation stone online of Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex:
- Paying tributes to the Late Finance Minister of India, Arun Jaitley, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh lays foundation stone of a multipurpose sports complex at Hiranagar, Jammu.
- ✓ World online Chess tournament
India’s GM P. Niyan won the 48th annual world open chess tournament (online) recently.
- Usually held in Philadelphia, the USA, the tournament was conducted online following classical time control.
- Coming after his win over World no. 2 Fabiano Caruana [on Aug. 4] in online blitz, this victory will be a big boost for the 17-year-old from Erode.
- The event was held with three rounds each day for three days. A total of 122 participants from 16 countries — India, USA, UK, Russia, Spain, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Poland, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Israel, Bangladesh, Mexico, Peru and Cuba — participated.
- ✓ Olympic Flame
- The Olympic flame is on display in Tokyo, near the

Japanese Olympic Committee unveiled the flame.

Visnu Shivaraj Pandian wins gold in 10-meter air rifle event of International Online Shooting Championship

- Visnu won the 10m air rifle event of the International Online Shooting Championship at the fifth edition.
- The 16-year-old Pandian shot 251.4 to win the title by a clear margin of two points.

to the best youth players.

- ✓ 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

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **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'.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ "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.

- ✓ **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

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ Suresh Raina announced his retirement from **Cricketsport**.

Note: He made his international debut against Sri Lanka in 2005 and represented India in 226 ODIs, 78 T20Is and 18 Tests in his cricketering 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.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **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

- ✓ **Kiren Rijiju** has launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app named as "NADA App".
- ✓ **G. Akash** has become the country's 66th Grandmaster.
- ✓ **Quinton de Kock** was named the men's 'cricketer of the year' at Cricket South Africa's (CSA) annual awards ceremony.
- ✓ **Valtteri Bottas** has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2020.
- ✓ **China's** two-times Olympic badminton champion Lin Dan announced his retirement.
- ✓ **Valtteri Bottas** has won the Formula One's season opening Austrian Grand Prix 2020.
- ✓ Egyptian Raneem El Welily is associated with **Squash** announced her retirement recently.
- ✓ Joshna Chinappa is associated with **Squash** sports who secured 10th position in World Women's Ranking 2020.
- ✓ **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Styrian Grand Prix 2020 at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria.
- ✓ Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has announced to postpone the Asia Cup cricket tournament until **June 2021**.
- ✓ Mile Jedinak is associated with **soccer** sports who has announced his retirement.
- ✓ Australian sportsperson Mile Jedinak is associated with **Soccer** sports who has announced his retirement.

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.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ 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.

July 2020

- ✓ The International Olympic Committee has postponed the Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games to year **2026** due to COVID 19 Pandemic.
- ✓ Sports person **Marcus Rashford** becomes the youngest ever recipient of an honorary degree from The University of Manchester is associated with **Football**.
- ✓ **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Formula-1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 at Hungaroring, Mogyoród, Hungary.
- ✓ World cup winner famous footballer **Andre Schurrle** has announced retirement from the sport held from **Germany**.
- ✓ **Fabio Quartararo** has won the Moto Grand Prix 2020.
- ✓ Football Club **Real Madrid** has been crowned with the La Liga Champions for the 34th time after defeating Villarreal 2-1 at Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano.
- ✓ Due to COVID-19 the ICC Men's T20 World Cup has formally been postponed to **2022**.
- ✓ India's 2018 Asian Games mixed relay medal upgraded to gold after disqualification of **Bahrain**.
- ✓ **Haryana** state will host 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ **Jamie Vardy** has won the Premier Leagues Golden Boot award after netting 23 goals



across the 2019/20 season.

- ✓ Bangladesh bowler **KaziAnik Islam** has been banned for two years by the national cricket board for failing a dope test in 2018.
- ✓ **Mohun Bagan** became the country's first-ever football club to feature on NASDAQ billboards in New York's Times Square.

June 2020

- ✓ Cricketer **Rohit Sharma** has been nominated by the BCCI for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards 2020.
 - ✓ Indian long-distance player **Kiranjeet Kaur** has been slapped with four year ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
 - ✓ In association with **National Sports Federations (NSF)** the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has launched India's 1st - ever national-level open online coaching and education programme called "Khelo India e-Pathshala".
 - ✓ **India** will host Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup 2022.
 - ✓ The Athletes Integrity Unit (AIU) of the World Athletics has imposed a four-year ban on which Indian player who won the gold medal in 2019 Asian Athletics Championships -- **GomathiMarimuthu**.
 - ✓ The doping charge against Indian sportsperson has been dropped due to "non-conformities" in the handling of her sample -- **K SanjitaChanu**.
 - ✓ Spain's sports council has accepted the change in status for the competitions, which will also be valid for men's and women's futsal.
 - ✓ Former European high jump champion, Alexander Shustov banned for four years by Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), he held from **Russia**.
-
- ✓ Sports organization **FIFA** has launched the campaign "#WeWillWin" to pay a special tribute to health workers and other professionals.
 - ✓ The governing body of swimming the **Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA)** has postponed the 2021 aquatics world championships to 2022. The tournament

Note: The billboard announcing "131 years of unmatched legacy" of the club also reminded fans about the, "time to start believing, again," in an obvious reference to Mohun Bagan's recent amalgamation with the ISL champion ATK.

- ✓ Rajat Bhatia associated with **Cricket** sports has announced his retirement.
-
- ✓ Lightweight boxing champion Oleksandr Gvozdyk also known as "The Nail" announced his retirement held from **Ukraine**.
 - ✓ The 4th edition of Asian Youth Para Games to be held in **Bahrain** in December 2021.
 - ✓ **ShakhriyarMamedyarov** has won the World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020.
 - ✓ Indian tennis player **Niki Poonacha** has been elected as a player member to ITF World Tennis Tour Player Men's panels.
 - ✓ Football club **Liverpool** has won the English Premier League 2019-20.
 - ✓ Wicketkeeper-batswoman Rachel Priest of **New Zealand** has announced her retirement from International Cricket.
 - ✓ Indian umpire **Nitin Menon** has been inducted into International Cricket Council's Elite Panel of Umpires.
 - ✓ **Germany** footballer Mario Gomez has announced his retirement from the sport.
 - ✓ **Australia and New Zealand** will host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.
 - ✓ **Rahul Dravid** has been declared as the greatest Indian Test batsman of all time, according to a poll conducted by Wisden India.
 - ✓ **Kiren Rijiju** has launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app named as "NADA App".

May 2020

- is scheduled to be held in **Japan**.
- ✓ **Sandeep Kumari** has been given a 4-year ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) after failing a drug test, she is associated with **Discus throw** sport.
- ✓ Tennis player **Youssef Hossam** awarded lifetime ban by the Tennis Integrity Unit following his conviction on multiple match



fixing and associated corruption charges.

- ✓ **Remy Di Gregorio** has been banned for 4 years for using a form of banned blood-boosting hormone EPO (Erythropoietin) is associated with **Cycling**.
- ✓ **China** has won the 1st edition of FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup.
- ✓ **India** will host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2021 which was postponed due COVID 19 pandemics.
- ✓ **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna** awardee **Deepa Malik** announced her retirement, she is associated with **Shot-put**.
- ✓ The Bundesliga of **Germany** becomes the world's first major sports event to resume after COVID-19 lock down.
- ✓ The **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** provisionally suspended Savita Kumari and Ankit Shisodia for violating anti-doping rules. They are associated with **Powerlifting** sports.

April 2020

- ✓ Grand Slam tournament **Wimbledon 2020** has been cancelled for the first time since World War II due to coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ **World Athletics championship** shifted to **the year 2022**.
- ✓ **'The Smart Triplets'** will be the mascot 19th Asian Games.
 - **Note:** The Olympic Council of Asia has announced the official mascots of the 19th Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou in 2022.
 - The three robots namely Congcong, Lianlian and Chenchen which are collectively known as "The Smart Triplets" will be the official mascots of the 19th Asian Games.
- ✓ **Kobe Bryant** has been inducted into Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
- ✓ The **International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)** has banned two countries **Malaysia & Thailand** from participating in weightlifting events at the Tokyo Olympics due to multiple doping offences.
- ✓ India's rank in the latest FIFA Ranking -- **108th**.
 - While Belgium ranked first and

- ✓ Tennis player Jamie Hampton announced her retirement from the professional tennis belong to **UAS**.
- ✓ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has partnered with **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** to work together to promote health through sport and physical activity.
- ✓ Sri Lankan cricketer **ShehanMadushankah** has been suspended from all forms of cricket with immediate effect for alleged possession of heroin.
- ✓ Indian sprinter **Kiranjeet Kaur** has been banned for four years by the World Athletics' anti-doping body for testing positive for a banned substance.
- ✓ Spanish Famous footballer Aritz Aduriz has announced his retirement citing medical reasons.

world champion France is in 2nd place and Brazil is at 3rd spot.

- ✓ **India** will host Asian Boxing Championships 2020 in November 2020.
- ✓ **'Fei Fei'** will be the official mascot for 4th Asian Para Games 2022.
 - The design inspiration of "Feifei" comes from the motif of the 'Divine Bird' in the Liangzhu Culture and represent both Hangzhou city's heritage and its innovation in technology.
- ✓ According to the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Ranking 2020 of senior Indian male players **Achanta Sharath Kamal** got top rank.
- ✓ The 11th edition of World Games which has unveiled an updated logo and title after being delayed a year because of the Coronavirus pandemic scheduled to be held in **Birmingham, USA**.
- ✓ Mirabai Chanu and Jeremy Lalrinnunga have been qualified to participate in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, they are associated with **Weightlifting** sports.
- ✓ Sana Mir announced her retirement from international cricket held, she held from **Pakistan**.



- ✓ India lost the hosting rights of 2021 Men's World Boxing Championships to **Serbia**.
- Quadrennial 50-over Women Cricket World Cup 2021 to be held in **New Zealand**.

New Appointments

February 2021

Ajai Malhotra becomes first Indian Chairperson of Advisory Committee at Human Rights Council

- Malhotra has previously served as ambassador to Russia, Kuwait, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York and Romania.
- **Facts about the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):**
Founded: 15 March 2006
President: Nazhat Shameem
Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
Parent organization: United Nations

General Assembly

Asian Development Bank (ADB) appoints Woonchong Um as Managing Director General

- Um will support Asakawa to institute bank-wide coherence on key initiatives and issues.
- Um joined ADB in 1993. Since June 2018, he served as Director General and concurrently Chief Compliance Officer of ADB's sustainable development and climate change department.
- **Facts about ADB (Asian Development Bank):**
Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
Membership : 68 countries (49 from Asia-Pacific region and 19 from Outside regions)
President: Masatsugu Asakawa
Founded: 19 December 1966

Shri Vijay Sampla assumes charge of Chairman National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)

- Shri Vijay Sampla has been the former Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment from 2014-19.
- **The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC):** It is an Indian constitutional body established to provide

safeguards against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes to promote and protect their social, educational, economic and cultural interests, special provisions were made in the Constitution. It was formed in 2004.

- **Note: Article 338** of the Indian constitution deals with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
- **Article 338 A** deals with the National Commission for Scheduled tribes.

Mario Draghi sworn in as Italy's new prime minister

- The ex-head of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, has been sworn-in as Italy's next prime minister.
- He will lead a new national unity government to replace Giuseppe Conte's centre-left coalition that collapsed one month ago.
- **Facts about Italy:**
President: Sergio Mattarella
Capital: Rome
Currency: Euro

Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar appointed chief justice of Manipur High Court

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.
- Kumar is presently the Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- **Facts about Manipur:**
Capital: Imphal
Governor: Najma Heptulla
Chief Minister: N. Biren Singh

Tata Motors appoints Marc Llistosella as CEO & MD

- Tata Motors Limited has announced Marc Llistosella as the new CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and MD (Managing Director) of the company effective July 1, 2021. He



will take over from the current incumbent Guenter Butschek.

- **Facts about Tata Motors Limited:**

Formerly Known: Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company Ltd. (TELCO)

Founded: 1945

Founder: J. R. D. TATA

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairman: Natarajan Chandrasekaran

ISA announces Dr Ajay Mathur as its new Director-General

- International Solar Alliance (ISA) has announced Dr. Ajay Mathur as its new Director General following his election at the first special assembly of ISA members.
- Dr Mathur replaces Mr Upendra Tripathy, who has served as Director General since the inception of the ISA.
- **Note: International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is an association of 121 countries initiated by India. It aims to work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India

Founded: 30 November 2015

Telangana Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan sworn-in as the new Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Puducherry

- Chief Justice of Madras High Court Justice Sanjib Banerjee administered the oath of office to the LG.
- **Note:** Soundararajan is the fifth woman to hold the post of Lt Governor of Puducherry, after Chandrawati, Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Rajani Rai and Kiran Bedi.
- **Recently,** Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi was removed from her post when the Union Territory was witnessing a political crisis.

N. Venudhar Reddy takes over as Principal DG, AIR News

- Senior officer of Indian Information Service N. Venudhar Reddy took over as Principal Director General of AIR (All India Radio) News.
- **Note:** Mr. Reddy replaces Jaideep

Bhatnagar who is now posted as Officer on Special Duty to the Press Information Bureau, PIB. Mr. Bhatnagar will take over as Principal Director General of PIB from 1st March.

- **All India Radio (AIR)**, officially known since 1957 as **Akashvani** ("Voice from the Sky"), is the national public radio broadcaster of India and is a division of Prasar Bharati. It was established in 1936.

Ayesha Aziz becomes India's youngest female pilot

- Ayesha Aziz, the 25 -year-old from Kashmir, is the youngest female pilot in the country.
- **Note:** In the year 2011, Aziz became the youngest student pilot to get a license at the age of 15 and underwent training to fly a MIG-29 jet at Russia's Sokol airbase the following year.
- She later graduated in aviation from the Bombay Flying Club (BFC) and obtained a commercial license in 2017.

S. N. Subrahmanyan appointed as Chairman of National Safety Council (NSC)

- The Ministry of Labour & Employment has appointed the CEO and Managing Director of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Ltd, S. N. Subrahmanyan, as the new Chairman of the National Safety Council.
- **Note:** National Safety Council plays a major role to ensure safety in work places under new Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code, 2020).

Praveen Sinha takes over as CBI interim Chief (Director)

- The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued a notification appointing Mr. Sinha, a 1988 batch Gujarat cadre IPS, to take over as the CBI's interim chief till the appointment of a regulator director.
- Praveen Sinha, currently Additional Director of the CBI, was appointed as its interim chief as current chief R.K Shukla's two-year tenure ended.
- **Facts about CBI (Central Bureau of**



Investigation):

Formed: 1941 as the Special Police Establishment

Headquarter: New Delhi

Padma Shri awardee and Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu appointed to the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)

- Vembu is one of the Padma Shri awardees announced by the government of India this year.
 - The members of NSAB typically have two-year terms. Other new members in this term include former ISRO Chairman K Radhakrishnan, Anshuman Tripathy, faculty at IIM Bangalore, and Arun K Singh, former ambassador to France and the United States.
- Note:** National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is the key advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on six sensitive verticals including defence, internal security, strategic (nuclear) affairs, space, external affairs and intelligence and receives consultations from the NSAB.

Google Cloud appoints Bikram Singh Bedi as Managing Director for India business

- Bedi succeeds Karan Bajwa, who was elevated as Vice President for Asia Pacific region last month.
- Bedi will be responsible for leading Google Cloud's sales and operations teams.
- Bedi joins Google Cloud from Grofers where he served as President Strategy and New Initiatives.

Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala first woman, African to head (Director-General) WTO

- Nigerian economist, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has worked previously as the Managing Director of the World Bank. In her home country Nigeria, she was the first female Foreign Minister as well as held the position of Finance Minister twice.
- **Facts about WTO (World Trade Organization):**
Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
Founded: 1 January 1995

Membership: 164 member states

Michael Bloomberg re-appointed as United Nations Climate Envoy

- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres re-appointed Michael Bloomberg as his Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions.
- **Note:** Mr. Bloomberg will support the work of the secretary-general in growing and strengthening the coalition of governments, companies, cities and financial institutions committing to net-zero before 2050 in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Lt General Chandi Prasad Mohanty next Vice Chief of Army Staff

- Lieutenant General Chandi Prasad Mohanty will take over as the new vice-chief of Army staff on February 1.
- He is presently the Southern Army Commander and will be succeeding Lt General SK Saini on his superannuation.
- **Facts about Indian Army:**
Founded: 1 April 1895
Headquarters: New Delhi
Commander-in-Chief: President

Ram Nath Kovind

Chief of the Army Staff: General Manoj Mukund Naravane

R S Sharma appointed as new CEO of Ayushman Bharat

- R S Sharma has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) by the National Health Authority (NHA).
- RS Sharma was former chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). He will replace Indu Bhushan.
- **Note: AB PM-JAY (Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana):** It is the world's largest health assurance scheme which aims to provide a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. PM-JAY was launched on 23 September 2018 at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Kaja Kallas becomes first female Prime Minister of Estonia

- The former Member of the European Parliament, Kaja Kallas has become the first female Prime Minister of Estonia as the new two-party coalition government was sworn in on January 26, 2021.

Jay Shah takes over as Asian Cricket Council (ACC) President

- BCCI secretary Jay Shah was unanimously elected as the President of the Asian Cricket Council following its AGM held virtually.
- He replaces Nazmul Hassan, President, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).
- **Facts about the Asian Cricket Council (ACC):**
Headquarters: Colombo, Sri Lanka
Founded: 19 September 1983
Parent organization: International Cricket Council
- **Note:** ACC is responsible for organizing the Asia Cup tournaments.

Bhavya Lal, the Indian-American scientist, has been appointed as the Acting Chief of Staff of the US space agency (NASA)

- Lal brings "extensive experience" in engineering and space technology, serving as a member of the research staff at the Institute for Defence Analyses Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI) from 2005 to 2020.
- Lal served as a member of the Biden Presidential Transition Agency Review Team for the agency and oversaw the agency's transition under the administration of President Biden.
- **Facts about NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration):** It is an independent agency of the U.S. Federal Government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and space research.
Founded: 1 October 1958
Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

States

Ajay Singh re-elected as president of Boxing Federation of India

- Spicejet airlines chairman Ajay Singh defeated Ashish Shelar in a contest to get re-elected as president of Boxing Federation India for a second term at the general elections held in Gurugram.
- **About Indian Boxing Federation:** It is the Indian national governing body for Olympic boxing and is India's member organization of the International Amateur Boxing Association. It is headquartered in New Delhi. Indian Boxing Federation is also known as all India boxing association.

Andy Jassy to replace Jeff Bezos as Amazon CEO

- Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has announced to step down from his position later this year as chief executive of the company he built from a startup into one of the world's most valuable firms.
- Andy Jassy is currently serving as CEO of Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- **Facts about Amazon:**
CEO: Jeff Bezos
Founder: Jeff Bezos
Founded: 5 July 1994
Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States

January 2021

ISRO chairman K Sivan gets one-year extension as Department of Space secretary

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of tenure of K Sivan, secretary, Department of Space and chairman, Space Commission, for a period of one-year beyond January 14, 2021, that is up to January 14, 2022.

Suneet Sharma appointed new chairman of Railway Board

- The Central government appointed Suneet Sharma as new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) and ex-officio Principal Secretary to Government of India.
- Sharma has replaced Vinod Kumar Yadav.

Umesh Sinha appointed Dy Election

Commissioner

- Umesh Sinha has been appointed as the deputy election commissioner in the Election Commission of India. Sinha, a 1986-batch IAS officer (retired) of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, is at present the secretary-general in the commission.

Soma Mondal assumes charge as Chairman of SAIL

- Smt. Soma Mondal has taken over as Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) w.e.f. 01.01.2021. She was the Director (Commercial) of SAIL prior to this.
- She is the first-ever women head of the body. She replaces Anil Kumar Chaudhary.

Pankaj Mithal takes oath as new chief justice of J&K and Ladakh high court

- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office to Justice Pankaj Mithal as the new chief justice of the common high court for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh in Jammu.

Alexander Ellis appointed new British high commissioner to India

- Ellis has held several posts, including deputy national security adviser in the cabinet office, director-general in the department for exiting the European Union, and the British ambassador to Portugal.
- Ellis succeeds Philip Barton.

Former India striker Abhishek Yadav has been appointed as the first deputy general secretary of All India Football Federation (AIFF)

- Yadav has been serving as national team's director since January 2018.

Karan Bajwa to head Google Cloud in Asia Pacific

- Google Cloud announced the elevation of Karan Bajwa as its new leader for the Asia Pacific. Presently, Bajwa leads Google Cloud in India.
- Bajwa succeeds Rick Harshman.

A K Goswami sworn in as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court

- Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan administered the oath of office to Justice Goswami.
- Justice Goswami was the Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court prior to his appointment as CJ of AP HC, in place of Justice J K Maheshwari, who was shifted to Sikkim.

The Union government has appointed R S Sharma, former TRAI chief, as the chairperson of an empowered committee for administration of Covid-19 vaccine

- A ten member team has been constituted to be headed by Sharma. Top health ministry and UIDAI officials are part of the empowered committee.
- **Note:** He has also been included as a member of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration of Covid-19 that was formed in August 2020 and is headed by Niti Aayog member, VK Paul.

US-India Business Council (USIBC) selected Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar Shaw as one of its vice-chairs

- US Chamber of Commerce's USIBC announced three vice-chairs to its 2021 Global Board of Directors. The two other business executives joining Shaw as vice-chairs are Amway CEO Milind Pant and Edward Knight who is the vice-chair at Nasdaq.
- **Note:** The three new appointees will now work with USIBC President Nisha Biswal and the Council's policy directors.

Jayant Khobragade appointed India's next Ambassador to ASEAN Secretariat

- Jayant N Khobragade, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.
- Khobragade is currently serving as joint secretary at headquarters of the ministry in Delhi.
- **Facts about Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):** It is considered



one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners.

The 10 member countries of ASEAN are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.

Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia

Founded: 8 August 1967

Government appoints Siddhartha Mohanty as Managing Director (MD) of LIC from Feb 1

- Mohanty will be replacing TC Suseel Kumar, who is set to retire on January 31, 2021.
- Presently Mohanty is the chief operating officer of LIC Housing Finance.
- **Facts about Life Insurance Corporation of India:**

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairperson: M R Kumar

Founder: Government of India

Founded: 1 September 1956

Justice Gita Mittal appointed chairperson of BCCC

- The Board of Directors of the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has appointed Justice Gita Mittal, former chief justice of Jammu & Kashmir high court, as the new chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC).
- Mittal will succeed former Supreme Court judge, Justice Vikramajit Sen, whose tenure as BCCC chairperson has ended.
- Justice Gita Mittal, who served as the first woman Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court, is also the **first woman chairperson of BCCC**.

About BCCC: Founded in June 2011, BCCC is the independent self-regulatory body set up by the IBF to examine content-related complaints relating to all non-news and general entertainment channels in India.

December 2020

Arya Rajendran becomes India's youngest mayor from Thiruvananthapuram

- Arya Rajendran, a 21-year-old CPI (M) leader, was sworn-in as the youngest

mayor of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, the largest urban body in Kerala.

- She is a second-year BSc. Maths student of the All Saints College.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a member on the GAVI Board.

- Dr. Vardhan will be representing the South East Area Regional Office (SEARO)/ Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board.
- The seat is currently held by Myint Htwe of Myanmar.
- Dr. Vardhan will be representing India from January 1, 2021 till December 31, 2023.
- **Note:** The GAVI Board is responsible for strategic direction and policymaking, oversees the operations of the Vaccine Alliance and monitors programme implementation.

Vineet Agarwal takes over as new Assocham President

- 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).
- He replaces Niranjana Hiranandani, Co-Founder and MD, Hiranandani Group of Companies.

Shashi Shekhar Vempati, CEO Prasar Bharati elected Vice President of ABU

- Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati has been elected to the office of the Vice President, ABU (Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union), one of the largest broadcasting associations in the world for three years.
- **Note: Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union**, formed in 1964, is a non-profit, professional association of broadcasting organisations. Its headquarters is in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Radhakrishnan Nair appointed as chief coach of Indian athletics

- Athletics Federation of India (AFI) appointed Radhakrishnan Nair as its full-time chief coach, filling the post left vacant after the resignation of Bahadur Singh in July.
- Note: Nair, who is also a certified Technical Official and World Athletics Level-5 coach, has been instrumental in enhancing the coaches education system in India.
- He is the first Indian to have an International Coaching Enrichment Programme Certificate of the International Olympic Committee.

Uday Shankar named FICCI president for 2020-21

- Shankar will succeed Sangita Reddy.
- He is the first-ever media and entertainment executive in India to lead a national industry chamber such as FICCI (The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry).
- ✓ Shekhar Kapoor appointed as the president of FTII society and chairman of FTII governing council
- Note: FTII (Film and Television Institute of India) is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India in Pune. The institute was established in 1960.
- ✓ PD Vaghela appointed as TRAI Chairman
- Note: TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) is a statutory body set up by the Government of India under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. It regulates the telecommunications sector in India.
- ✓ Simanchala Dash appointed as Advisor to IMF Executive Director
- Note: IMF (International Monetary Fund) is an organization of 189 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the

World Health Organisation (WHO) has appointed Indian-origin Anil Soni as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the WHO Foundation

- WHO Director-General Adhanom Ghebreyesus described Soni as a proven innovator in global health who has spent two decades in service of communities affected by HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.
- **Note: WHO Foundation**, an independent grant-making agency headquartered in Geneva, was launched in May 2020 to work alongside the WHO and the global health community.

Bata promotes India CEO Kataria as global head.

- Recently, Bata Shoe Organization named Sandeep Kataria as its first Indian CEO.
- He will replace Alexis Nasard.

November to September 2020

- world.
- ✓ Shri Manish Chauhan appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Portugal:
- IFS: 1994, Shri Manish Chauhan, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Portugal.
- ✓ Retd Col Mungali named in AFC task-force:
- Colonel Dr Girija Shanker Mungali has been appointed as one of the seven members of the Asian Football Confederation's task force for regulating football clubs in Asia and Australia.
- Note: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is the governing body of association football in Asia and Australia and is one of the six continental confederations within FIFA.
- ✓ Anil Dhasmana appointed as the new chief of NTRO:
- Note: National Technical Research Organization (NTRO) is a technical intelligence agency under the National Security Advisor. The agency deals in



technology capabilities in remote sensing and aviation, data gathering and processing, cryptology systems, cybersecurity, strategic hardware and software development and strategic monitoring.

- ✓ ADB appoints Takeo Konishi as Country Director for India:
 - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed Takeo Konishi as its new Country Director for India.
 - Note: The ADB, headquartered in the Philippines, is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966. It maintains thirty-one field offices around the world to promote social and economic development in Asia with 68 countries.
- ✓ Harivansh Narayan Singh re-elected as RS Deputy Chairman:
 - NDA candidate Harivansh has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. BJP President JP Nadda had moved the proposal to elect Harivansh as the deputy chairman and his motion was adopted.
- ✓ Punjab & Sind Bank
 - The government is likely to appoint S. Krishnan as managing director and chief executive officer of Punjab & Sind Bank.
 - Currently, Krishnan is executive director of Canara Bank.
 - The resignation of the current Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer S. Harisankar has been accepted by the
- ✓ **Hamed Bakayoko** has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast.
- ✓ Indian economist **Urjit Patel** has been appointed as the additional and independent director of Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd.
- ✓ **Perseverance** launched by NASA to seek signs of ancient life and collect first Martian rock.
- ✓ Mohamed Irfaan Ali became the President of **Guyana**.
- ✓ Mark Anthony Phillips has been sworn in as the Prime Minister of **Guyana**.
- ✓ **Manoj Sinha** has been appointed as the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir.

government and a decision on Krishnan's appointment has been taken.

- Punjab and Sind bank posted a net loss of 1.17 billion rupees for the quarter ending in June, its sixth consecutive quarterly loss, due to higher provisions for stressed assets. For Jan-Mar, it had recorded a loss of 2.36 bn rupees.
- ✓ ACC approves appointment of VK Yadav as Railway Board's first-ever Chairman and CEO
 - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of the current chairman of the Railway Board VK Yadav as the CEO, making him the first to hold such a post in the railway's history.
 - 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.

About VK Yadav

- Sri Vinod Kumar Yadav also is known as V.K. Yadav is 1980 batch IRSEE officer.
- He is an engineer holding BE in electrical engineering from University of Allahabad's Motilal Nehru Regional Engineering College (now Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad) (1980) who later did an MBA from Australia's La Trobe University (2004)

August 2020

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.

- ✓ **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
- ✓ 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)**.
- ✓ Indian cricketers **Suresh Raina**



- &Harmanpreet Kaur** were appointed as Global brand ambassadors of Win Trade Fantasy (WTF) Sports.
- ✓ **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.
 - ✓ **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.
 - ✓ Alexander Lukashenko has won the presidential election in **Belarus**.
 - ✓ Walter Roger Martos Ruiz becomes new Prime Minister of **Peru**.
 - ✓ **Mohamed Ould Bilal** has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Mauritania.
 - ✓ **Pramod Bhasin** has been appointed as the new Chairman of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).
 - ✓ **Rakesh Asthana** has been appointed as the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).

 - ✓ **Shyam Srinivasan** has been appointed as the managing Director and Chief Executive officer of Federal Bank Limited.
 - ✓ Gudni Johannesson was re-elected as president of **Iceland**.
 - ✓ **Indra Mani Pandey** has been appointed as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - ✓ **Ravinder Bhakar** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC).
 - ✓ **Sanjay Dwivedi** has been appointed as the as the Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC).
 - ✓ **Srikant Madhav Vaidya** has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian

- ✓ Goa Governor Satya Pal Malik has been appointed as the new Governor of **Meghalaya**.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Sports eyewear "Oakley".
- ✓ Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona has been sworn in as the 54th President of **Dominican Republic**.
- ✓ **Keith Rowley** has been appointed as the **Prime Minister** of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Luis Rodolfo Abinader** has been sworn in as the President of Dominican Republic.
- ✓ **Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the **Election Commissioner of India**.
- ✓ **Akinwumi Adesina** has been re-elected as the **President of African Development Bank**.

July 2020

- Oil Corporation.
- ✓ **V Suryanarayanan** has been appointed as the New **Managing Director** (MD) of Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company.
- ✓ Jean Castex has been appointed as prime minister of **France**.
- ✓ **Injeti Srinivas** has been appointed as the 1st chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for a period of three years.
- ✓ **G. Srinivasan** has been appointed as the chairman of the nine-member working Group (WG) set up by IRDAI to study the suitability of insurers offering surety bonds for contractors.
- ✓ **Injeti Srinivas** has been appointed as the first chairman of the International Financial Services Centre Authority



(IFSCA) for a 3 years term.

- ✓ **Jayant Krishna** has been appointed as the first India based Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UKIBC.
- ✓ **Sukhbir Singh** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Luxury Ride the multi-brand luxury car showrooms.
- ✓ The term of Rajkiran Rai as Managing Director and **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of **Union Bank of India** has been extended for two years.
- ✓ **Priyanka Chopra** has been appointed as the ambassador for Toronto IFF.
- ✓ The Incumbent President of **Poland**, Andrzej Duda has secured a victory in the 2020 Presidential Election.
- ✓ **Gyanendro Ningombam** has been appointed as the new President of Hockey India.
- ✓ **Hemang Amin** has been appointed as the interim chief executive officer (CEO) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ✓ **Ashok Lavasa** has been appointed as the vice president of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- ✓ **Brett Lee** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of SportsAdda, the news and information website for Cricket, Football and Kabaddi.
- ✓ **Chandrikapersad “Chan” Santokhi** has been elected as the President of Suriname.
- ✓ Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda has been appointed as the first woman prime minister of **Gabon**.
- ✓ **Ashwini Kumar Tewari** has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Card.
- ✓ **Aditya Puri** has become the highest-paid banker for FY20 with Rs.18.92 cr in remuneration.
- ✓ **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** has been appointed as the new Chairman of IT company, HCL Technologies.
- ✓ **Sahil Seth** has been appointed as the honorary adviser of steering committee for BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI).
- ✓ **Arun Kumar** has been nominated as the Vice-Chairman of the International Union of Railways (UIC).
- ✓ **Prakash Chandra Kandpal** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Non-life insurer SBI General Insurance.
- ✓ **Sumit Deb** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).
- ✓ **R Narayanaswamy** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).
- ✓ **Ramesh Babu Boddu** has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Karur Vysya Bank (KVB).
- ✓ **Kulmeet Bawa** has been appointed as the President and Managing Director of Systems, Applications & Products in Data Processing (SAP) for Indian Subcontinent.
- ✓ **Alok Misra** has been appointed as the Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN).
- ✓ **Riva Ganguly** has been appointed as the secretary of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI.
- ✓ **Partha Pratim Sengupta** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank.
- ✓ **Thierry Bollore** has been appointed as the new chief executive officer of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR).
- ✓ **N. Sivaraman** has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICRA Limited.
- ✓ **Archana Soreng** has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders.
- ✓ **Hardik Satishchandra Shah** has been appointed as the Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on co-terminus basis.



June 2020

- ✓ **Anita Kotwani** has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Media Agency, Carat India.
- ✓ **PR Jaishankar** has been appointed as the as the Managing Director (MD) of the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) for 3 years.
- ✓ **Arun Singhal** has been appointed as the chief executive officer of India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ✓ **TV Mohandas Pai** has been appointed as the chairman of the advisory committee on service providers by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- ✓ **Rajnath Singh** will chair the committee constituted by the PM Narendra Modi to solve the difficulties faced in the implementation of Rs.3 Lakh crore collateral-free loan for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- ✓ **Subramanian Sundar** has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB).
- ✓ **Uday Kotak** has assumed office as the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020-21.
- ✓ **Krishnendu Majumdar** has been named as the new chairman of British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
- ✓ **Virendra Nath Datt** has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL).
- ✓ **Rajeev Topno** has been appointed as the senior advisor to the World Bank Executive Director.
- ✓ **Brajendra Navnit** has been appointed as the ambassador to the Permanent Mission for India (PMI) at the WTO in Geneva.
- ✓ **Manushi Chhillar** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Adidas to join Indian star Batsman Rohit Sharma and sprinter Hima Das.
- ✓ **Ashok Dalwani** has been appointed as the chairman of the rearranged Commodity derivatives advisory committee of SEBI.
- ✓ **Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the first ever brand ambassador of the IIFL Finance.
- ✓ **Nethra** has been appointed as 'Goodwill Ambassador to the Poor' of the United Nations Association for Development And Peace (UNADAP).
- ✓ **G Kishan Reddy** has been appointed as the chairman of the committee for the welfare of the freedom fighters reconstituted by the union ministry of home affairs.
- ✓ **Pankaj Tripathi** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Patna's Khadi Mall by the Government of Bihar.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Executive Director of **HDFC Bank** for a period of three years.
- ✓ **Imtaiyazur Rahman** has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of UTI Asset Management Company (AMC).
- ✓ **Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta** has taken charges as the Chief of Staff of Eastern Naval Command (ENC).
- ✓ Kubatbek Boronov has been appointed as the Prime Minister of **Kyrgyzstan**.
- ✓ **Pralay Mondal** has been appointed as the President of CSB Bank Limited.
- ✓ **Volkan Bozkir** has been elected president of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.
- ✓ Indian American **Sethuraman Panchanathan** has been appointed as the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) by the US senate.
- ✓ **Gaurav Ganguly and Sunil Chhetri** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of JSW cement.
- ✓ **Urjit Patel** has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP).
- ✓ **Nirakar Pradhan** has appointed as new as the Chief Executive Officer of the Professional Risk Managers' International Association (PRMIA) of its new India office.
- ✓ **Natarajan Chandrasekaran** has been re-nominated as a Part-Time Non-Official Director on RBI Central board for 2 years.
- ✓ **Wasim Jaffer** has been appointed as head coach of the Uttarakhand Ranji team for the upcoming season.



- ✓ **T Rabi Sankar** has been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS).
- ✓ **Clare Connor** has been named as the first female president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in its 233 year-old history.
- ✓ IAS Vini Mahajan becomes 1st woman chief secretary of **Punjab** state.
- ✓ Micheal Martin has been elected as new Prime Minister of **Ireland**.
- ✓ UP Governor, Anandiben Patel has taken additional charges as the governor of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- ✓ Lazarus Chakwera was elected as the new President of **Mali** after the annulment of the results of the 2019 Presidential Elections following evidence of irregularities.

May 2020

Atanu Chakraborty chaired the task force on **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)** which submitted its Final Report to Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.

- ✓ **Ravi Shankar Prasad** attended the **Extraordinary Virtual G20 Digital Economy Ministers** meeting was held to discuss the challenges posed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ **Raj Kumar Singh** unveiled e-book titled “**A Report on Impact of Energy Efficiency Measures**” for the year 2018-19.
- ✓ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** has launched the mobile application '**AYUSH Sanjivani**' App and two AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19 situation.
- ✓ **Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh** recently approved the abolition of 9,304 posts in the military engineering services on the recommendation of **Shekatkar Committee**.
- ✓ **Shikha Sharma** has been named advisor to Google Pay India.
- ✓ **Giridhar Aramane** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- ✓ **Arvind Kumar Sharma** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- ✓ **Krishnan Ramachandran** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Max Bupa Health Insurance.

- ✓ **Ashok Michael Pinto** has been appointed as the US representative to World Bank's lending arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- ✓ **Tarun Bajaj** has been appointed as the new director on Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** has been appointed as the **chairperson of the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC)**.
- ✓ **Dia Mirza** has been appointed as the as the Goodwill Ambassador of India by UNEP.
- ✓ **Manisha Singh** has been nominated as an envoy to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with an Ambassador rank by US President Donald Trump.
- ✓ **Mustafa al-Kadhimi** sworn in as the Iraq's 6th Prime Minister.
- ✓ **Neeraj Dhawan** has been appointed as the Chief Risk Officer of Yes Bank for a period of three years.
- ✓ **Ajinkya Madhukar Rahane** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Edu-tech firm ELSA Corp for India, Middle East, Australia, New Zealand and SAARC.
- ✓ **Narinder Batra's** term has been extended as President of FIH until May 2021 by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- ✓ **Kumar Sangakkara** has been appointed as the president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) for a second term.
- ✓ Indian sportsperson **Akhil Kumar** has been re-inducted into the Disciplinary Panel of National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA).
- ✓ **V. Vidyavathi** has been appointed as the Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- ✓ **Manoj Ahuja** has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- ✓ Roberto Azevedo decides to resign a year before his term expires as head of international organization **WTO**.
- ✓ **Zubair Iqbal** has been appointed as new Managing Director (MD) of Jammu and Kashmir Bank.
- ✓ Benjamin Netanyahu has sworn in as the prime minister of **Israel** for the 5th time.
- ✓ **Rajesh Goel** has been appointed as the director-general (DG)



- of the Realtors body National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO).
- ✓ **Kevin Mayer** has been appointed as the chief executive officer of TikTok, the popular video app owned by China's ByteDance Technology Co .
 - ✓ **GovindaRajuluChintala** has been appointed as the chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
 - ✓ **Carmen Reinhart** has been appointed as Chief Economist and Vice President of the World Bank.
 - ✓ **DilipOommen** has been appointed as the President of Indian Steel Association (ISA).
 - ✓ **Rajesh Bhushan** has been appointed as the chairman of the 11-member committee constituted by the Ministry of Health to simplify and expedite” the drug approval process in India.
 - ✓ **Carmen Reinhart** has been appointed as the new Vice President (VP) and chief economist of World Bank.
 - ✓ **JahnabiPhookan** has been appointed as the 37th National President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organization (FLO).
 - ✓ **Abhas Jha** has been appointed as World Bank’s Practice Manager for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia.
 - ✓ **Marcos Prado Troyjo** has been appointed as the President of the New Development Bank.
 - ✓ **Anil Kishora** has been appointed as the vice president of the New Development Bank (NDB).
 - ✓ **Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra** has been appointed as the member of the Olympic Channel Commission by International Olympic Committee (IOC).
 - ✓ **Leo Puri** has been appointed as the chairman of JP Morgan South and Southeast Asia after Kalpana Morparia retirement in 2021.
 - ✓ **Thierry Delaporte** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer(CEO) and Managing Director(MD) of Wipro.
 - ✓ Sandip Mukund Pradhan has been given two-year extension as Director General (DG) of **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**.
 - ✓ **Ravinder Singh Dhillon** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of State-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC).

- ✓ **SN Rajeshwari** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Delhi-based Oriental Insurance Company (OIC).

April 2020

- ✓ **D. Lakshminarayanan** has been appointed as the **Managing Director of the Sundaram Home Finance**.
- ✓ The government extended the tenure of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) acting President **BSV Prakash Kumar**.
- ✓ The Government has extended the appointment of MadhabiPuri Buch as a whole time member (WTM) of the **SEBI**.
- ✓ **UB Pravin Rao** has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).
- ✓ **Shafali Verma** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of PepsiCo for one year.
- ✓ **Parag Raja** has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company.
- ✓ **Anamika Roy Rashtrawar** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance.
- ✓ **Raj Vikash Verma** has been appointed as part-time Chairman of AU Small Finance Bank for the period of one year.
- ✓ **Sanjay Agarwal** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AU Small Finance Bank.
- ✓ **Mahabaleshwara M S** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Karnataka Bank.
- ✓ **Sara Ali Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the James Bullough Lansing (JBL)’s campaign –“Live it Real, Live it Raw”.
- ✓ **J Packirisamy** has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Union Bank of India.
- ✓ **Mrutyunjay Mahapatra** has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Canara Bank.
- ✓ **MS Dhoni** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of the PokerStars India.



- ✓ **Ajay Mahajan** has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE) Rating.
- ✓ **Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of the CricKingdom.
- ✓ **Vineet Arora** has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Paytm General Insurance Limited.
- ✓ **Viswanathan Anand** has been appointed as the ambassador of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India's environment education programme.
- ✓ **N Kamakodi** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of City Union Bank.
- ✓ **Noel Quinn** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the HSBC Bank.
- ✓ **PV Sindhu** has been appointed as the one of its ambassadors for the "I am badminton" awareness campaign of BWF.
- ✓ **Rakesh Sharma** has been appointed as the President of Geneva-based International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA).
- ✓ **Shiv Das Meena** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) Ltd.
- ✓ **Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).

March 2020

- ✓ **Muhyiddin bin Haji Muhammad Yassin** has been appointed as the 8th Prime Minister of Malaysia.
- ✓ **PekkaLundmark** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nokia,
- ✓ **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary of India.
 - **Note:** Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the new Finance Secretary in Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ **Denys Shmygal** has been appointed as new prime minister of Ukraine,
- ✓ **Daren Tang** has been elected as **Director General of World Intellectual Property**

Organisation (WIPO).

- ✓ **JanezJansa** has been elected as the new prime minister of Slovenia.
- ✓ **Injeti Srinivas** has been appointed as the chairman of the 12 members committee to prepare an investigation manual for the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
- ✓ **Lt Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon** has been appointed as the Director General, Defence Intelligence Agency.
- ✓ **Kareena Kapoor Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of PUMA for a period of two years.
- ✓ **PV Sindhu.** has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Andhra Pradesh government's anti-graft helpline or anti-corruption helpline-14400.
- ✓ **Disha Patani and Sanjeev Kapoor** has been appointed as the brand ambassador in India for the Washington Apple Commission,
- ✓ **Harbhajan Singh** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Indian online leather accessory brand Brune&Bareskin.
- ✓ **Amitabh Bachchan** has been appointed as the first ever brand ambassador of IDFC Bank.
- ✓ **Salman Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Smartphone brand realme.
- ✓ **Akshay Kumar** has been appointed as the brand ambassador PepsiCo's snack brand Kurkure.
- ✓ **Virat Kohli** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of iQOO (i Quest On and On).
- ✓ **Bansi Lal Bhat** has been appointed as the officiating Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
- ✓ **Adnan al-Zurfi** has been appointed as the Prime Minister (PM) of Iraq.
- ✓ Former chief justice of India **Ranjan Gogoi** has been nominated as the member of Upper House of the Parliament, Rajya Sabha.
 - **Note:** He was nominated by President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind, under the exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (a) of clause (1) of article 80 of the Constitution of India, read with clause (3) of that article to the Council of States and to fill the vacancy caused due to the retirement of one of the nominated members. Ranjan Gogoi will be the successor of K.T.S Tulsi.



- Gogoi headed a 5-judge bench, who gave the judgement on the sensitive Ayodhya land dispute on November 9, 2019.
- ✓ Under chairmanship the Insurance Regulation and Development Authority (IRDAI) **Pravin Kutumbe** instituted a 16-member committee.
 - **Note:** The committee will further strengthen IRDAI guidelines on corporate governance & will find ways to improve key functions such as risk

- management and internal audits independent of each other.
- ✓ **V K Paul** will chair the 21-member high-level technical committee of public health experts to guide the people in preventive & control activities of COVID-19.
- ✓ **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has sworn in as the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh after the resignation of Kamal Nath.
- ✓ **Bibhu Prasad Kanungo** has been reappointed as the Deputy Governor of RBI for a period of one year.

Obituaries

February 2021

Former Governor and High Court Chief Justice (Retd.) M Rama Jois passes away

- M Rama Jois was the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- He had also served as the Governor of Jharkhand and Bihar and as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

India tennis legend Akhtar Ali, a former Davis Cup coach, passes away

- Akhtar played eight Davis Cup ties between 1958 and 1964 and also captained the Indian team.
- Akhtar was conferred the Arjuna Award in 2000 for his lifetime contribution to tennis.

Actor-director Rajiv Kapoor passes away

- Bollywood actor and Raj Kapoor's son Rajiv Kapoor passed away.
- Rajiv Kapoor, who made his debut in Bollywood with the 1983 film Ek Jaan Hain Hum, was best known for the 1985 blockbuster Ram Teri Ganga Maili.

Oscar-winning actress Cloris Leachman passes away at 94

- Cloris Leachman was known as one of Hollywood's most prolific performers having won an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, and eight Primetime Emmy Awards.

Paul J. Crutzen, Nobel laureate passes away

- He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995 for his work on

atmospheric chemistry and specifically for his efforts in studying the formation and decomposition of atmospheric ozone. In addition to studying the ozone layer and climate change, he popularized the term Anthropocene.

January 2021

Former Union minister Buta Singh passes away

- Singh, a senior Congress leader, served as Lok Sabha MP for eight terms from the Jalore constituency in Rajasthan. He also served as the governor of Bihar.

Legendary music director Shantanu Mohapatra passes away

- Mohapatra was associated with the Odia music industry for almost 60 years. He had many firsts to his credits in the field of Odia music as a music composer.

Olympic bronze and World Cup winning hockey player Michael Kindo passes away

- He played three Men's Hockey World Cup in 1971, 1973 and 1975 where India bagged bronze, silver and gold medals respectively.
- He also represented in the 1972 Olympic Games where India secured a bronze medal. Kindo received the Arjuna Award in 1972.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's niece Chitra Ghosh passes away

- Chitra Ghosh, the youngest daughter of Sarat Chandra Bose and niece of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, passed away.
- Professor Chitra Ghosh made pioneering



contributions to academics and community service.

Tamil writer A Madhavan passes away

- A Madhavan had won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2015 for his collection of short stories, *Ilakkiya Chuvadukal*. The Tamil Nadu government has honored him with the prestigious Kalaimamani Award.

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Madhavsinh Solanki passes away

- The veteran Congress leader Madhavsinh Solanki was Chief Minister of Gujarat four times between 1976 and 1990. He was the longest-serving Chief Minister of the state before Narendra Modi.
- He was also India's External Affairs Minister under Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao.

Senior Telugu journalist Turlapati Kutumba Rao passes away

- Veteran journalist and Padma Shri awardee Turlapati Kutumba Rao died in Vijayawada.
- Rao is known for his contribution to Telugu journalism with 4,000 biographies and 16,000 public speeches which won him a place in the world records.

Eminent social worker Padma Shri D Prakash Rao passed away

- Rao was conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2019 by the Government of India for his contribution towards boosting the value of education among slum and orphan kids in Cuttack.

Renowned writer Ved Mehta passes away

- Indian-American novelist Ved Mehta, who overcame blindness and became widely known as the 20th-century writer most responsible for introducing American readers to India.
- He was the MacArthur Prize fellow and member of the British Royal Society of Literature.

Legendary Indian classical musician and Padma Vibhushan awardee Ustad Ghulam Mustafa

Khan passes away

- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1991, followed by Padma Bhushan in 2006 and Padma Vibhushan in 2018.
- In 2003, he was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Veteran Actor and Director Biswajit Chatterjee has been conferred Indian Personality of the Year Award, at 51st IFFI

- The 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa has conferred Shri Biswajit Chatterjee, veteran actor, producer, director and singer of Hindi and Bengali cinema, with the Indian Personality of the Year Award.

World renowned oncologist Dr. V Shanta passes away

- Dr. Shanta was the Chairperson of Adyar Cancer Centre, Chennai.
- Dr. Shanta's contribution to the field of oncology, had earned her the Magsaysay, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awards.

Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor Mata Prasad dies

- Mata Prasad served as minister in the Congress government in Uttar Pradesh in 1988- 89 and was appointed as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in 1993.

Veteran Singer Narendra Chanchal passes away

- Chanchal was known for his religious songs and bhajans. He won the Filmfare Award for Best Male Singer for Bobby.

Former India and Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Prasanta Dora dies aged 44

- Prasanta made his national debut in 1999 against Thailand in the Olympic qualifiers. He represented Bengal in the Santosh Trophy.
- At club-level, Prasanta started his career at the Tollygunge Agradami before moving to Calcutta Port Trust, Mohammedan Sporting, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal.

December 2020



Renowned Malayalam poet Sugathakumari passes away

- Sugathakumari, the Malayalam poet who had also been a committed environmentalist and women's rights activist.
- She was awarded India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri, in 2006.

Eminent dance scholar and critic Sunil Kothari passes away

- He was a member of the International Dance Council of UNESCO and a recipient of the Emeritus Fellowship of the Department of Culture, Government of India.
- He was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1995 and the Padma Shri in 2001.

Broadcaster Indira Joseph Venniyoor passes away

- Indira Joseph Venniyoor, Renowned broadcaster, All India Radio veteran, and the first English news announcer of Travancore Radio, passed away.
- In 1949, Travancore Radio started its first English news service.

Congress veteran Motilal Vora passes away at the age of 93

- Motilal Vora was an Indian politician belonging to the Indian National Congress.
- He served as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. He was also Governor of Uttar Pradesh.

Karnataka's renowned Sanskrit scholar and Kannada poet Bannanje Govindacharya passes away

- Conferred with the Padma Shri in 2009, Govindacharya was widely known for his translation of and commentaries on the complete texts of Sri Madhvacharya, a philosopher and theologian of the 13th century.
- Apart from translating several literary works from Sanskrit to Kannada, Bannanje Govindacharya penned nearly 150 books. His works are popular among Tuluvas and Kannadigas across the world.

Aerospace scientist Roddam Narasimha passes away

- Eminent aerospace scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Roddam Narasimha who served at the prestigious Indian Institute of Science (IISc) died at 87.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu releases commemorative postage stamp in honour of late Prime Minister, Indra Kumar Gujral

- **Note:** Indra Kumar Gujral was an Indian politician and freedom activist who served as the 12th Prime Minister of India from April 1997 to March 1998.

Dineshwar Sharma, Administrator of Lakshadweep passes away

- **Note:** Sharma, a former director of the Intelligence Bureau, was appointed as the Administrator of Lakshadweep in October 2019. Prior to this, he was an interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir.

Noted Hindi poet and journalist Manglesh Dabral passes away at 72

- Dabral was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2000 for his poetry collection 'Ham Jo Dekhte Hain'.
- He worked with several newspapers, including Jansatta and Pratipaksha.

MDH owner 'Mahashay' Dharampall Gulati passes away

- Dharampall Gulati, the owner of the iconic spice brand MDH (Mahashian Di Hatti), passed away at 98.
- He received the Padma Bhushan award from President Ram Nath Kovind in 2019.

C. Kohli passes away

- Faqir Chand Kohli, (F.C. Kohli), known as the father of the Indian Software Industry, passed away. He was 96.
- Kohli was the founder-CEO of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). He joined Tata



Electric Co. in 1951 where he helped set up the load dispatching system to manage system operations. He became director of Tata Electric in 1970. As the first CEO of TCS, he pioneered India's IT revolution and helped the country build the \$190-billion IT industry.

- He was a recipient of Padma Bhushan from the Government of India.

November 2020

Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona dies at the age of 60.

- He was best known for leading Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title.
- He was popularly known as 'Hand of God'.

Congress veteran Ahmad Patel dies at the age of 71.

- Patel was currently a member of the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat.
- He was an eight-time parliamentarian -- five times in the Rajya Sabha, three times in the Lok Sabha.

Former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi dies at 86

- Tarun Gogoi was an Indian politician who served as the Chief Minister of Assam from 2001 to 2016. He completed 15 consecutive years as Chief Minister of Assam on 18 May 2016 as the longest-serving Chief Minister of the state.
- Gogoi has served six terms as a Member of Parliament (MP) from the Lok Sabha.

Mridula Sinha, first woman Governor of Goa, passes away at 77

- Former Governor of Goa and senior BJP leader Mridula Sinha passed away. A renowned Hindi writer, Sinha was also the former president of BJP Mahila Morcha and also the former chairperson of Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Master Bhanwarlal Meghwal, dies at the age of 72

- Rajasthan Cabinet Minister Bhanwarlal Meghwal, dies at the age of 72 due to cardiac arrest.
- He was the minister for social justice and empowerment.
- He was elected to the Rajasthan assembly from Sujangarh in Churu district.

Actor Soumitra Chatterjee passed away at 85

- Legendary actor Soumitra Chatterjee, star of some of Bengali cinema's finest films, has died.
- He was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, besides winning three National Film Awards and many more.

Veteran author & Gujarati columnist Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ passed away

- A Jesuit priest born in Spain, he was a Mathematics teacher in Gujarat. He wrote extensively in Gujarati, English and Spanish. He translated many mathematical concepts into Gujarati and coined terms for them. He was popularly known as Father Valles.

Legendary violinist T. N. Krishnan passes away

- He was 92. The eminent violinist is a recipient of several coveted awards and titles including Padma Vibushan.

Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Doraikannu passed away

- Doraikannu worked with dedication for the upliftment of the downtrodden and welfare of farmers.

Sean Connery dies at 90

- Sean Connery, the Scottish actor best known for his portrayal of James Bond. He won numerous awards during his decades-spanning career, including an Oscar, three Golden Globes and two Bafta awards.

Former Bihar Chief Minister Satish Prasad Singh passed away

- Singh had served as the state chief minister for five days, between January 28 and



February 1, 1968.

October 2020

Former Gujarat CM Keshubhai Patel passes away

- Keshubhai Patel was Gujarat's CM from March 1995 to October 1995 and from March 1998 to October 2001. He launched a new political outfit named 'Gujarat Parivartan Party' in 2012.

Playback singer, music director and actor K J Mohammed Babu passed away

- He popularly known as 'Zero' Babu. He was a recipient of the **Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award**.

Veteran Gujarati Singer Mahesh Kanodia passes away

- He was Gujarati film musician, singer and former Lok Sabha MP from Patan constituency.
- He was known for singing in 32 different voices including female voices.

Former Telangana Home Minister Nayani Narasimha Reddy passed away

- The 86-year-old, a founder leader of the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), was the first Home Minister of the state.

The first female officer of the Indian Air Force, Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ramanan passed away

- She was commissioned as an officer in the Indian Air Force on August 2, 1955. She became the Wing Commander on 22 August 1972. She served as a Gynecologist.

Bhanu Athaiya, India's first Oscar winner passes away

- Athaiya was India's first Academy Award winner and won the Oscar for Best Costume Design for Lord Richard Attenborough's 'Gandhi' in 1983.
- **Nobel Prize 2020 in Economics awarded to Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson.**
- **Note:** The award is also known as the

Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences.

- The prize was awarded jointly to Milgrom and Wilson **"for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats."**
- They designed new auction formats for goods and services that are difficult to sell in a traditional way, such as radio frequencies. Their discoveries have benefitted sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world.

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan passed away

- He was the Cabinet Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in the government and the founder of the Lok Janshakti Party.

Former CBI Director Ashwani Kumar passed away

- He was the former Governor of Manipur and Nagaland.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating agency of India under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Syeda Anwara Taimur, Assam's only woman Chief Minister, died.

She passes at the age of 84 due to cardiac arrest. She was the first Muslim woman Chief Minister of any state in independent India.

September 2020

- ✓ Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh passed away
- One of the founding members of Bhartiya Janta Party served as Minister of Defence, External Affairs and Finance and also Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission.
- He was elected to the Lok Sabha four times and to Rajya Sabha five times and served as Leader of Opposition in the Upper House.
- ✓ Singing Legend SP Balasubrahmanyam passed Away
- He has recorded over 40,000 songs in 16 Indian languages and holds the Guinness World Record in this regard. National Film



Awards for Best Male Playback Singer, NTR National Award for his contributions to Indian cinema, the Indian Film Personality of the Year award. He is a recipient of civilian awards such as Padma Shri (2001) and Padma Bhushan (2011) from the Government of India.

- ✓ Nuclear Scientist Sekhar Basu dies of coronavirus
- Dr Sekhar Basu, Former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and veteran atomic scientist, conferred with the Indian Nuclear Society Award in 2002 and the Padma Shri in 2014.
- ✓ Former Australian Cricketer Dean Jones Dies of Heart Attack
- Jones played 52 Tests for Australia and scored 3631 runs at an average of 46.55 with 11 centuries. He famously hit a double-century against India in the tied Test of 1986.
- Jones also played 164 ODIs and scored 6068 runs at 44.61 with seven centuries. He was part of Australia's 1987 World Cup-winning squad.
- ✓ Noted Marathi actress Ashalata Wabgaonkar passes away
- Noted Marathi actress and Bollywood's veteran character artist Ashalata Wabgaonkar passed away.
- The actress had worked in many Bollywood hits including 'Apne Paraye', 'Zanjeer', 'Namak Halal', 'Sharaabi', 'Shaukeen' and Marathi movies like 'Maherchi Sadi', 'Vahinichi Maya', 'Umbartha', 'Sutradhar', 'Navari Mile Navryala'.
- ✓ MP Roza Deshpande passes away:
- Veteran Communist leader and former Lok Sabha Member Roza Deshpande had taken part in the Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement (the movement for the creation of the State of Maharashtra) and also taken the Goa liberation struggle. And she was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1974 from the Bombay South Central constituency.
- ✓ Arts scholar Dr Kapila Vatsyayan passes away:
- She was a leading scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and history. She was formerly a member of parliament and also

served as Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Education, where she was responsible for the establishment of a large number of national institutions of higher education.

- ✓ Pranab Mukherjee
- Former President of India and Bharat Ratna awardee Pranab Mukherjee passed away at the age of 84 after battling a long illness.
- The medical condition of the former President declined yesterday after he went into septic shock due to lung infection.

Highlights

- Pranab Mukherjee served as 13th President of India from 2012 to 2017.
- Prior to his election as President, Mukherjee was Union Finance Minister from 2009 to 2012. He was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in 2019 by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.
- He was regarded as a seasoned Statesman, a scholar par excellence, Pranab Mukherjee was admired across the political spectrum and by all sections of society.
- He is known to make long-lasting contributions in key economic and strategic ministries.
- Note: As a mark of respect to former President Pranab Mukherjee, seven-day state mourning is being observed throughout India till 6th September. During the period of State Mourning, the National Flag will fly at half-mast on all buildings throughout India, where it is flown regularly and there will be no official entertainment.
- ✓ Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- The High Commission of India gifted books on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the liberation war of Bangladesh.
- The books were gifted to 100 universities and colleges in the country in places like Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet among others.
- The High Commission organized the online book gifting session as part of Mujib Barsho- the birth centenary year of Bangladesh's founder president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is regarded as



the founder of modern Bangladesh and one of the most influential and courageous leaders of the 20th century.

- He laid the foundation of India-Bangladesh relations.

August 2020

- 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.

- 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.

- Famous personality Anil Murali passed away recently. He was a veteran **Malayalam Actor**.

- Former **Uttar Pradesh** education minister of Kamal Rani Varun passed away due to coronavirus. She served as Minister of Technical Education, is the first minister in Uttar Pradesh to die after contracting coronavirus.

- **Writer and Singer** Vangapandu Prasada Rao passed away recently.

- 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.

- **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.

- Renowned politician Shyamal Chakraborty passed away due to COVID-19 infection, he was a former governor of **West Bengal**.

- Renowned personality Shirley Ann Grau passed away recently; she was a veteran **Environmentalist**.

- Renowned personality Sadia Dehlvi passed away recently, she was a veteran **Writer and Activist**.

- Renowned personality Mukund Lath passed away recently, he was a veteran **Culture Historian**.

- Renowned personality Nandi Yellaiah passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.

- Famous personality Manitombi Singh passed away, he was a veteran **Sportsman**.

- Renowned personality PK Muthusamy passed away recently, he was a veteran **Songwriter**.

- Noted personality Rahat Indori passed away recently, he was a veteran **Urdu Poet**.

- Renowned personality GK Menon passed away, recently he was a veteran **Journalist**.

- Chunnakara Ramankutty passed away recently he was a famous poet and film and drama lyricist of **Malayalam** language.

- Famous sportsperson Chetan Chauhan passed away recently, he was associated with **Cricket**.

- Noted Carnatic musician Dr B Siva Kumar passed away recently, he was proficient in **Veenam** musical instrument.

- 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.

- 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.

- Legendary sportsperson Angela Buxton passed away recently; she was associated with **Tennis** sports.

- Renowned personality Russell A. Kirsch passed away recently, he was a veteran **computer scientist**.

July 2020

- Renowned **Actor** Carl Reiner passed away recently.

Note: Legendary comedian, Carl Reiner passed away. He was a prolific writer, comedian, director and actor. He had a run as a movie director with such films as “Oh, God!” (1977) and “The Jerk” (1979). He won several Emmys awards in writing and producing.

- Renowned personality Saroj Khan passed away recently, she



was a veteran **Choreographer**.

Note: In a career spanning over four decades, Khan is credited with choreographing more than 2,000 songs, including Dola Re Dola from Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Devdas, Ek Do Teen from Madhuri Dixit-starrer Tezaab and Ye IshqHaaye from Jab We Met in 2007.

- Famous sportsperson Everton Weekes passed away recently he was associated with **Cricket** sports.

Note: Everton Weekes made his first-class debut at 19-year-old and his Test debut in 1948 at 22. His test career spanned between 1948 to 1958, where he played 48 Tests & scored 4455 runs at an average of 58.62.

- Name the Hollywood screen writer, film maker, actor and voice artist passed away recently -- **Carl Reiner**.

Note: Veteran Hollywood and multi-hyphenate personality Carl Reiner, a creator and director of several Steve Martin films, died at 98 of natural causes at his Beverly Hills home. He has won multiple Emmy Awards, among which 5 awards were backed by "The Dick Van Dyke Show" in the 1960s.

- Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri popularly known as Jagdeep passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: Jagdeep appeared in around 400 films but it is his role as SoormaBhopali in 1975 film "Sholay. Better known by his stage name Jagdeep, the actor also directed the movie "SoormaBhopali" with his character as the protagonist.

- Renowned personality Charlie Daniels passed away recently.

Note: He was country music and southern rock icon who entertained fans for decades with songs like "Long-Haired Country Boy," "In America," and his signature fiddle tune "The Devil Went Down To Georgia", who won his only Grammy Award in 1979. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2016.

- Renowned personality Nagindas Sanghvi passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.

Note: He was 100 and suffering from acute asthma. Mr. Sangvi was conferred Padma Shri award in the year 2019. He was in teaching at Bhavan's College Andheri from 1951 to 1980. Later he moved to Ruparel College, Mahim and

Mithibai College, Vile Parle for teaching political science.

- Famous footballer Wim Suurbier of **The Netherlands** passed away recently.

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

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

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

- Renowned personality Avad Bin Hassan Jami passed away recently, he was a veteran **cartoonist**.

Note: His cartoons were published in Gujarati magazine "Abhiyan" for last over two decades. He had also worked in Gujarati newspaper **Phulchhab** as a cartoonist. He was a drawing teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jamnagar and became a full-time cartoonist after retirement.

- Amadou Gon Coulibaly who passed away recently was prime minister of **Ivory Coast**.

Note: He recently returned from France after receiving medical treatment. He was also chosen as the ruling party Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (**RHDP**)'s candidate for October's presidential election.

- First woman election commissioner of Maharashtra **Neela Satyanarayan** passed away recently.

Note: The 1972 batch officer was admitted at the Seven Hills Hospital, Mumbai after she was diagnosed with COVID-19. Neela Satyanarayan retired in 2014. She has penned more than 150 songs. Also, she has composed music for several Marathi movies.

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

Note: He was also the youngest and last



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

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

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

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

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

- Renowned personality Bijay Mohanty passed away, recently he was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: His performance in his debut film, Chilika Tire, earned him several accolades including the National Film Award. He is most famous for negative roles in films including Samay Bada Balaban, Naga Phasa, SahariBagha, DandaBalunga and Chaka Bhaunri.

- Rajat Mukherjee who passed away recently was a famous **Film Maker**.

Note: Rajat Mukherjee directed Urmila Matondkar, Fardeen Khan, Sonali Kulkarni and Rajpal Yadav in 2001's Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya. He also directed the 2004 film Love In Nepal, which starred singer Sonu Nigam, Rajpal Yadav

and Flora Saini.

- Renowned personality **Juan Marse** passed away, he was a veteran **Novelist**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Her real name was Zaibunnissa. She has featured in over 100 Hindi films like Mother



India, Kohinoor, EkSaperaEkLootera, Naya Daur, Ujala, Raja AurRunk, Lalkar, Aankhen, Geet, among others.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

June 2020

- Veteran **Music Director** Wajid Khan passed away recently.

- **Note:** Wajid Khan was the brother of music director Sajid Khan. He was born in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh on July 10, 1977.
- Wajid along with his brother Sajid served as mentors on singing reality

shows “Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2012” and “Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Superstar”.

- ✓ Famous sprinter Bobby Morrow passed away recently.

- **Note:** He is one of the four men (Jesse Owens(1936), Carl Lewis(1984), Usain Bolt(2012 & 2016)) to win three events at a single game (100m, 200m and 4x100m relay). He won three gold medals for 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay in the 1956 Olympic in Melbourne.

- ✓ Former Union Minister and three-time Congress MP P Namgyal passed away recently in **Ladakh**.

- **Note:** Former Union Minister and three-time Congress MP from Ladakh, P Namgyal passes away. He has served as the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Surface Transport and Chemicals and Petro chemicals.

- ✓ Famous sportsperson turned coach JayantilalNanoma passed away recently, he was associated with **Archery** sports.

- **Note:** Former International Archer turned coach JayantilalNanoma passed away. He was an Asian Cup and Asian Grand Prix medallist in compound individual and team archery in 2010.

- ✓ Renowned personality Basu Chatterjee passed away recently, he was a veteran **Screenwriter**.

- **Note:** He worked in Hindi & Bengali cinema and was a dialogue writer and produced a few films.
- He received the National Film Award for Best Film on Family Welfare in 1992 for his film Durga. He was born on January 10, 1930, in Ajmer, British India.

- ✓ Renowned personality Anwar Sagar passed away recently; he was a veteran **Song Writer**.

- **Note:** He is best remembered for his hit track WaadaRahaSanam from 1992 Akshay Kumar-starrer Khiladi. The lyricist also has to his credit films like Yaarana, Salaami, Aa Gale



- Lag Jaa and Vijaypath among more.
- ✓ Renowned personality Chiranjeevi Sarja passed away recently,
 - **Note:** He has featured in films such as Samhaara, Aadyaa, Khaki, Sinnga, Amma I Love You, PremaBaraha, DandamDashagunam and Varadhanayaka among others. He was last seen in the Kannada action-drama Shivarjuna.
 - ✓ Ved Prakash Marwah who passed away recently is a former governor of the **Jharkhand, Manipur and Mizoram states.**
 - **Note:** VedMarwah was an alumnus of St. Stephens college. He was the first Secretary of the High Commission of India, London.
 - ✓ Renowned personality Arjun CharanSethi passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was Water Resources Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee Cabinet from 2000 to 2004. He entered Lok Sabha from Bhadrak on a Congress ticket in 1971 and re-elected in 1980, also on a Congress ticket.
 - ✓ Pierre Nkurunziza passed away recently was President of **Brundi.**
 - **Note:** He was born on 18th December 1964 in Ngozi Province. He was a sports graduate and assistant lecturer at the University of Burundi and after the Civil War he became the leader of Forces for Defence of Democracy (FDD) in 2001.
 - ✓ Famous sport person Tony Dunne, passed away recently, he was associated with **Football** sports.
 - **Note:** He joined Manchester United at the age of 18 in 1960 and debuted on 16th October 1960 against Burnley (A) league. He was a part of the winning side of the European Cup in 1968.
 - ✓ Famous **Cricket** sportsperson Vasant Raiji passed away recently.
 - **Note:** A chartered accountant, he was also a well-known chronicler of cricket, having written books on C.K. Nayudu, Ranjitsinhji, Duleepsinhji, L.P. Jai and Victor Trumper.
 - A Cricket Club of India player, he represented Bombay and Baroda. The cricketer-historian was also a founding member of Jolly Cricket Club in Mumbai.
 - ✓ Former Test cricketer of **New Zealand** Matt Poore passed away recently,
 - **Note:** He is remembered for catching a stray dog during a match in Bengaluru in 1955 and subsequently taking 12 anti-rabies injections.
 - An all-rounder, Poore had a short but colourful 14-Test career between 1953 and 1956 alongside two greats - Bert Sutcliffe and John Reid.
 - ✓ Veteran **Urdu** poet and freedom fighter Anand Mohan Zutshi passed away recently,
 - **Note:** Anand Mohan Zutshi 'Gulzar' Dehlvi was the editor of the 1st Urdu science magazine, Science kiDuniya, published by the Government of India in 1975.
 - He played a prominent role in opening Urdu schools across India & has been a part of a number of mushairas (Poetic symposium), which includes Jashn-e-Rekhta in 2015 and Jigar Fest in 2018.
 - ✓ Veteran Actor **Sushant Singh Rajput** found dead in his house in **Mumbai was a veteran.**
 - **Note:** 34-year-old actor committed suicide & found dead at his home in Bandra, Mumbai. He was born on 16th January 1986 in Patna, Bihar.
 - He promoted the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog which was launched on 8th March 2018.
 - ✓ Renowned **Military personnel** Raj Mohan Vohra passed away recently due to COVID-19.
 - **Note:** MahaVir Chakra awardee Lt Gen (retd) Raj Mohan Vohra passed away due to COVID-19. He was a 1971 war hero. Lt Gen Vohra had received the coveted award in 1972.



- The MahaVir Chakra is that the country's second-highest gallantry award. It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry within the presence of the enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air.
- ✓ Renowned **Journalist** Dinu Ranadive passed away recently.
 - **Note:** The veteran journalist was born in 1925 at a tribal hamlet at Dahanu near Mumbai, he started his journalistic career in 1956.
- ✓ **Malayalam** Film Director, Scriptwriter, and Producer K.R. Sachidanandan passed away recently, he was associated with which language films.
 - **Note:** Malayalam Film director, scriptwriter, and producer K.R. Sachidanandan passed away. His directorial debut was Anarkali in 2015. He had co-scripted numerous movies with Sethu and later began composing solo contents. Sachy was a rehearsing legal advisor at the Kerala High Court.
- ✓ Renowned **Economist** B.P.R. Vithal passes away recently.
 - **Note:** He also served as the Secretary, Finance and Planning, government of Andhra Pradesh, from 1972 to 1982.
 - B.P.R. Vithal also worked at the International Monetary Fund as the fiscal adviser to the governments of Malawi and Sudan. He also played an instrumental role in the establishment of Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad.
- ✓ Renowned **Army Man** Lachhman Singh Lehl passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Lachhman Singh Lehl took part within the 1948 war in Jhangar area of Jammu and Kashmir as a captain and commanded a division within the 1971 war.
 - He received the Vir Chakra, the third highest gallantry award in India for his role as a forward observer within the 50 Para Brigade.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson Rajinder Goel passed away recently he was associated with **Cricket** sports.
 - **Note:** He made his ranji debut in 1957-58 and began his first class career with Patiala (southern Punjab team). He represented Delhi from 1963 and in 1973 he moved to Haryana
- ✓ Famous **Basketball** K Raghunath passed away recently, he was associated with which sports.
 - **Note:** Raghunath represented Indian All-Star team which toured Sri Lanka in 1962. He played for Karnataka with distinction in 1960s.
 - He was one of the founding members of the still-popular Beagles Basketball Club. Raghunath's tryst with basketball began in 1958.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson PournimaZanane passed away recently, she was associated with **Shooting** sports.
 - **Note:** She started as a shooter in Mumbai and represented India in numerous ISSF World Cups, Asian Championships, Commonwealth Championships. She holds a national record in the 10 m air rifle event.
 - She started coaching shooters in 2012 and she was the coach of the shooters team of Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Renowned **Journalist** Vishwa Bandhu Gupta passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was the chairman and chief editor of the Tej-Bandhu group of publications, The Weekly Sun, The North-East Sun, Treasure monthly and Flash newspaper.
 - He was the President of All India Newspaper Editors Conference(AINEC) and one of the founding members of the Press Club of India(PCI).
- ✓ Noted **Kannada** novelist Geetha Nagabhushan passed away.
 - **Note:** She was the first woman writer to bag Kendra Sahitya Academy and Nadoja awards and serve as the chairperson of Karnataka



Sahitya Academy.

- She had presided over 76th Akhil Bharat Kannada Sahitya Sammelan, a prestigious literary fest, held at Gadag in 2020.

May 2020

- Renowned personality Bijay Mishra passed away, he was a famous **Playwriter**.

- **Note:** Noted playwright, dramatist, scriptwriter and film director Bijay Mishra of Odisha passed away at the age of 83 due to age-related ailments in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- Renowned personality Nissar Ahmed popularly known as K S Nissar Ahmed passed away, he was a popular **Poet and Kannada writer**.

- **Note:** He was the 73rd president of Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in the year 2007 held at Shivamogga.
- He received Rajyotsava in 1981, Padma Shri in 2008 and Pampa Award in 2017.

- Famous personality Dalit Ezhilmalai passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.

- **Note:** He participated in the Indo-Pak War of 1971 as an army officer and received Sainik Sewa Medal for his meritorious service.

- Renowned personality Hari Shankar Vasudevan passed away recently, he was a famous **Historian**.

- **Note:** He served as the Director of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

- Famous sportsperson Manmeet Singh Walia, passed away, he was associated with which sports **Table Tennis**.

- **Note:** He became the national champion in 1989 when he beat S Sriram in the men's singles final in Hyderabad.

- Renowned personality Shafique Ansari passed away recently, he was associated with which field **Acting**.

- **Note:** TV actor Shafique Ansari passed away. He was best-known for his appearance in TV series 'Crime Patrol'.

- Renowned **Writer** Ratnakar Matkari passed away.

- **Note:** Last week he was tested positive to

coronavirus. He was born on 17th November 1938 in Mumbai, India.

- He was the director and producer of numerous Marathi films and he was a self-taught artist and writer In the 1970's he wrote many columns for multiple newspapers and magazines.

- He was known for his acting skills who made his mark in plays like Prem Kahani, Vinashakadun Vinashakade, Lokakatha 78 and State Lote.

- Former JDS MP **Raja Rangappa Nayak** passed away recently.

- **Note:** He had represented the Raichur constituency, Karnataka and was elected in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1996.

- Veteran Bengali author **Debesh Roy** passed away recently.

- **Note:** Debesh Roy was known as a writer who broke the set patterns in the fictional world of Bengali literature.

- His famous works includes Tista Parer Brittanto, Borisaler Jogen Mondal, Manush Khun Kore Keno and Samay Asamayer Brittanto. He won the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel 'Tista Parer Brittanto' in 1990.

- Padma Bhushan recipient Bangladeshi professor **Anisuzzaman** passed away recently.

- **Note:** He was born on February 18, 1937, in Calcutta, Bengal Presidency, British India and shifted to Bangladesh soon after the partition in 1947.

- He made an immense contribution to Bangla language & literature through his research and writings.

- Famous sportsperson of **Tennis** Ashley John Cooper passed away at the age of 83 in Sydney

- **Note:** Cooper, the former Ranked No.1 player, led Australia's Davis Cup team to victory over the United States to retain the title in 1957.

- A right-handed serve-and-volley player, Cooper won 8 Grand Slam titles- 4 Grand Slam singles and 4 Grand Slam doubles titles in the amateur era.

- Famous **Hockey** sportsperson Balbir Singh Dosanjh, passed away recently.

- **Note:** Balbir Singh Sr. made his International



debut in May 1947 tour of Sri Lanka.

- He was appointed as the Captain of Indian hockey team for the Melbourne Olympics in 1956.
- He wrote his biography “The Golden Hat Trick: My Hockey Days” in 1977.
- Renowned **Football Coach** Gigi Simoni passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was an Italian football official, player & manager.
 - Simoni played as an attacking midfielder for Mantova, Napoli, Torino, Juventus, Brescia and Genoa.
- Noted **Classical Singer** Shyamala G. Bhavé passed away.
 - **Note:** Her father, late Govind VitthalBhavé, trained her in Hindustani music, while she was tutored in the Carnatic stream by noted vocalists A Subbaraya and B Doreswamy.
- Renowned **Author** Mujtaba Hussain passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Hussain was described as the Mark Twain of Urdu. He began his literary career from “Siasat”, a leading Urdu daily published from Hyderabad.
- Famous **Football** R. Shanmugam passed away.
 - **Note:** Shanmugam played for Mohun Bagan in 1968, Indian Railways in the 1969 Nowgong senior Nationals, Tamil Nadu in the 1970 Jalandhar & ’71 Chennai senior Nationals.
- Famous personality Stanley Ho passed away.
 - **Note:** Stanley Ho is one of the richest men in Asia and the head of Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) holdings and famously known as the Casino kingpin of Gambling.
- First chief minister of **Chhattisgarh** Ajit Pramod Kumar Jogi passed away.
 - **Note:** Jogi studied Mechanical Engineering at the Maulana Azad College of Technology & also won the University Gold Medal.
 - He served as a lecturer at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Raipur and was also a successful IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer.
 - In 1998, Jogi was elected as a Lok Sabha

member from Raigarh, Chhattisgarh and became a spokesperson of the Indian National Congress (INC) party.

- Famous personality associated with Indian cinema passed away recently, he was a veteran **lyricist**.
 - **Note:** Famous Indian Lyricist and writer Yogesh Gaur, commonly known as Yogesh in the film industry passed away at the age of 77 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - He wrote the lyrics of hit songs “Kahinduur jab din dhal jaye” and “Zindagikaisihaipaheli” that defined the superhit film Anand (1971).

April 2020

- ✓ Professor **Arjun Dev** passed away recently; he was a veteran **Historian**.
 - **Note:** He served as a historian at the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT).
- ✓ Nobel Prize- winning physicist who expanded the world’s understanding of magnetism, superconductivity and the structure of matter, passed away -- **Philip Warren Anderson**.
- ✓ Padma Shri awardee and former “**HazooriRaagi**” at the Golden Temple, passed away -- **Bhai Nirmal Singh Khalsa**.
- ✓ World renowned virologist **Gita Ramjee** passed away in Johannesburg, South Africa.
 - Gita was born on April 8, 1956, in Kampala, Uganda. She served as the Clinical Trials Unit Principal Investigator and Unit Director of the HIV Prevention Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) offices in Durban.
- ✓ Libya’s former Prime Minister **Mahmoud Jibril el-Warfally** passed away due to Coronavirus.
 - **Note:** He served as the interim Prime Minister (PM) of Libya for almost a year during the Libyan Civil War in 2011, chairing the executive board of National Transitional Council and



later killed Moammar Gaddafi in 2011.

✓ **Malayalam Music Composer M.K. Arjunan** passed away recently.

- **Note:** He tuned about 700 songs, many of them among the biggest hits of all time.
- He was awarded Kerala State award for the best composer in 2017 for Jayaraj's Bhayanakam.

✓ Famous sportsperson Radomir Antic passed away recently.

- **Note:** Radomir Antic, Serbian football manager and player, the only man to have coached Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atlético Madrid, passed away at the age of 71 in Madrid, Spain.

✓ Two-time **Grammy award winner & Grammy lifetime achievement award** winner American folk singer **John Prine** passed away recently.

✓ Famous Indian American **Brahm Kanchibotla** passed away due to coronavirus.

- **Note:** In recent years, he has been writing for two Indian-American publications, the Indian Panorama and the South Asia Times.
- During his 28-year career in the US, he worked for 11 years as a content editor for Merger Markets, a financial publication, and also worked for News India-Times Weekly.

✓ Famous Shanti Hiranand Chawla passed away recently.

- **Note:** Shanti was trained in thumri, dadra and ghazal singing by Begum Akhtar. With the passing of Shanti Hiranand the Begum Akhtar era is formally over.

✓ Legendary sportsperson Sir Stirling Moss passed away recently.

- **Note:** Moss was widely regarded as the greatest driver never to win the Formula One drivers' world championship.

✓ Famous sportsperson Peter Bonetti passed away recently.

- **Note:** He was part of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team but was unused throughout the tournament.

✓ Renowned **Politician M V Rajasekharan** passed away recently.

- **Note:** He was former Union Minister of State of planning and statistics and veteran Congress leader. He was also agriculture and rural development consultant. He was born on 12th September 1928 in Maralawadi in Ramanagara District, Karnataka.

✓ Famous sportsperson Zafar Sarfaraz passed away recently.

- **Note:** Former Pakistani first-class cricketer, Zafar Sarfaraz, 50 years, who tested positive to COVID-19 passed away in a hospital at Peshawar, Pakistan. He was born on 30th October 1969 in Peshawar, North West Frontier Province, Pakistan.

✓ Renowned personality **Ranjit Chowdhry** passed away recently.

- **Note:** He was well known for his performance in classic comedies like Batou Batou Mein as Sabhi Pereira and Khubsoorat as Jagan Gupta. His mother Pearl Padamsee, was a Jewish descent and a well-known drama teacher and stage and film actress and his stepfather Alyque Padmsee, was a theatre actor, director and head of an advertising company in Mumbai.
- He started his film career with "Khatta Meetha" as Russi Mistry.

✓ **Luis Sepúlveda Calfucura**, the best-selling Chilean writer and journalist passed away due to coronavirus complications.

- **Note:** He was with Chile's Communist Youth and socialists working against Pinochet regime and in 1973 he was arrested and imprisoned for treason for 2 and half years and freed after the intervention of Amnesty International.

✓ The former prime minister of Fiji, **Laisenia Qarase** passed away recently.

- **Note:** The founder of the



SoqosoqoDuavata Ni Lewenivanua Party & former Fiji Prime Minister (2000-2006) Laisenia Qarase passed away at 79 in Oceania Hospital, Suva due to an illness.

- ✓ Renowned personality Eugene Merrill Deitch passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was one of the directors behind world's most popular cartoons and directed 13 episodes of Tom and Jerry.
 - He also won the 'Academy Award' for his Best Animated Short Film named "Munro" in 1960.
- ✓ Name the Indian theatre director-actor and activist **Usha Ganguly** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Usha Ganguly, was an Indian theatre director-actor and activist, most known for her work in Hindi theatre in the 1970s and 1980s, passed away at the age of 75 in Kolkata, West Bengal.
 - She was born in Jodhpur, Rajasthan in 1945.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson **Michael John** passed away recently, he was associated with **Football**.
 - **Note:** Former Republic of Ireland and Liverpool forward footballer Michael John Robinson passed away at the age of 61 in Marbella, Spain.
 - He was the winner of the 2018 Vazquez Montalban International Journalism Award.
- ✓ Renowned personality Irfan Khan passed away.
 - **Note:** The actor was admitted to Kokilaben Hospital in Mumbai after suffering from colon infection.
 - He has acted in several remarkable movies like Maqbool, Paan Singh Tomar, The Lunchbox, Haider, Piku, Hindi Medium, Slumdog Millionaire, Jurassic World, The Amazing Spiderman and Life of Pi.
 - He was honoured with various awards along with Padma Shri which is the fourth highest civilian award of India.
- ✓ Renowned **Actor Rishi Kapoor** passed

away.

- **Note:** Rishi breathed his last at the Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital in Mumbai. His wife and actor Neetu Kapoor was by his side.
- Born in the first family of Hindi cinema, Rishi Kapoor was the son of the man India call the showman, Raj Kapoor, and grandson of the famous Prithviraj Kapoor.
- Rishi was the second son of Raj and the sibling of Randhir, Ritu Nanda, Rima Jain and Rajeev Kapoor.

March 2020

- Padma Shri awardee Balbir Singh Kullar passed away, he was associated with **Hockey**.
- Dronacharya awardee coach Joginder Singh Saini passed away, he was associated with **Athletics**.
- Former chairman & CEO of General Electric (GE) Company **John Francis Welch Jr** passed away at the age of 84. He was also known as "Neutron Jack."
- Former UN Chief & Prime Minister of Peru **Javier Perez de Cuellar** passed away recently.
- Name the Buddhist religious leader in Bangladesh passed away -- **SuddhanandaMahathero**.
- Name the famous Swedish Actor **Carl Adolf von Sydow** passed away recently.
- Santu Mukhopadhyay or Santu Mukherjee passed away recently, he was associated with **Cinema**.
- Former Czechoslovak javelin-thrower **Dana Zatopkovap** passed away recently.
- Dr Puthussery Ramachandran passed away recently, he was a veteran **Malayalam poet**.
- Former world champion boxer and trainer **Roger Mayweather** passed away.
- Pradip Kumar Banerjee passed away at the age of 83 in Kolkata, he was associated with **Football**.
- Meenakshisundaram Ramasamy Viswanathan, popularly known as Visu passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
- Veteran **Actor** Kenneth Ray Rogers passed away recently
- French comic book artist, scriptwriter, the co-creator and illustrator of the "Asterix and Obelix" who



passed away -- **Alberto Aleandro Uderzo**.

- Name the former India football player and 1970 Asian games bronze medallist passed away recently -- **Abdul Latif**.
- Nawab Banoo alias Nimmi passed away recently was a famous **Bollywood actress**.
- Nemai Ghosh passed away recently, was a veteran **Photographer**.
- Rajyogini Dadi Janki passed away recently, she was chief of which spiritual organization **Brahmakumaris Sansthan**.
- Paravai Muniyamma who passed away recently, was a famous **Tamil Folk Singer**.

Environment and Ecology News

February 2021

Hyderabad gets recognition as '2020 Tree City of the World'

- **The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the Arbor Day Foundation** have recognized Hyderabad as a '2020 Tree City of the World'.
- Hyderabad earned recognition in the Foundation's second year of the programme along with 51 other cities globally and the only city in India to get this recognition so far.
- Most of the cities were from the US, UK, Canada, Australia among other countries.

New alpine plant species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- A new species of alpine plant in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district has been discovered by a group of scientists of three institutes of the country.
- The discovery of the species was published in '**Biodiversitas: Journal of Biological Diversity**'.
- The new species belongs to the family of Himalayan sunflower.
- It is named as '**Cremanthodium indicum**' and the plant species, which generally flowers from July to August, is endemic to Penga-Teng Tso Lake of Tawang district.
- **Note:** The alpine plant species is assessed as critically endangered, according to the IUCN guidelines.

Mandarin duck sighted after 118 years in Assam

- A colourful duck from eastern Asia spotted in Assam after 118 years has raised hopes for a wetland that was affected by a blowout and inferno at a natural gas well in May-June, 2020.
- The duck, whose primary habitat is in eastern China and southern Japan, had landed in Assam by accident too.
- Its scientific name is *Aix galericulata*.
- The **mandarin duck** is a perching duck species native to the East Palearctic. It is medium-sized, at 41–49 cm long with a 65–75 cm wingspan. It is closely related to the North American wood duck.

First highway with wildlife protection corridor

- According to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, The Delhi-Saharanpur-Dehradun Economic corridor will be India's first highway where there will be a 12-kilometer long elevated corridor for protection of wildlife.
- The highway project is being developed between Delhi's Akshardham and Dehradun in four sections.
- The ministry has decided to execute the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project under Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) mode.
- This highway project, once completed, will reduce the distance between the two cities from 235 km to 210 km, and travel time from the current 6.5 hours to just 2.5 hours.

Reliance gets world's first 'carbon-neutral' oil from US

- This transaction is a first step in the creation of a new market for climate-differentiated crude oil.
- Reliance Industries Ltd has sourced the world's first consignment of 'carbon-neutral oil' from the US as it looks to become a net zero-carbon company by 2035.
- Reliance got 2 million barrels of consignment. The Oxy Low Carbon Ventures (OLCV), which is a division of US oil major Occidental, had delivered the carbon-neutral oil to Reliance.
- Occidental is the first US-based international



energy company to announce an ambition to achieve net-zero GHG emissions associated with the use of its products by 2050.

- **Note:** Mukesh Ambani's Reliance operates the world's largest single-location oil refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat with a capacity of 68.2 million tonnes a year.

Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR) becomes the fifth tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu is set to get its fifth tiger reserve spread over one lakh hectares of land under the Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary and Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved the new tiger reserve.
- The proposal states that the new tiger reserve will not only lead to wildlife protection of the country's flagship species but will also result in the rejuvenation of the Vaigai River by protecting the river's origins in these forests.
- **Note:** The first tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu – **Kalakkad Mundanthurai** – was formed around 1988-89, which was followed by **Anamalai** and **Mudumalai** in 2008 and 2009. The fourth reserve – **Sathyamangalam** – was created around 2013-14.
- This will be the **51st tiger reserve in the country**.

South Korea plans to construct world's largest offshore wind farm

- South Korea plans to build an 8.2 GW offshore wind farm in Jeonnam province by 2030.
- The offshore wind farm project is expected to boost South Korea's wind power capacity to 16.5 GW by 2030 from 1.67 GW now.
- **Note:** **Currently, the world's largest offshore wind farm is Hornsea 1 in Britain, which has 1.12 GW capacity.**
- **Facts about South Korea:**

Capital: Seoul

President: Moon Jae-in

Currency: South Korean won

Denmark to create world's first energy island in the North Sea

- Denmark approved a plan to build the world's first energy island in the North Sea that will produce and store enough green energy to cover the electricity needs of 3 million European households.
- The energy island, which will cost around 210 billion Danish crowns (\$33.9 billion) to build, is an important part of Denmark's legally binding target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2030 from 1990 levels, one of the world's most ambitious.
- **Note:** Denmark also has plans for an energy island in the Baltic Sea.

National Marine Turtle Action Plan launched

- The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has released 'Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Guidelines' and 'National Marine Turtle Action Plan'.
- India has rich marine biodiversity along a vast coastline of over 7,500 km. India's coastal waters and beaches provide foraging and nesting sites for a variety of marine species, including sea turtles.
- **Five species of sea turtles are known to inhabit Indian coastal waters and islands.** These are the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Green (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and the Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) turtles. Except the Loggerhead, the remaining four species nest along the Indian coast.
- They are protected in Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

2021: Year of Indo-French alliance towards a Greener Planet

- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar and Ms Barbara Pompili, the French Minister for Ecological Transition launched the Indo-French Year of the Environment.
- The Indo-French Year of the Environment over the period 2021-2022 would be based on **five main themes:** environmental protection, climate change, biodiversity



conservation, sustainable urban development, and the development of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

- **Note: India** has made significant progress towards climate change action & has already achieved 26% of reduction of emission intensity. As of 2020 the renewable capacity in India stands at 90 GW which includes 36 GW of solar energy & 38 GW of wind energy.

India gets its first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM)

- On the occasion of the World Wetland Day, the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Babul Supriyo announced the establishment of a Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management, as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, an institution under the Ministry.
- **Note:** India has nearly 4.6% of its land as wetlands, covering an area of 15.26 million hectares and has 42 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), with a surface area of 1.08 million hectares.
- **NamamiGange** is the first of its kind program where Wetland Conservation is integrated with Basin Management Plan.

Uttarakhand sets up first arboretum for Shivalik range

- A first of its kind arboretum conserving over 210 species of trees found in the Shivalik range of Himalayas was inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Nainital district.
- The arboretum was inaugurated by Ajay Singh Rawat, a noted environmentalist from Uttarakhand.
- The Shivalik Arboretum has over 210 tree and shrub species, making it one of the biggest arboretum in the state. Some of the trees preserved include Kafal, Buransh, Tejpat and Sanjeevani.
- **Note: Shivalik range or Outer Himalayas** spreads across states and union territories like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and seven states in the country's northeast.

January 2021

India's first pollinator park opens in Uttarakhand

- The Uttarakhand forest department dedicated the newly built Pollinator Park to the public, claiming it to be the country's first such park, spread over 4 acres in Haldwani in Nainital district.
- The park has more than 40 pollinator species with displays on the mechanism of pollination of plant species by various species of butterflies, honeybees, birds, insects, moths, beetles, wasps, and small mammals.

India to be a co-chair of regional forum to conserve wildlife habitats

- After successfully increasing population of wild animals such as tigers, lions and leopards through protecting their habitats, India will be the co-chair of the IUCN-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) for three years.
- The APAP, formally launched at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Australia in 2014, is chaired by IUCN Asia and co-chaired by an APAP country member. India will replace South Korea which held this position for three years till November, 2020.

Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife approves advisory for Human-Wildlife Conflict management

- The advisory envisages empowering gram panchayats in dealing with the problematic wild animals as per the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Utilising add-on coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna for crop compensation against crop damage due to Human Wildlife Conflict and augmenting fodder and water sources within the forest areas are some key steps envisaged to reduce Human Wildlife Conflict and payment of a portion of ex-gratia as interim relief.
- **Note:** The National Board for Wildlife is constituted by the Central Government under Section 5 A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



Euphranta siruvani -New species of fruit fly from India named after Siruvani in Western Ghats

- Euphranta siruvani is a new species of fruit fly in the family Tephritidae. This species is reported from the Siruvani which is an ecological hot spot located in the Western Ghats of India.
- This species has been collected from a non forest area near Siruvani in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu, India. This species is differentiated from other species of Euphranta by the presence of a 'V' shaped black band on the wing.

PCRA launches a month long mass awareness campaign 'SAKSHAM' to spread awareness about 'Green and Clean Energy'

- With a view to create awareness among the consumers of fossil fuels, Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched a month long campaign 'SAKSHAM' (Sanrakshan Kshamata Mahotsav), highlighting the adverse health and environmental impacts of increasing carbon footprints.
- The campaign through various pan-India activities such as cyclothon, farmer workshops, seminars, painting competition, CNG vehicle driving contest, etc will spread awareness among masses about the advantages of using clean fuels.

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI): Sunderbans is home to 428 species of birds

- Indian Sunderbans is home to 428 species of birds, a recent publication "Birds of the Sunderban Biosphere Reserve" by ZSI.
- **About Indian Sundarbans:** The Sundarbans National Park is a national park, tiger reserve, and biosphere reserve in West Bengal, India.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 1987, and it has been designated as a Ramsar site since 2019.
- It is considered as a World Network of Biosphere Reserve (Man and Biosphere Reserve) from 1989.
- Indian Sundarbans were considered

endangered in a 2020 assessment under the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems framework.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari approved a proposal to levy a "Green Tax" on old vehicles which are polluting the environment

- Some important principles to be followed while levying the Green Tax are: Transport vehicles older than 8 years could be charged Green Tax at the time of renewal of fitness certificate, at the rate of 10 to 25 % of road tax, Personal vehicles to be charged Green Tax at the time of renewal of Registration Certification after 15 years, Electric vehicles and alternate fuels like CNG, ethanol, LPG and vehicles used in farming, such as tractor, harvester, tiller etc to be exempted.

CAQM setting up Decision Support System for air quality for Delhi-NCR

- The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas has begun the process of setting up a Decision Support System (DSS).
- It will have a web, Geographical Information System (GIS) and multi-model based operational and planning decision support tool.
- The Commission has entrusted the task to expert groups from reputed knowledge institutions of the country for framework development of Air Quality Management Decision Support System. These are India Meteorological Department (IMD), IITM-Pune, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), IIT-Delhi, NEERI and C-DAC Pune. The System will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to help improve the air quality.
- **Note:** Recently, the Centre has set up the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in Delhi-NCR and adjacent areas with former Delhi chief secretary M M Kutty as the new body's first chairperson.

December 2020

Ladakh's Tso Kar Wetland Complex now a Wetland of



International Importance

- India has added Tso Kar Wetland Complex in Ladakh as its 42nd Ramsar site, which is a second one in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.
- The Tso Kar Basin is a high-altitude wetland complex, consisting of two principal waterbodies, Startsapuk Tso, a freshwater lake of about 438 hectares to the south, and Tso Kar itself, a hypersaline lake of 1800 hectares to the north, situated in the Changthang region of Ladakh, India.
- **Note:** The Tso Kar Basin is an A1 Category Important Bird Area (IBA) as per Bird Life International and a key staging site in the Central Asian Flyway.

A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Ramsar convention is an inter-governmental environmental treaty established by UNESCO and came into force in 1975.

New population of blue whales discovered in western Indian Ocean

- Scientists have found evidence of a previously undiscovered population of blue whales living in the western Indian Ocean based on an analysis of sound recordings from the region.
- In a recently published study in the journal Endangered Species Research, the scientists analysed recordings from the Arabian Sea coast of Oman, and as far south as Madagascar, and found a blue whale song that had never been described.
- According to the researchers this population of blue whales was previously assumed to belong to the same that had been studied off Sri Lanka, ranging into the southcentral Indian Ocean.

Scientists discovered a new species of wild Sun Rose from the Eastern Ghats in India

- The name of the new species is *Portulaca laljii* which has been discovered from Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh.
- It has unique features such as a tuberous root, no hair in its leaf axils, a reddish pink flower, prolate-shaped fruits, and copper brown seeds without lustre.

- It is named after Lal Ji Singh. He was a well-known botanist from the Botanical Survey of India.
- This species has been included in the “Data Deficient” category of the IUCN Endangered Species List.

The ‘Status of Leopard in India 2018’ report

- The ‘Status of Leopard in India 2018’ report was released by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- India now has 12,852 leopards. More than 60 percent increase in population has been recorded over the previous estimate which was conducted in 2014.
- **Note:** The States of Madhya Pradesh (3,421), Karnataka (1783) and Maharashtra (1690) have recorded the highest leopard estimates.

Researchers discovered a new frog species

- The researchers from multiple India Institutions and one from France, has found a new species of burrowing frog and named it *Sphaerotheca Bengaluru*, outside its natural habitat in a barren tract of land near Rajankunte, outskirts of Bengaluru.
- The new species was described based on the morphological differences and molecular approach with known species of the burrowing frogs.
- **Note:** The new species is a part of the team’s effort in documenting the ‘Amphibians in the Deccan Plateau parts of Karnataka’.

Cyclonic Storm ‘Burevi’

- According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Cyclonic Storm Burevi is a currently active tropical cyclone which has made landfall in Sri Lanka and is threatening parts of southern India.
- **Note:** It is the fifth named cyclone in the 2020 North Indian Ocean cyclone season. The others are Cyclone Gati, Cyclone Nisarga, Cyclone Nivar and Cyclone Amphan.
- Cyclone Burevi is the third Cyclone to hit Tamil Nadu in two years after Cyclone Gaja in 2018 and Cyclone Nivar recently.



'Blue tide' spotted at Juhu beach

- **The blue tide phenomenon was observed in several stretches of Maharashtra coast-such as Juhu Beach.** According to Coastal Conservation Foundation director Shaunak Modi, the 'blue tide' was spotted at Juhu Koliwada.
- The 'blue tide' producing a fluorescent blue hue is a beautiful sight to behold. This phenomenon is called bioluminescence.
- **Note:** Bioluminescence has been observed across the coastline of many beaches in the world such as Indonesia, the USA, the Maldives, Vietnam, Australia and many other countries.
- This is a recurring phenomenon which is caused by bioluminescent plankton called *Noctiluca scintillans*, commonly known as sea sparkle. While smaller blooms may be harmless, slow-moving larger blooms may cause severe hypoxic conditions that result in fish die-offs in an area.
- **Bioluminescence** is the production and emission of light by a living organism. According to the National Ocean Service, bioluminescence in the ocean is not as rare as you might think. "In fact, most types of animals, from bacteria to sharks, include some bioluminescent members."

Banned catfish Thai Mangur

- A shocking incident came to light in Maharashtra, where almost thousands of tons of banned catfish, Thai Mangur are illegally being bred in over 125 artificial ponds in rural Thane.
- Thai Mangur has been banned by the National Green Tribunal in 2000 as they destroyed the local ecosystem and were considered harmful for human consumption too.
- **About Thai Mangur:** Ranging from Rs 100-150 per kg, Thai Mangur is easy and cheap to rear. The carnivorous species was introduced to India in the 1990s and it is originally from Africa and the Middle East.
- Artificial tanks are constructed in large farmlands by the local cultivators. It

aggressively devours all organisms in any natural pond, thereby damaging the local ecosystem and biodiversity.

- The banned catfish species is a low-maintenance investment for cultivators as it can feed on anything and can even survive in hostile conditions, even staying alive outside water for a long time.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the "India Climate Change Knowledge Portal"

- Portal will be a "single point Information resource" which provides information on the different climate initiatives taken by various Line Ministries enabling users to access updated status on these initiatives.
- The portal captures sector-wise adaptation and mitigation actions that are being taken by the various line Ministries in one place including updated information on their implementation. The knowledge portal will help in disseminating knowledge among citizens about all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address climate change issues.
- **The eight major components included in the knowledge portal are:**
 - India's Climate Profile, National Policy Framework, India's NDC goals, Adaptation Actions, Mitigation Actions, Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation, International Climate Negotiations, Reports & Publications.
 - Web Portal link: <https://www.cckpindia.nic.in/>

India to launch Deep Ocean Mission in 3-4 Months

- Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will soon launch an ambitious "Deep Ocean Mission" that envisages the exploration of minerals, energy, and marine diversity of the underwater world, a vast part of which still remains unexplored.
- The mission, which is expected to cost over ₹ 4,000



crores, will give a boost to efforts to explore India's vast Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf.

- The multi-disciplinary work will be piloted by the MoES and other government departments like the Defence Research and Development Organisation, Department of Biotechnology, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will be stakeholders in this mission.
- **Note:** In September 2016, India signed a 15-year contract with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for the exploration of Poly-Metallic Sulphides (PMS) in the Indian Ocean. The ISA is an institution set up under the Convention on Law of the Sea to which India is a Party.

Cyclone Nivar

- Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Nivar was a tropical cyclone that brought severe impacts to portions of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in late November of 2020. An area of low pressure was formed in the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of Tamil Nadu.
- The seventh depression and fourth named storm of the 2020 North Indian Ocean cyclone season, Nivar originated from a disturbance in the Intertropical Convergence Zone. The disturbance gradually organized and both the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported that a tropical depression has formed. Nivar made landfall near Tamil Nadu's Marakkanam and in Karaikal, Puducherry also.

November 2020

International Crops Research Institute permitted to use drones for agricultural research activities

- Civil Aviation Ministry and Directorate General of Civil Aviation have granted conditional permission to the International Crops Research Institute for the deployment of drones for agricultural research activities.
- **Note:** Drones are poised to play a big role in

the agriculture sector especially in areas like precision agriculture, locust control and improvement in crop yield. The government is encouraging young entrepreneurs and researchers to look at low-cost drone solutions for more than 6.6 lakh villages in the country.

Lonar Lake in Buldana district of Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'

- India has 41 wetlands, the highest in South Asia, with two more added to the list of recognised sites of international importance under the treaty of Ramsar Convention.
- **Note:** Recently, Kabartal in Bihar's Begusarai district was recognised as a wetland of international importance, the first such wetland in the State, under the Ramsar Convention.
- The Asan Conservation Reserve in Dehradun, the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be recognised by Ramsar convention, was added to the list in October this year.
- **About Ramsar Convention:** Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971.

US (United States) formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement

- The US is the only country to withdraw from the global pact.
- The US is the second leading producer of all carbon dioxide emissions globally, behind China.
- **The Paris Agreement** is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance.
 - **Signatories:** 195
 - **Signed:** 22 April 2015



- **Effective:** 4 November 2016
- **Location:** Paris, France

NCAER Report on “Estimating the economic benefits of Investment in Monsoon Mission and High-Performance Computing Facilities”

- The report was released by the Union Minister of Science and Technology, Health and Family Welfare and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan.
- **Main highlights of the report:**
 - The NCAER report refers to economic benefits as direct monetary gains to crop farmers, livestock rearers, and fishermen in the country. According to the report, India’s investment of nearly 1,000 Crores in the National Monsoon Mission and High-Performance Computing (HPC) facilities would provide benefits worth rupees 50 thousand Crores to nearly 1.07 Crore below poverty line (BPL) agricultural households and 53 Lakh BPL fisher-folk households in the country.
 - **Note: National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** is an independent, not for profit, economic policy research and think tank based in New Delhi.

Super Typhoon Goni

- Super Typhoon Goni, the world's most powerful storm in four years, crashed through the Philippines, smashing buildings, toppling trees, and causing floods and mudslides.
- **Note:** A **typhoon** is a mature tropical cyclone that develops between 180° and 100°E in the Northern Hemisphere. This region is referred to as the Northwestern Pacific Basin, and is the most active tropical cyclone basin on Earth, accounting for almost one-third of the world's annual tropical cyclones.

October 2020

India’s Global Himalayan Expedition wins UN award for efforts to fight climate change

- An Indian organisation that leverages tourism and technology to help remote community’s access solar energy has won a

prestigious UN award for its efforts to combat climate change amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The recipients of the 2020 United Nations Global Climate Action Awards, bring focus to the best examples of what people across the globe are doing “to combat climate change in a year that has cast darkness upon so many.”
- According to a statement on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, **GHE is the one of the world’s first outfits using tourism and technology to bring solar energy to remote communities** as recognised by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

Asan Conservation Reserve gets Ramsar site tag - a first for Uttarakhand

- Asan Conservation Reserve has become the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be included in the prestigious Ramsar sites list.
- Besides Asan, Kabartal Wetland from Bihar was the second new site to get included in this list.
- On the fresh inclusion, the Ramsar website stated that “India has named two new Wetlands of International Importance, bringing its total number of ‘Ramsar Sites’ to 39.”
- Asan attracts a big population of migratory birds in winters. The man-made wetland possibly attracts the biggest number of Brahminy Duck or Ruddy Shelduck in the entire India.
- **About Ramsar Convention:** Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971.
 - **Location:** Ramsar, Iran
 - **Effective:** 21 December 1975
 - **Signed:** 2 February 1971

Kaleshwaram irrigation project got



environmental clearance 'ex post facto' in violation of law: NGT

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) held that environmental clearance was granted to the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project in Telangana "ex post facto" in violation of legal requirement, and formed a committee to assess the extent of damage caused and identify the restoration measures.
- **About Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project:** It is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally, Telangana, India. Currently the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project, its farthest upstream influence is at the confluence of the Pranhita and Godavari rivers.

NSS (National Sample Survey) REPORT: TIME USE IN INDIA- 2019

- NSO (National Statistical Office) conducted the first Time Use Survey in India during January – December 2019.
- The survey measures the time spent and participation rate on paid activities, unpaid activities, care activities etc.

Note: The primary objective of Time Use Survey (TUS) is to determine the participation of women and men in paid and unpaid activities. TUS is an essential source of information on the time spent in unpaid caregiving activities, volunteer work and unpaid domestic service-producing activities. TUS also provides information on time spent on leisure activities, learning, socializing, self-care activities, etc., by the household members.

Features of the Survey:

1. Coverage: This survey covered 1,38,799 households (urban: 55,902 and rural: 82,897).
2. Data collection: In this survey data on time use was collected through a personal interview method.
2. Presentation of the estimates: The results have been presented here considering all the activities in the time slots instead of considering only the primary activity.

India's first 5 Animal bridges to come up on Delhi-Mumbai Greenfield Expressway

- The Delhi-Mumbai expressway will have five animal bridges or animal overpasses with a combined length of over 2.5 km.
- The upcoming expressway project will have India's first animal bridges that will be designed keeping in mind not to disturb the environment and wildlife section that comes up on the way of over 1,200 km long expressway.
- These bridges have been planned to abide by the concerns of not disturbing the wildlife movement on a section of Ranthambore Wildlife Corridor that comes on the way connecting Ranthambore and Mukundra (Darah) wildlife sanctuaries in Rajasthan.

Note: Wildlife crossings or animal bridges are a practice in habitat conservation, allowing connections or reconnections between habitats, combating habitat fragmentation. And also assist in avoiding collisions between vehicles and animals.

September 2020

- ✓ H-CNG
- The Road Transport Ministry has permitted use of H-CNG (18% mix of hydrogen) in CNG engines. It is an alternative clean fuel for transportation. The BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) has developed specifications (IS 17314:2019) related to Hydrogen enriched Compressed Natural Gas (H-CNG) for automotive purposes, as a fuel.
- Note: H-CNG (hydrogen compressed natural gas) is essentially Compress Natural Gas which has been blended in with Hydrogen. H-CNG has the ability to reduce carbon monoxide, methane, and hydrocarbon emissions compared to regular CNG being used whether as automotive fuel or in other applications.
- ✓ PM Modi to inaugurate six mega projects under Namami Gange Mission in Uttarakhand
- The projects include the construction of Sewage Treatment Plant, up-gradation of the existing Sewage Treatment Plant at Jagjeetpur and construction of a Sewage



Treatment Plant at Sarai, in Haridwar, Sewage Treatment Plant at Lakkadghat in Rishikesh, Plant in Chandreshwar, Sewage Treatment Plant at Chorpani, and two plants at Badrinath.

- “Ganga Avalokan”, the first museum at Chandi Ghat, Haridwar on Ganga dedicated to showcasing the culture, biodiversity and rejuvenation activities done in Ganga River will be inaugurated by Prime Minister.
- The logo of Jal Jeevan Mission and ‘Margdarshika’ will also be unveiled.
- Note: Namami Gange Mission, is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 with a budget outlay of Rs. 20,000 Crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.
- ✓ Eight Indian beaches for the globally recognized Blue Flag eco-label for the first time
 - The Indian beaches, selected are:
 - 1. Golden Beach(Puri), Odisha
 - Radhanagar Beach, Andaman Island
 - Rushikonda, Andhra Pradesh
 - Kappad, Kerala
 - Kasarkod, Karnataka
 - Padubidri, Karnataka
 - Ghogla, Diu
 - Shivrajpur, Gujarat
 - Note: The Blue Flag is awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators. For qualifying for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained. There are nearly thirty-three criteria that must be met to qualify for a Blue Flag certification, such as the water meets certain quality standards, having waste disposal facilities, being disabled-friendly, have first aid equipment etc.
- ✓ International Coastal Cleanup Day:
 - The 35th International Coastal Cleanup Day was celebrated on Sep 19 consecutively for the ninth year by the Indian Navy today at Visakhapatnam. The event was also aimed to create awareness among the general public

to keep beaches clean and to support the noble efforts of GVMC in making ‘The City of Destiny – Vizag’ a clean city.

- ✓ Kaziranga National Park in Assam
 - Home to the Asiatic one-horned rhinos, the Kaziranga National Park in Assam has been increased by 3,053 hectares.
 - The government issued a notification approving the seventh, eighth, and ninth additions to the World Heritage Site. These include encroachment-evicted areas and wildlife habitat at riverine islands that were vulnerable to encroachment.
 - As part of the ecosystem, animals, particularly elephants and deer, stray out of the park during the flood and move to the KarbiAnglong hills. This is the time when the poachers increase their activities. The addition of new areas to the park is expected to ensure the better protection of animals.

This prestigious national park of India is situated in the northeastern part of the country in the district of Golaghat and Nagaon in the state of Assam.

- ✓ Solarization of Indian Railway stations
 - Recently as part of the Indian Railways’ plan to become a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has held a meeting with stakeholders in the solar power sector and discussed innovative solutions for setting up solar projects along railway tracks.
 - Aimed at becoming self-reliant and self-sustenance for all its power needs, Indian Railways has solarized more than 960 stations till date.
 - Indian Railways is committed to utilize solar energy for meeting its traction power requirement and become a complete 'green mode of transportation'.
 - Indian Railways has a mega plan for installing solar plants of 20 GW capacity by utilizing its vacant land by 2030 and achieve 100 per cent electrification by the year 2023.

Highlights

- Solar power in India is a fast-developing industry. The country's solar installed capacity was 35,122 MW as of 30 June 2020.
- India has the lowest capital cost per MW globally of installing solar power plants.



- Rooftop solar power accounts for 2.1 GW, of which 70% is industrial or commercial.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA), proposed by India as a founder member, is headquartered in India. India has also put forward the concept of "One Sun One World One Grid" and "World Solar Bank" to harness abundant solar power on a global scale.

✓ **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.

✓ **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**.
- ✓ 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**.
- ✓ 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.

✓ **'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.

✓ **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.

August 2020

✓ **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

✓ 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.

✓ 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.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **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.

July 2020

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **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.

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

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

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

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

- ✓ According to the report "Annual Marine Fish Landings in India for 2019" by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) **Tamil Nadu** state grabbed the top in annual fish production.

- ✓ India's rank in the "INFORM Report 2020: Shared evidence for managing crises and disasters" released by research centre INFORM -- **31st**.

Note: The report ranked the countries based on "INFORM Risk Index" which has been topped by Somalia with an inform risk of 8.9. The report has



analyzed 191 countries. Notably, this report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) on behalf of all INFORM Partners.

✓ Union Environment and Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar hailed the KURMA mobile application related with **Indian Turtles**.

✓ As per the update report on India's Tiger Survey from 2018, released by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest number of tigers.

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

✓ **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched a mega plantation programme 'Mission Vriksharopan-2020'.

✓ **Assam's** DehingPatkai Wildlife Sanctuary is being upgraded to a National Park is located in which state of India.

Note: It is located within the larger DehingPatkai Elephant Reserve, spreading across the coal- and oil-rich districts of Upper Assam (Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sivasagar). After upgradation, DehingPatkai will be the 6th national park in Assam. The other five are Kaziranga, Nameri, Manas, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.

✓ Poba Reserve Forest would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary in **Assam**.

Note: Assam Chief Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has announced, Poba Reserve Forest in Dhemaji district would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary. The announcement was made during a meeting with senior officials of Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Majuli districts at Jonai. Poba Reserve Forest declared in 1924 with an area of 10,522 hectares is home to a large number of flora and fauna.

✓ **Andhra Pradesh** government has announced Renewable Energy Export Policy 2020, which permits

the sale of power to the other states of India.

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

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

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

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

✓ What will be the rise in mean average global temperature in next 5 years as per the report "Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2020-24" released by the WMO -- **1.5°C**.

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

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

✓ **Germany** become the first industrialized country to phase out of both coal and nuclear energy.

Note: This phase out is a part of Germany's "energy transition" to reduce the use of fossil fuels and to support the use of renewable resources. German closed its last coal mine in 2018 and



committed to close its nuclear power plants by 2022.

- ✓ The **World Wildlife Crime Report 2020** is published by **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** organization that says that India and Thailand are the main source of (82%) of illegal shipment of tiger body parts.
- ✓ **Nicaragua** has become the 87th country to join the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, an initiative led by India to promote sustainable energy.
Note: The ISA is an alliance of 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- ✓ Under the aegis of International Solar Alliance (ISA) NTPC Ltd planned to establish solar power plants in **Sri Lanka**.
- ✓ The polycarbonate facility of SABIC in **Spain** is set to become the world's first large scale chemical production plant which will run entirely on renewable energy.
Note: Once the solar plant is operational, SABIC's customers including the ones from automotive and constructive sectors will have access to polycarbonate solutions produced with 100 per cent renewable power.

June

- ✓ **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2020:**
Note: It is released by Yale, Columbia University along with WEF providing state of sustainability around 180 countries using 32 performance indicators. India is ranked 168th. The index is topped by Denmark (82.5%), followed by Luxemburg (82.3%) and Switzerland (81.5%).
- ✓ **Nisarga** has been given to the fast-moving depression in the Arabian Sea which intensified into a severe cyclone.
Note: As per the India Meteorological Department, the impact of the cyclone is likely to be felt in Maharashtra and Gujarat. There is a concern about the impact of the cyclonic storm on the

battle against Covid-19, as the rain and flooding may set back social distancing and other necessary measures at evacuation centres, and even at some Covid-19 facilities located in low-lying areas.

- ✓ **Adani Green Energy Limited** has won one of world's largest solar contract from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to develop 8 GW of solar projects.
Note: Based on the award agreement the 8 GW of solar development projects will be implemented over the next five years. The first 2 GW of generation capacity will come online by 2022 and the subsequent 6 GW capacity will be added in 2 GW annual increments through 2025.
- ✓ An Integrated Flood Warning System (IFLOWS) has been launched for **Mumbai**.
Note: Named as 'Boon' and developed for Mumbai it will help the people in a "big way" as it can predict floods. The system was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).
- ✓ The colour of water in Lonar lake has changed to pink due to salinity and presence of algae in the water body. The lake is located in **Maharashtra**.
Note: The lake was formed after a meteorite hit the Earth some 50,000 years ago. Located around 500 km from Mumbai, the Lonar lake is in Buldhana district of Maharashtra. The lake, which is a notified national geo-heritage monument, has saline water with pH of 10.5.
- ✓ Maharashtra government has decided to rename the state's Environment Ministry as 'Environment and Climate Change Ministry'.
Note: The decision to change the name comes just weeks after the state was hit by a severe cyclonic storm Nisarga on June 3, 2020. Maharashtra is one among a few states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana in India which have a dedicated department to address climate change.
- ✓ The forest department of **Uttarakhand** state has developed India's first lichen park.



Note: Lichens are found in the Himalayas up to 5000 metres are important species as they are the best bioindicators of the pollution levels. Uttarakhand has more than 600 species of lichens followed by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir with 503 and 386 species respectively.

- ✓ **Western Railway** has created a new world benchmark by successfully running first Double-Stack Container Train in high-rise in Over Head Equipment electrified territory on.
Note: This achievement is a first of its kind in the entire world and will also boost the ambitious mission of Green India. The Operations successfully commenced on 10th June from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat.
- ✓ **India** become the first country to control locusts through drones.

Jan-May 2020

- ✓ **StartupBlink's Ecosystem Ranking Report 2020 ranked 1,000 cities across 100 countries:**
Note: As per the report, India has dropped to 23rd rank in 2020 from 17th rank in 2019. US has topped the report, followed by UK, Israel, Canada, and Germany. The ranking is based on Quantity, Quality and Business Environment. Only 4 Indian cities are placed in top 100: Bengaluru (14th rank), Delhi (15th), Mumbai (22nd) and Hyderabad (96th)
- ✓ **World Economic Forum released Global Energy Transition Index:**
Note: It is a fact-based ranking to enable policymakers and businesses across the world to plot a successful energy transition. India is ranked **74th**. Index is **topped by Sweden** followed by Switzerland and Finland
- ✓ **NTPC & ONGC to set up JVC for Renewable Energy Business**
Note: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by NTPC Limited, and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) to set up a Joint Venture Company for Renewable Energy

business. This partnership will enable both the companies to accelerate their mark in the field of Renewable Energy.

- ✓ The central government has brought the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) under **Jal Shakti Ministry**.
Note: Earlier it was under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. This decision is a formality of business allotment, which means that the authority must report to the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The move will have no impact on the independent nature of the functioning of the authority. Water management authorities of other rivers have also been brought under the ministry, which was earlier under the same ministry as CWMA.
- ✓ According to Mercom India Research's 'India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020' report **7.3 Giga Watt (GW)** solar energy generation capacity India has added during calendar year 2019.
- ✓ Name the webinar organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and National Institute of Urban Affairs on theme "The future of River Management" -- **IDEAthon**.
- ✓ As per International Energy Agency (IEA) "Global Energy Review 2020 due to COVID 19 India's energy demand falls by **30%**.
Note: It means that with each additional week of lockdown, India's annual energy demand is reduced by 0.6%. The impact on Q1 2020 energy demand in India was modest, with demand increasing by 0.3 relative to Q1 2019. In India, energy demand would decline for the first time, following on from low demand growth in 2019. The report is based on an analysis of around 100 days of real-data of 2020.
- ✓ Public sector oil company **Oil India Ltd (OIL)** will get the environmental clearance for extension drilling and testing of hydrocarbons at 7 locations inside the Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (NP).
Note: The clearance was given as part of the Centre's target to reduce 10% imports and the Northeast



Vision 2030. And the commercial production from this area shall also enable OIL to meet the same centre's target

- ✓ Electric mobility company **Ola Electric Mobility** has acquired Amsterdam-based electric scooter-maker Etergo.

Note: It would leverage Etergo's design and engineering capabilities to build its smart electric two-wheeler for international and Indian markets. Ola Electric aimed to launch its global electric two-wheeler in India in 2021.

- ✓ **Uttarakhand** become the first state to release report on conservation of endemic, threatened floras.

Note: The project aims at Germplasm conservation so that species remain conserved with the forest department & also to promote conservation of plant species among the general public so as to end plant blindness. The report is one of the largest repositories of conserved plants & is carried out by the research wing of the state forest department.

- ✓ **FAO** organization has released Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020.

Note: According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the forest loss rate in 2015-2020 has declined to an estimated 10 million hectares (mha), down from 12 mha in 2010-2015. The world has lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya.

- ✓ **Jim Corbett National Park** becomes the India's 1st quarantine centre for animals.

Note: Jim Corbett National Park has become the India's 1st quarantine centre for animals with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). It is India's oldest forested wildlife sanctuary located in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand. At least 10 quarantine centers are being set up within the complex to handle the corona virus prey animals & Cameras will be installed in the park to monitor the cold and cough symptoms of animals.

- ✓ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)** has been appointed as the implementing agency to handle the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Note: MNRE will timely review the maximum permissible VGF amount & will reduce if the cost difference comes down. In Case of the existing clause, the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) handled the scheme on behalf of the ministry. The CPSU Scheme Phase II aims to set up 12,000 MW grid-connected solar PV power projects under the government producers with the VGF support for self-use or by government entities either directly or through discoms

- ✓ **Dharmendra Pradhan** chaired the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) meeting approved & allowed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to convert the available surplus rice to ethanol.

Note: Recently the government has also allowed sugar companies and distilleries to make hand sanitizers using ethanol. By using the surplus rice for ethanol, it will address about 750 million litres from the total capacity of 2 billion litres of grain-based distillery capacities lying idle

- ✓ **Tamil Nadu** state topped in the all-India level for micro-irrigation (MI), under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

- ✓ **Gujarat** government has approved the 3rd edition of his government's 'SujalamSufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan' (SSJA).

Note: The scheme will continue till June 10, 2020 with a focus on deepening of lakes, check dams and rivers by removing silt. It will be done with people's participation as well as under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). The scheme will create employment opportunities for the rural population amid the lockdown.

- ✓ The World Wildlife Day is celebrated around the world on **3rd March**.

Note: The World Wildlife Day (WWD) has been



celebrated based on the theme “Sustaining all life on Earth”. The day aims to celebrate the beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora & raises awareness for conservation of wildlife. The main objective of this day is to familiarize the common people with the diverse forms of wildlife and flora. At the same time people have to create awareness about the many benefits for their conservation

- ✓ The International Day of Forests (IDF) is observed annually on **21st March**.

Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests. The theme of the day this year is “Forests and Biodiversity”.

- ✓ **National Chambal Sanctuary** has received eco-sensitive zone tag.

Note: Centre notified 870 sq km around the National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh(MP) as eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) to prohibit polluting activities like industries, major hydroelectric project, mining, stone quarrying & big construction within the ‘no-go area’ for the purpose of conservation of water bodies, unique geographical features(ravines), flora & fauna.

- ✓ Under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), a financial assistance of Rs 1.51 crore has been sanctioned to **Kaziranga National Park**.

- ✓ Government targeted to achieve sales around 70 lakh hybrid & electric vehicles by the end of **2020**.

Note: The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Minister of Information & Broadcasting & Minister of Heavy industries and Public Enterprises Prakash Javadekar informed that the government has set an ambitious target to achieve sales of around 70 lakh hybrid & electric vehicles by the end of 2020. In 2015 as part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan(NEMMP) 2020, Department of Heavy Industry formulated the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) scheme.

- ✓ **Jharkhand** becomes the third state in India to launch its “Star Rating Program”.

Note: The state government of Jharkhand will launch its “Star Rating Program” on June 5, 2020, to rate industries based on the amount of pollutants generated by them. With this, it became the 3rd state in India to launch this system for industries after Maharashtra & Odisha. The program will be implemented by the Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB) in association with the University of Chicago Trust (UC Trust).

- ✓ The World Wetlands Day was observed on **February 2, 2020**.

Note: World Wetlands Day (WWD) was observed to spread awareness and to conserve the wetlands all over the world. The of this year day is “Wetlands and Biodiversity”. The theme highlights the importance of biodiversity conservation, which conveys nearly 40% of the world’s plant & animal species live or breed on wetlands.

- ✓ **NTPC** has signed an MoU with Central Pollution Control Board to provide financial support for installation & commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations.

- ✓ To combat Climate Change, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has announced the launch of “Bezos Earth Fund” worth **\$10 billion**.



Important S&T, Defence, Health News

Science and Technology:

February 2021

American space agency NASA lands its rover 'Perseverance' on Mars successfully

- The American space agency NASA successfully landed its fifth rover 'Perseverance' on Mars in a deep crater near the planet's equator called Jezero.
- It will attempt to collect around 30 rock and soil samples, to be eventually sent back to Earth sometime in the 2030s for lab analysis.

TIFAC unveils two new initiatives of Technology —SAKSHAM and a Seaweed Mission

- Two new initiatives of Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC):
- (i) SAKSHAM (Shramik Shakti Manch)- a dynamic job portal for mapping the skills of Shramiks vis-à-vis requirements of MSMEs to directly connect Shramiks with MSMEs and facilitate placement of 10 lakh blue-collar jobs and (ii) Seaweed Mission for commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing for value addition towards boosting national economy were launched on the occasion of the 34th Foundation Day celebrations.
- **About Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC):** It is an autonomous technology think tank under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India.
Executive Director: Pradeep Srivastava
Headquarters: New Delhi
Founded: 1988

ISRO tests satellites developed by private sector for the first time

- Two satellites by Indian startups—SpaceKidz India and Pixxel (incorporated as Sygyzy)—were tested at the UR Rao Satellite Centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bengaluru.
- Earlier ISRO had only provided launch facilities to private firms at a cost.
- **Note:** In June 2020, ISRO chairman K Sivan

had announced that the agency will open its labs, testing facilities and quality facilities to private companies so they don't have to invest in infrastructure.

- An independent body, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (**IN-SPACE**), was set up to not only to oversee the space activity of the private sector, but also to share ISRO facilities.

Jammu and Kashmir to get 1st impact-based flood forecasting system

- Jammu and Kashmir is likely to get the country's first impact-based flood forecasting system in collaboration with the UK space agency, enabling the prediction of the impact impending floods may have on people's lives including, houses, crops, livestock, and transport routes, thereby helping in mitigating several of these challenges.
- **Note:** A recent report has put India among the 10 most disaster prone countries in the world and ranked floods as one of the greatest climate-related hazards.
- J&K falls in seismic zone IV and V, making it prone to quakes as well.
- **Facts about Jammu and Kashmir:**
Union territory established: 31 October 2019

Capital: Srinagar (May–October), Jammu (Nov–April)
Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha

MapmyIndia ties up with ISRO to build an alternative to Google Maps

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has entered into an agreement with MapmyIndia to develop mapping and other location-based services in India, which MapmyIndia suggested could become an alternative to widely-used Google maps and similar products.
- **About MapmyIndia:** It is an Indian technology company that builds digital map data, telematics services, location-based SaaS and GIS AI services. The company was founded in 1992 and is headquartered at New Delhi.



Indian astronomers detect huge optical flare from super massive black hole

- According to the Department of Science and Technology, Indian astronomers have reported one of the strongest flares from a feeding super massive black hole or blazar called BL Lacertae.
- The analysis can help to trace the mass of the black hole and the source of this emission and can provide a lead to probe mysteries and trace events at different stages of evolution of the Universe.
- **BL Lacertae blazar** is 10 million light-years away and is among the 50 most prominent blazars that can be observed with the help of a relatively small telescope.
- It was among the 3 to 4 blazars that was predicted to be experiencing flares by the Whole Earth Blazar Telescope (WEBT), an international consortium of astronomers.

IIT Madras-incubated startup Pi Beam has launched an electric two-wheeler, PiMo, for Rs 30,000

- PiMo is a vehicle that's between an electric bicycle and entry-level electric scooter.
- PiMo, having 90% of components manufactured in India, is a stylishly designed two-wheeler offering a range of 50 km on a single charge with a top speed of 25 kmph.
- The company aims to sell 10,000 units by the end of next financial year (2021-22).
- **About Pi Beam:** "Pi Beam is an incubated company at IIT-M to bring electric mobility in India. They have been working on vehicles which essentially enable carrying of goods and passengers.

Stardust 1.0, the first rocket to run on biofuel

- Recently, Stardust 1.0 was launched from Loring Commerce Centre in Maine, US, a former military base, becoming the first commercial space launch powered by biofuel, which is non-toxic for the environment as opposed to traditionally used rocket fuels.
- **About Stardust 1.0:** It is a launch vehicle suited for student and budget payloads. The

rocket is 20 feet tall and has a mass of roughly 250 kg. The rocket can carry a maximum payload mass of 8 kg and during its first launch carried three payloads.

- The rocket is manufactured by bluShift, an aerospace company based in Maine.

India's first geothermal power project to be established at Puga village of eastern Ladakh

- India's first ever geothermal power project, known as Geothermal Field Development Project is planned to commission by the end of 2022.
- The tripartite MoU was signed between ONGC Energy, LAHDC, Leh and the Power Department of UT Ladakh.
- The project will work in different stages. In the first phase of the pilot project, one megawatt (MW) power generation capacity will be generated.
- **Note:** Puga has been identified as the hotspot of geothermal energy in the country by the scientists. Puga is a place where it is uncovered with a potential of more than 100 mw of geothermal energies.

Odisha's Balasore to get Country's first Thunderstorm Research Testbed

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is all set to establish the country's first thunderstorm research testbed at Balasore.
- The objective of setting up the thunderstorm testbed is to minimise human fatalities and loss of property due to lightning strikes.
- The thunderstorm testbed will be established in collaboration between the Ministry of Earth Sciences, IMD, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **Note:** IMD Director-General Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra also revealed that a first-of-its-kind monsoon testbed is also being planned near Bhopal.

Square Kilometre Array Observatory launched

- Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council held its maiden meeting and approved the establishment of the world's largest radio telescope.



- SKAO is a new intergovernmental organisation dedicated to radio astronomy and is headquartered in the UK.
- The Square Kilometre Array Observatory Council aims to build and operate two radio telescope networks, which would be the largest and most complex ones ever conceived.
- With these two networks, the intergovernmental organisation hopes to answer some of the fundamental questions regarding the universe. The two networks will be based in South Africa and Australia.
- Around 16 countries are currently a part of the project either at a government or national-coordination level or as observers.
- **India** is participating in the Square Kilometre Array Observatory at a national-coordination level, led by the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

India's first CNG Tractor

- India's first-ever diesel Tractor, converted to **CNG (Compressed Natural Gas)**, will be formally launched by the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Sh. Nitin Gadkari.
- The conversion, carried out jointly by Rawmatt Techno Solutions & Tomasetto Achille India, will help farmers increase their income, by lowering costs, and help to create job opportunities in rural India.
- **Important benefits of conversion to CNG are:**
 - It is a Clean Fuel as it has the lowest content of carbon and other pollutants.
 - It is part of Waste to Wealth as stubble (Parali) can be used as a raw material for producing Bio-CNG which will help the farmers to earn money by selling it to the Bio-CNG production units in their locality

Visual intelligence tool TEJAS, e-Auction India, 'Work from AnyWhere' portal launched on silver jubilee of NICSI

- On the occasion of silver jubilee of National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI), a public sector enterprise under

National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched visual intelligence tool TEJAS, e-Auction India, 'Work from AnyWhere' and NIC products portfolio.

- **Facts about National Informatics Centre (NIC):**

Founded: 1976

Director General: Neeta Verma

Headquarters: New Delhi

Parent organisation: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

The Department of Space has entered into a Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with Skyroot Aerospace Pvt. Ltd.

- The NDA will enable the company to access the facilities and technical expertise available in ISRO centers to proceed with their launch vehicle development program.
- **About Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited:** It is an Indian private aerospace manufacturer and commercial launch service provider located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The company was founded by former engineers and scientists from ISRO, DRDO, and various aerospace companies.
- **Note:** The company has been developing its first launch vehicle, the "Vikram-I," which is on track for its initial launch around December 2021.

January 2021

Prime Minister lays foundation stone of Light House projects (LHPs)

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Light House projects (LHPs) under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) at six sites across six States. The programme seeks to build over 1,000 houses each in six cities in 12 months.
- The LHPs are being constructed at Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).

He also released a certification course on innovative



construction technologies named NAVARITIH (New, Affordable, Validated, Research Innovation Technologies for Indian Housing).

BARC develops eye cancer therapy for treatment of ocular tumours

- Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai develops eye cancer therapy in the form of the first indigenous Ruthenium 106 Plaque for treatment of Ocular Tumours.
- The handling of plaque is very convenient for the Surgeon and it has been acknowledged to be at par with the international standards.
- **Note:** Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is developing Bullet Proof Jackets for security personnel and in the Agricultural sector, radiation techniques to extend shelf life of vegetable and food products are being applied.

Indian Oil launches first remote monitoring system for oil refineries

- Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the country's largest fuel retailer, announced it has launched the country's first remote monitoring system for oil refineries' turbines.
- The project, located in Hyderabad, was inaugurated by oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- The Remote Monitoring & Operation Centre for Tracking of Indian Oil's Refinery Gas Turbines was implemented by BHEL-GE Gas Turbine Services (BGGTS), a joint venture of BHEL and General Electric.
- This analysis will help in detection and diagnosis of emerging issues relating to gas turbines.

Skyroot Aerospace becomes first Indian company to test-fire solid-fueled rocket engine 'Kalam-5'

- Indian Space startup, Skyroot Aerospace, has proven the crucial propulsion technology of their maiden rocket Vikram-1, with the latest test-firing of an engine. Vikram-1 rocket is powered by four engines - three solid-fuel stages and one Liquid-fuel stage that the firm has designed and developed.
- In August 2020, the company had tested its liquid-fueled engine and now has proven the

technology of the solid-fueled engine (Kalam-5), by successfully test-firing a miniature version.

- Kalam-5 is the first of five Kalam series of solid rocket motors.

Education Minister lays foundation stone of IIT Hyderabad's TiHAN Foundation

- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has laid the foundation stone of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad's TiHAN Foundation.
- Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation Systems for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Remotely Operated Vehicles at IIT Hyderabad, known as 'TiHAN Foundation' has been incorporated as a Section-8 company by the institute in June 2020.

DRDO Signs MoU with MAHA-METRO for implementation of Advanced Biodigester Mk-II Technology in Metro Rail Network

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Government of India's premier research agency and Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation (MAHA -METRO), a joint venture company of the GoI and Government of Maharashtra are working together to conserve water and protect the environment by installing DRDO's eco-friendly biodigester units in its facilities.
- DRDO's biodigester is an indigenous, green and cost-effective technology, with a rare distinction of having one of the largest numbers of DRDO-licensees.
- **Note:** Indian Railways has already installed about 2.40 lakh biodigesters in its fleet of passenger coaches.

Khadi Prakritik Paint

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari launched an innovative new paint - India's first cow dung paint - developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- The eco-friendly, non-toxic paint, called "Khadi Prakritik Paint" is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties.



- It is available in two forms – distemper paint and plastic emulsion paint.
- **Note:** The project was conceptualized by Chairman KVIC in March 2020, and later developed by Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute, Jaipur (a KVIC unit).

ISRO to adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Labs to promote education

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will adopt one hundred Atal Tinkering Labs across the country to promote education in the field of Space Education and Space Technology related innovations for school students.
- To foster entrepreneurship and innovation, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog has established over seven thousand Atal Tinkering Labs across the country.

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicates coastal research vessel ‘Sagar Anveshika’ to Nation at Chennai Port Trust

- Sagar Anveshika will enable scientists to conduct various oceanographic research missions.
- Marine scientists can travel six kilometers below the sea and stay for more than 16 hours and can conduct research activities.
- **Note:** NIOT (National Institute of Ocean Technology) already has Research Vessels- Sagar Kanya, Sagar Sampada, Sagar Nidhi, Sagar Manjusha & Sagar Tara.

National Informatics Centre (NIC) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Ministry of Education along with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, provided the CollabCAD Software and released a comprehensive e-book on CollabCAD 3D modeling

- NIC and CBSE also signed a Memorandum of Understanding for ‘CollabCAD Software Support and Training for Students and Faculty in Engineering Graphics Curriculum for CBSE affiliated Schools’ for a period of 10 years.
- **About CollabCAD:** It is the first indigenous tool created by NIC in partnership with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. It is a collaborative network-enabled and desktop software system, providing a total engineering solution from 2D drafting & detailing to 3D product design for students and faculty of Engineering Graphics Curriculum.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan dedicates an Innovation Portal developed by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India to the nation

- The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan dedicated an Innovation Portal, developed by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India, an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, to the nation.
- The National Innovation Portal (NIP) is currently home to about 1.15 lakh innovations scouted from common people of the country, covering Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary and Human Health.

India’s first indigenously designed & developed ‘Driverless Metro Car.’

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, unveiled state-of-the-art ‘Driverless Metro Car’ for Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).
- Indigenously designed & developed state-of-the-art Driverless Metro trains are being manufactured at BEML Bangaluru Complex.
- MMRDA project has 63 percent indigenous content which will enhance to 75 percent in next two to three years.
- Shri Rajnath Singh also launched the Aerospace Assembly Hangar, situated within BEML’s Bangalore Complex, and unveiled the first indigenously manufactured Tatra Cabin by BEML.

Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates the new entity CSIR-NIScPR with a new Vision

- The Union Minister of Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a new institute of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) i.e. CSIR-National Institute of Science



Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR).

- The new institute has been established consequent to the merger of two prestigious institutes of CSIR namely, CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR) and CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS) which work at the interface of S&T and Society; and Science Communication and Policy Research.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to establish Quantum Computing Applications Lab in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS)

- Quantum computing is an emerging field harnessing the laws of quantum mechanics to build powerful tools to process information and has the potential to solve computational problems that are beyond the reach of classical computers.
- It will also provide quantum computing as a service to the government ministries and departments, researchers, scientists, academia, and developers, to enable advances in areas such as manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, and aerospace engineering.
- **Facts about Amazon Web Services:**
CEO: Andy Jassy
Founder: Amazon.com
Founded: 2006
Headquarters: United States

Elon Musk's SpaceX creates new world record; launches 143 satellites on single rocket

- The 143 satellites launched include commercial and government CubeSats, microsats and 10 Starlink satellites.
- With these satellites, SpaceX aims to provide near-global broadband internet coverage all over the world by 2021.
- The launch vehicle for the SpaceX record-breaking flight was the Falcon 9 rocket.
- **Note:** SpaceX has beaten the Indian space agency ISRO's record of deploying 104 satellites in a single launch in February 2017.

New ant species discovered from Kerala named after JNCASR researcher, evolutionary biologist Prof. Amitabh Joshi

- Two new species of a rare ant genus have been discovered in India. The species of the ant genus *Ooceraea* found in Kerala and Tamil Nadu add to the diversity of this rare genus. They differ from others of the same genus on the basis of the number of antennal segments.
- One of them found in the Periyar Tiger Reserve of Kerala, has been named *Ooceraea joshii*, in honour of Prof. Amitabh Joshi, a distinguished evolutionary biologist from **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)** an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.
- The other, named *Ooceraea decamera*, was discovered from Alagarkoil in Madurai.

CSIR-CMERI unveils the first-ever 'Aqua Rejuvenation Plant' which facilitates an Organic Farming Model through treated Waste Water

- CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur unveiled the first-ever Waste Water Treatment Technology Model which purifies Waste Water for Irrigation/Farming purposes.
- Prof. (Dr.) Harish Hirani, Director, CSIR-CMERI inaugurated the 'Aqua Rejuv' at CSIR-CMERI colony in Durgapur (West Bengal).
- **Aqua Rejuvenation Plant (ARP)** is an Integrated Waste Water Rejuvenation Model which has Six-Stage purification profile for comprehensive treatment of Waste Water, based upon diverse purification parameters.

December 2020

Niti Ayog launches made-in India cloud storage service, DigiBoxx

- DigiBoxx is India's first homegrown Digital Asset Management Platform where we can store and collaborate with your digital assets, like raw files, photographs, sensitive collateral, etc.
- This is a made-in India service that will store and



encrypt data within the country. It is available on the web and Android as of now with iOS support arriving soon.

- Like Google Drive and Apple's iCloud service, DigiBoxx will enable individuals and enterprises to store, manage, collaborate, organise and share all their data online.

India's first-ever driverless train operations on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first-ever driverless train operations on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line.
- He also inaugurated a fully operational National Common Mobility Card service on the Airport Express Line.
- **Note:** In 2014, only 5 cities had metro rail and today, metro rail is available in 18 cities. By the year 2025, metro rail will be available in more than 25 cities.

Mobile Application "Swachhata Abhiyan"

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot launched a Mobile Application "Swachhata Abhiyan".
- This mobile application has been developed to identify and geotag the data of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers so that the insanitary latrines can be replaced with sanitary latrines and rehabilitate all the manual scavengers to provide dignity of life to them.
- **Note:** "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" mandates survey of insanitary latrines, their demolition and construction of sanitary latrines in their place.

IMD launches country's highest Meteorological Centre in Leh

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) will now provide specialised weather forecasts for traffic movement on highways, agriculture, and defence personnel **from its Ladakh centre**. Located at 3,500 metres above sea level in Leh, it will be the highest Meteorological Centre (MC) in India.
- It will provide short range (3 days) medium

range (12 days) and long range (one month) forecast for the two districts Leh and Kargil of the Union Territory.

- **Note:** After Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, the Leh centre is the second Meteorological Centre located in the Himalayas.

India's first Lithium refinery in Gujarat

- India's first Lithium refinery which will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material will be set up in Gujarat.
- Manikaran Power Limited, one of the country's largest power trading and renewable energy company will be investing over Rs 1,000 crore to set up this refinery.
- **Note:** Lithium is a rare element not usually found in India. The company will be importing Lithium ore from Australia and will be processing it here.

INCOIS launches web based Digital Ocean app

- INCOIS (Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has launched a web-based application Digital Ocean to share information on marine data and forecast services.
- It is a first of its kind platform for ocean data management and contributes to the Digital India program.

India's first Centre of Excellence for Skill Development in Power Sector

- Skill India has established the first Centre of Excellence for Skill Development in the Power Sector in the campus of National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram, Haryana.
- The Centre of Excellence is an outcome of collaboration between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, along with the Ministry of National Education and Youth, Government of France and Schneider Electric.
- The Centre of Excellence will focus on creating a pool of highly skilled trainers and assessors for further training to increase employability of candidates in the field of



Electricity, Automation and Solar Energy Sectors.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020

- 6th IISF 2020 is being organized jointly by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in association with Vijnana Bharati (Vibha) from December 22 - 25, 2020.
- The theme is 'Science for Self-Reliant India and Global Welfare'.
- It aims to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students and innovators.

ISRO sets up dedicated control centre 'NETRA' for Space Situational Awareness (SSA)

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has set up a dedicated Control Centre 'NETRA' (NETwork for space object TRacking and Analysis) at ISTRAC campus at Peenya, Bengaluru to monitor, track and protect India's space assets.
- Directorate of Space Situational Awareness and Management (DSSAM) has been established at ISRO to enhance Space Situational Awareness.
- **Note:** Only America, Russia and Europe have similar established capabilities in place to track space objects and share collision warnings.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates the advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel test facility in Hyderabad

- The state-of-the-art facility is a pressure vacuum driven enclosed free jet facility with nozzle exit of one-meter diameter.
- The project is an indigenous development and an outcome of synergistic partnership with Indian industries.
- **Note:** With this India has become the third country to have such a huge facility in size and capability after America and Russia.

ISRO successfully launches CMS-01 Communication Satellite on board PSLV-C50 Rocket

- CMS-01 is the 42nd communication satellite of the space agency and it is envisaged for providing services in Extended-C Band of the frequency spectrum covering India, Andaman and Nicobar, and Lakshadweep islands.
- **Note:** The satellite is going to function as a replacement for communication satellite GSAT-12 which was launched 11 years ago. CMS-01 will have a lifespan of over seven years, according to ISRO.

Cabinet approves setting up of public Wi-Fi networks

- The Cabinet approved setting up of public Wi-Fi networks under 'PM-WANI' (Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) to provide public Wi-Fi service through Public Data Offices without levy of any License Fee.
- "The scheme would enable small shopkeepers to provide Wi-Fi service. This will boost incomes as well as ensure youth gets seamless internet connectivity. It will also strengthen our Digital India mission.

Co-WIN mobile app announced for COVID-19 vaccine delivery

- The Union Health Ministry has announced a digital platform called 'Co-WIN' to monitor the entire vaccination process and enable people to register themselves for the vaccination.
- **Note:** This Co-WIN app will have 5 modules that will help vaccinators, administrators and people who will get these vaccine shots. These modules would include administrator module, registration module, vaccination module, beneficiary acknowledgement module and report module.

Quantum Communication between two DRDO Laboratories

- DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization) developed Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology underwent



trials in Hyderabad between two DRDO labs, DRDL (Defence Research and Development Laboratory) and RCI (The Research Centre Imarat), to show secure communication.

- **Note:** The technology is developed by CAIR, Bengaluru and DYSL-QT, Mumbai. Quantum Communication using the time-bin Quantum Key Distribution scheme was performed under realistic conditions.

DRDO's new laboratory named 'Defence Geo-Informatics Research Establishment'

- DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) has created a new laboratory named Defence Geo-Informatics Research Establishment by merging two existing labs.
- First is the Manali-headquartered Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment (SASE) and the second is the Delhi-based Defence Terrain Research Laboratory (DTRL).
- Note: The new lab will focus on research on terrain and avalanches along the border with China from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.
- The SASE has been very actively engaged in the study of snow and avalanches in the operational areas. It has prepared an avalanche atlas of almost 3,000 on-road locations in different parts of the country where the armed forces are deployed. The DTRL had been working on different terrains where the armed forces are deployed.

NHSRCL adopts aerial LiDAR Survey technique to conduct the ground survey for Delhi-Varanasi High Speed Rail Corridor

- National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) will be adopting Light Detection and Ranging Survey (LiDAR) technique using Laser enabled equipment mounted on a Helicopter for conducting ground survey for the preparation of Detailed Project Report for the proposed Delhi-Varanasi HSR corridor.
- Note: The aerial LiDAR survey technique, for the first time for any railway project in India, was adopted for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor primarily because of its high accuracy. The ground survey using aerial LiDAR for

MAHSR alignment was done only in 12 weeks against the 10-12 months if had been done through traditional survey methods.

November 2020

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

- India has become the fourth country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS).
- The other three countries that have its navigation systems recognised by the IMO are the US, Russia and China.
- The **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)** was designed to provide accurate position information services to assist in the navigation of ships in Indian Ocean waters.
- IRNSS was a modern and more accurate navigation system and at any given time, there are at least 2,500 merchant vessels in Indian waters that will now be able to use the system.
- The IRNSS will be used to assist in the navigation of ships in ocean waters within the area of approximately 1,500 km from the Indian boundary.
- **Note:** The Maritime Safety Committee of IMO during its recent meeting held from 4 to 11 November 2020 has approved the recognition of the IRNSS as a component of the World-wide radio navigation system.

India's Artificial Intelligence supercomputer Param Siddhi has achieved 63rd rank among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world

- According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, the AI (Artificial Intelligence) system will strengthen application development of packages in areas such as advanced materials, computational chemistry and astrophysics.
- Several packages are being developed under the National Supercomputing Mission for



drug design and preventive health care system, flood forecasting package for flood prone metro cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Patna and Guwahati. This will accelerate Research and Development in war against COVID-19 through faster simulations, medical imaging, genome sequencing and forecasting and will be a boon for Indian masses and for start-Ups and MSMEs in particular.

Indian astronomers collaborated with Nobel laureate, Andrea Ghez on Thirty Meter Telescope Project

- 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Prof. Andrea Ghez had worked closely with Indian astronomers on the design of back-end instruments and possible science prospects of the Thirty Meter Telescope project being installed at Maunakea in Hawaii, which can revolutionized the understanding of the universe and the enigmas in it.
- The Thirty-meter telescope (TMT) project is an international partnership between CalTech, Universities of California, Canada, Japan, China, and India.

Virgin Hyperloop completes first passenger ride successfully

- In the Nevada desert, Virgin Hyperloop tested human travel in a hyperloop pod for the first time.
- The Richard Branson's Virgin Hyperloop has successfully trialed its first journey with two humans sitting in a pod across an airless tube at nearly a speed of 160 kilometers per hour.
- **Note:** The hyperloop is a high-tech way of transportation. This technology aims to make the transport faster than conventional methods but without being a burden on the environment.

AIM (Atal Innovation Mission) and Russia's SIRIUS (Scientific International Research In Unique Terrestrial Station) launch 'AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0'

- The first Indo-Russian bilateral youth

innovation initiative, the AIM-Sirius programme seeks to develop technological solutions (both web- and mobile-based) for the two countries.

- Over a two-week programme, from 7–21 November 2020, 48 students and 16 educators and mentors will create 8 virtual products and mobile applications addressing global challenges across a range of areas such as culture, distance education, applied cognitive science, health and well-being, sports, fitness, and games training, chemistry, artificial intelligence, and digital financial assets in the wake of the covid-19 pandemic.
- **Note: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country, based on a detailed study and deliberations on innovation and entrepreneurial needs of India in the years ahead.

India's latest Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 launched successfully by ISRO

- India's workhorse rocket PSLV-C49 has successfully launched India's latest Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 and placed into its intended orbit.
- Nine satellites, including four each from the US and Luxembourg and one from Lithuania, have been launched in the Mission.
- The successful PSLV mission has resulted in increased capacity for the user agencies of the nation in viewing the surface of the earth seamlessly for agriculture, forestry and disaster management applications.
- **Note:** Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 will form part of a family of such payloads that will enhance the capacity of the nation to view the earth from above in a seamless fashion irrespective of the weather or atmospheric conditions.

IISc, IOCL sign MoU for hydrogen-generation technology

- The Bengaluru based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Research and Development Centre of Indian Oil



Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) have signed an MoU to develop and demonstrate biomass gasification based hydrogen generation technology for producing fuel cell-grade hydrogen at an affordable price.

- The technology is crucial for the fuel cell operated buses being conceived by Indian Oil towards ushering in the country's hydrogen economy.

Dynamatic Technologies Ltd. and CSIR-CSIO sign MoU for joint development of futuristic solutions

- Bengaluru-headquartered Dynamatic Technologies Ltd and Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIR-CSIO) have signed a MoU for jointly designing, developing and manufacturing futuristic solutions for the defence and aerospace, healthcare and agriculture industry.
- The MoU was inked to develop collaborative activities in the research areas of Multi-spectral surveillance payloads of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), spraying technologies including electrostatic techniques for agricultural purposes using UAS, Instrumentation for ventilators and for homeland security applications.

DST (Department of Science and Technology) launches schemes for women scientists, researchers in science and engineering

- Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan launched the SERB – POWER schemes that aim to encourage women researchers to undertake R&D activities in frontier areas of science and engineering.
- The schemes will promote women researchers in regular service in academic and research institutions to take up R&D at the highest level through two categories of research support: SERB – POWER Fellowship and SERB – POWER Research Grants.
- **Note:** The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) is a body under the Department of Science and Technology.
- Globally, just 30 per cent of the world's researchers are women while 18.6 per cent

of India's full-time R&D personnel are women.

IBM, Indian Oil Corporation collaborate for digital services

- IBM (International Business Machines Corporation) has collaborated with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to transform the latter's customer experience using digital tools.
- The Indian Oil One mobile app and portal are part of Indian Oil's Project ePIC, an integrated platform for Customer Relationship Management and Distribution Management System.
- This platform ensures real-time updates to inventory, orders, and invoices, thereby reducing the time to order fulfillment.
- 'Project ePIC' (Electronic Platform for Indian Oil customers) is the most prominent digital transformation project managed by IBM globally, in terms of its scale, in the chemicals and petroleum industry.

October 2020

Intel AI(INAI) initiative

- During the **Artificial Intelligence 2020** virtual Summit held on October 13, 2020, the **Telangana Government** along with **Intel India** will launch an artificial intelligence research centre in **Hyderabad**. The research centre is to be launched in collaboration with International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H) and Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). The centre has been named INAI.
- INAI is an initiative to apply AI to population scale problems in the Indian context, with a focus on identifying and solving challenges in the healthcare and smart mobility segments through strong ecosystem collaboration.
- **Note: Artificial Intelligence (AI):** It describes the action of machines accomplishing tasks that have historically required human intelligence. It includes technologies like machine learning, pattern recognition, big data, neural networks, self-algorithms etc.



- NITI Aayog has published the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence wherein it has identified five core areas (**Healthcare, Agriculture, Education, Smart Cities and Infrastructure, Bandicoot robot**) for the application of Artificial Intelligence. Committee on Artificial Intelligence task force headed by **V. Kamakoti** to explore possibilities to leverage AI for development across various fields.

- Objective: The robot will not be engaging in any mining work but it will be testing the technologies and to verify and demonstrate multiple functions such as stimulated small celestial body capture, spacecraft orbital manoeuvre, intelligent spacecraft identification, and control.

ISRO to Launch Venus Mission In 2025

- Indian Space Research Organization will launch the Venus mission in 2025 with the participation of French space agency CNES.
- ISRO has selected The VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker) instrument co-developed with the Russian's & France space agency.
- Note: Venus is the second planet from the Sun. It is the hottest planet in the Solar System. It is also called Earth's "sister planet" because of their similar size, mass, proximity to the Sun, and bulk composition. Venus has no moons and no rings. The atmosphere consists mainly of carbon dioxide 96.5% and 3.5% nitrogen with traces of other gases, most notably sulfur dioxide. The surface temperature of the planet is about 900 degrees Fahrenheit (465 degrees Celsius).

“India PV EDGE 2020” on Solar Manufacturing

- To catalyze cutting-edge PV manufacturing in India, NITI Aayog, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and Invest India, are organizing a global symposium, ‘India PV EDGE 2020’, on October 6, 2020.
- Note: India has become the third-largest solar capacity country in the world and set an ambitious target of 450 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, in which 300 GW is of solar capacity. Cutting-edge giga-scale solar manufacturing stands on three pillars:
 - (i) Disruptive PV chemistries (ii) Manufacturing by custom-engineered advanced production equipment (iii) Utilization of innovative BOM components like special glasses and coatings.
- That is why companies involved in all the three pillars are invited to present and engage the Indian industry in the symposium, which will catalyze the momentum for further discussions and collaborations.

Indian start-up AgniKul Cosmos rocket to be test-launched from US facility

- AgniKul Cosmos Private Limited (It is an Indian aerospace start-up) is a Chennai-based start-up incubated at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

India’s NDC document of the Paris Agreement in 2015 called for extraordinary vision, leadership, compassion, and wisdom to combat climate change.

September 2020

- ✓ IIT Madras develops ‘MOUSHIK’ Microprocessor
- The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras developed ‘MOUSHIK’, an indigenously-made microprocessor for the Internet of things (IoT) devices.
- Note: IoT (Internet of things) is a part of hardware with a sensor that transmits data from one place to another over the Internet.
- The field applications of ‘MOUSHIK’ include smart cards including ID cards, debit cards, credit cards, travel cards for metros and driving licenses, electronic voting machines (EVMs) and office management systems including surveillance, attendance,

World’s first asteroid mining robot into space will be launched by China in last 2020

- The main aims of the mission will be to know the asteroid mining robot’s capabilities and to find out how well it can extract and identify valuable resources.
- The robot has been named ‘asteroid mining robot’ launched into space by a Chinese Long March series rocket.



cameras and safe locks, personalized health management systems, consumer electronics including but not restricted to washing machines and water pump monitoring systems.

- ✓ Setting up Plastic Parks to consolidate and synergize the plastic processing industry
- The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has approved setting up of 10 Plastic Parks in the country, out of which 6 parks have been given final approval in the States of Assam, Madhya Pradesh (two parks), Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand.
- Note: Plastic Park is an industrial zone devoted to plastic enterprises and its allies industries, the whole range of companies required by the plastics processing community from material and machinery suppliers, plastics processing companies, plastic recycling companies including waste management system.
- ✓ 'Kritagya' Hackathon by National Agricultural Higher Education Project of ICAR
- In order to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women-friendly equipment, a hackathon named "KRITAGYA" has been planned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).
- Note: (ICAR) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is an autonomous body responsible for co-ordinating agricultural education and research in India. It reports to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture.
- NAHEP has been formulated by ICAR for five years starting from 2017-18. The project aims to develop resources and mechanism for supporting infrastructure, faculty and student advancement and providing means for better governance and management of agricultural universities.
- ✓ World's largest nuclear icebreaker starts 2-week Arctic journey: Russia
- A nuclear-powered icebreaker is the world's largest and most powerful has embarked on a two-

week journey to the Arctic. Known as 'Arktika', it is over 173 metres long and can break ice almost three-metres thick. The nuclear icebreaker left St Petersburg and headed for the Arctic port of Murmansk.

- Note: A nuclear-powered icebreaker is a nuclear-powered ship purpose-built for use in waters covered with ice. The only country constructing nuclear-powered icebreakers is Russia.
- ✓ India's Second Rocket Launching Port to Come Up In Tamil Nadu's Kulasekarapattinam
- The port will be set up by ISRO and will be located in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- Center's policy decision of opening up of the space sector for private players enables them to develop various space-qualified subsystems and systems along with the building of satellites and launch vehicles. They are also permitted to establish facilities and provide launch services and other space-based services.
- Note: The first spaceport is located in Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram.
- A spaceport (Rocket Launching Port) is a site for launching (or receiving) spacecraft.
- ✓ Ocean Services, Modelling, Applications, Resources and Technology (O-SMART) SCHEME
- O-SMART Scheme by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The services will provide economic benefits to a number of user communities in the coastal and ocean sectors, namely, fisheries, offshore industry, coastal states, Defence, Shipping, and Ports etc.
- It also provides the necessary scientific and technological background required for the implementation of various aspects of Blue Economy. (Blue economy means all economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts.)
- The State of Art Early Warning Systems established Scheme will help in effectively dealing with ocean disasters like Tsunami, storm surges.
- A fleet of research vessels viz., Technology Demonstration vessel SagarNidhi, Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Kanya,



Fisheries and Oceanographic Research Vessel SagarSampada and Coastal Research Vessel SagarPurvi have been acquired to provide required research support.

- ✓ Government of India sets Hydrogen Energy Development Targets
- The Government of India has fixed a target to generate 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022 targets which include attaining 100 GW of solar power energy, 60 GW of wind energy, 10 GW biofuels energy and 5 GW. However, hydrogen has not been included in the renewable energy future plan.
- Note: Hydrogen energy uses the hydrogen and/or hydrogen-containing compounds in order to generate energy to be supplied to all practical uses. It has high energy efficiency, environmental and social benefits besides the economic competitiveness.
- The Ministry of New and renewable energy has also called hydrogen energy as a Future Energy. Currently, 48% of hydrogen in India is produced from natural gas, 30% is produced from oil, 10% from coal and 4% from the electrolysis of water.
- ✓ World Largest Telescope to have IT controls built in India
- The square kilometre array also called the SKA, an international initiative building the world's largest radio telescope is to have control systems designed and built by Tata Consultancy Services, an IT company based in India. Several other multiple leading Indian scientific Institutions are also contributing to the project under the leadership of TCS.
- Note: Square Kilometre Array (SKA) is a next-generation radio telescope that will ultimately have a square kilometre of collecting area, making it the most sensitive radio telescope in the world. The project to design and build the SKA is an international collaboration, involving 15 countries. Site selection was decided in 2012; with one site in Australia, another in South Africa and headquarters in the United Kingdom.
- ✓ Delhi Metro launches first indigenous signal system:
- The first Made-in-India signalling system. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)

developed an indigenously-built communication-based train control with the launch of i-ATS.

- Note: The ATS (Automatic Train Supervision) is a computer-based system, which manages train operations, including basic functioning such as running and halting. By this technology, the i-ATS will reduce the dependence of Indian Metros on foreign vendors dealing with such technologies.
- ✓ Govt launches Postage Stamp commemorating Mission Shakti's success:
- A customized My Stamp on India's First Anti Satellite Missile (A-SAT) was launched on the occasion of Engineers Day.
- Note: *Mission Shakti* is a joint programme of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) & Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- It is meant to safeguard our space assets and defend the country's interests in outer space & also to destroy those satellites orbiting around the Earth aimlessly even after outliving its utility.
- ✓ New Indian Brain Templates developed by NIMHANS:
- A neuroscientist's team from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) has developed Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas.
- Brain Template is basically a gross representation to understand the functionality of the brain in diseases conditions.
- ✓ New DRDO research lab in Madhya Pradesh
- In Madhya Pradesh, a Research lab of DRDO at a cost of 2 thousand crore rupees will be opened in Kailaras-Jaura region of Morena district for which around 350 hectares of land has been acquired by the government.
- ✓ DRDO's Air-breathing Scram jet engine
- DRDO in a technology demonstration flew a cruise vehicle at a hypersonic speed of Mach 6 for 20 seconds.
- DRDO has named the vehicle Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) which employs indigenously developed air-breathing scramjet engine for its propulsion



- In an air-breathing scramjet engine, air from the atmosphere is rammed into the engine's combustion chamber at a supersonic speed of more than Mach two.
- ✓ Real Mango software
- The Railway Protection Force has disrupted the use of illegal software 'Real Mango'
- It is used for cornering confirmed train reservation during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The software bypasses captcha, synchronises bank OTP with the help of a mobile app and feeds it to the requisite form to book tickets automatically.
- The software logs in to the IRCTC website through multiple IRCTC Ids.
- ✓ Hypersonic missile tech
- Launched by DRDO
- India conducted a successful test flight of the indigenously developed hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle (HSTDV).
- Joining the elite club of the US, Russia and China who possess such technology.
- HSDTV has a range of uses, including missiles for air defence, surveillance and reconnaissance, besides aiding the development of energy-efficient, low-cost and reusable satellite launch vehicles.
- ✓ World's largest solar tree
- It has been developed and installed at Durgapur, West Bengal by CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI).
- The installed capacity of the Solar Tree is about 11.5 kWp.
- Annually, this solar tree can generate 12000-14000 units of clean electricity.
- The arms holding the solar panels are adjustable to face the sun during the day, unlike rooftop-mounted solar panels which are fixed in place.
- ✓ Robot "Spot":
- A Robot called "Spot" will be used to take vital signs like body temperature and breathing rate of the suspected Covid-19 patients.
- it can take such readings from 2 meters away to reduce infections to health professionals in the pandemic situation.

- The robot looks like a dog and can walk on four legs. it also carries a tablet which can be used by the patients to interact with the doctor without even being in the same room.
- It has been developed by MIT, Boston.
- ✓ 'AstroSat' discovered star galaxy
- India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory 'AstroSat' has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe in a landmark achievement.
- The galaxy called AUDFs01 was discovered by a team of Astronomers at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

Highlights

- ASTROSAT is India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory.
- This scientific satellite mission endeavours for a more detailed understanding of our universe.
- The scientific objectives of ASTROSAT mission are:
 - To understand high energy processes in binary star systems containing neutron stars and black holes
 - Estimate magnetic fields of neutron stars
 - Study star birth regions and high energy processes in star systems lying beyond our galaxy
 - Detect new briefly bright X-ray sources in the sky
 - Perform a limited deep field survey of the Universe in the Ultraviolet region
- ✓ IIT Delhi incubated startup 'Chakr Innovation' launches ChakrDeCoV to decontaminate N95 masks.

About ChakrDeCoV:

- 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 destroy viruses
- ✓ 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
- ✓ **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.

August 2020

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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

July 2020

- ✓ **DST-SERB along with INSA launches photo & film competition**

Note:

- It is a 1-minute film competition with theme "Science through My Eyes" and various

sub-themes like science in the lab, kitchen, sports, hospital, etc.

- It will help people to understand and appreciate science around them fostering and promoting the scientific spirit
- It is open to Indian nationals only without any entry fee
- ✓ **2. Govt launches Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020**

Note:

- It is a joint initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and All India Council for Technical Education for developing COVID-19 drug along with students, academicians, researchers, and professionals
- MyGov portal will be used for participation and works.
- ✓ **3. Imagineering Laboratory dept of IIT Kanpur develops Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing device 'SHUDH'**

About SHUDH:

- It stands for Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper
- It has six UV lights of 15 Watts and can disinfect a 10x10 squared feet room in about 15 minutes.
- It's on/off, speed, and location can be controlled remotely using available android application.
- ✓ **VNIR Biotech launches fluorescence probes & PCR mix for RT-PCR detection of COVID-19.**

Note:

- It is a fully indigenous molecular probe that will be used in COVID test kit
- PCR based test kit has three critical components: oligos, enzymes and molecular probes.
- ✓ **China launches communications satellite APSTAR-6D that will work like GPS system**

Note:

- It is launched by Long March 3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre.
- It is a high-power broadband communications geostationary satellite into orbit to provide broadband internet service.
- It will be operated by APT Mobile SatCom

Limited to provide services for airborne, shipborne, vehicle-borne, and other applications for users across Asia-Pacific region.

- ✓ **HRD Minister launches COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit 'Corosure'**

Note:

- It is developed by IIT, Delhi and has received ICMR and Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approval
- It is cost-effective and faster covid-19 test kit.
- ✓ **Android malware titled 'BlackRock' discovered**

About BlacRock:

- ✓ It steals data like password and credit card details from 337 apps including Gmail, Amazon, Netflix, Uber, etc through 'Overlays' technique
- ✓ It is based on the leaked source code of another malware strain 'Xerxes'
- ✓ It basically detects when a user interacts with a legitimate app and places a fake window on top that asks for login and credit card details before the user enters the actual app.
- ✓ **IIT Madras startup named 'Modulus Housing' develops Portable Hospital Unit 'MediCAB'**

About MediCAB:

- It is foldable and is composed of 4 zones: doctor's room, an isolation room, a medical room/ward, and a twin-bed ICU at negative pressure.
- It can be installed anywhere within 8 hours by 4 people and is very cost-effective that can work well for far flung areas.
- ✓ **UAE launches its first space mission to Mars titled as 'HOPE' from Japan**

About HOPE:

- It will provide complete picture of the Martian atmosphere
- It is an unmanned mission which is launched by H2A rocket from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center for 7-month journey
- ✓ **10. CSIR-CMERI rolls out COVID Protection System (COPS) for Workplace**

About COPS:

- It has solar Based Intelligent Mask Automated Dispensing Unit cum Thermal



Scanner (IntelliMAST) that identifies the body temperature, Face Mask; Touchless Faucet (TouF); 360° Car Flusher

✓ **11. Comet NEOWISE approaches closest to the Earth**

About NEOWISE:

- It is the brightest comet that can be seen with naked eye in Earth's night sky and is visible only after 6800 years gap
- It was first spotted by NASA's Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) mission

✓ **12. SpaceX launches South Korea's military communication satellite ANASIS-II**

About ANASIS-II:

- It stands for Army/Navy/Air Force Satellite Information System 2
- Launched by Falcon 9 Block 5 rocket at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida
- It is a secure communications satellite for Defense Development and will supplement the Koreasat-5/ANASIS-I satellite, a combined civilian and military communications satellite launched in 2006.

✓ **13. China successfully launches unmanned mission to Mars 'Tianwen-1'**

About Tianwen-1

- It is the first independent mission of China to another planet
- 'Tainwen-1' or 'Questions to Heaven' will carry several scientific instruments and will deploy a rover for 90 days

✓ **14. DST launches India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment Programme**

Note:

- It is being launched by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and FASIE of Russian Federation.
- It will connect Indian, and Russian Science & Technology led SMEs and Start-ups for joint Research and development (R&D) for technology development and adaptation

✓ **AIIMS Nagpur with IIT Jodhpur, IIIT Nagpur develops smart wristband for tracking COVID-19**

Note:

- It is fully indigenously device that uses ge-fencing to provide real time warning on any breach in quarantine zone to local authorities

and officials

- It provides real data like temperature, pulse rate, respiratory rate and the oxygen saturation, so that the quarantined person will get a health alarm thus helping them seek early medical help.

✓ **16. IIT Kharagpur develops COVID-19 Rapid Test technology**

Note:

- It can be conducted in an ultra-low-cost portable device with test results available in a customized smartphone app within an hour without requiring manual interpretation.
- It deploys a disposable simple paper-strip for chemical analysis and visualization of test results.
- It will cost around Rs 400 per test

June 2020

✓ **IIT-Bombay develops radio frequency receiver chip 'Dhruva' to find locations**

About Dhruva:

- It can be used in smartphones and navigation devices to find locations and routes within the country in all-weather condition
- It will receive signals from India's NAVIC navigation satellites (built by ISRO) and GPS
- It can receive signals in multiple frequency bands and handle weak signals

✓ **NASA headquarters to be renamed as Mary W. Jackson**

Note:

- Headquarters of NASA at Washington, D.C will be named after Mary W. Jackson, the first African American female engineer at NASA.
- It will be now called as Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters.
- Mary W. Jackson starter her career at NASA in 1951 as a human computer, a mathematician who performed hand calculations for NASA missions.
- She was posthumously awarded with the Congressional Gold Medal in 2019
- NASA Administrator: Jim Bridenstine

✓ **DST unveils official logo for Golden Jubilee Commemoration Year**

Note:



- It will be printed on stationery items, social, digital, and print documents of DST along with its representation on any conference held under the banner of DST.
- Department of Science & Technology (DST) was established on 3rd May 1971
- ✓ **Cabinet approves creation of IN-SPACE for space sector reform**

Note:

- **IN-SPACE:** Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre
- It will boost private sector participation in Indian space infrastructure through various policies and regulatory environment.
- New Space India Limited will reorient space activities from a “supply driven” model to demand driven for optimum utilisation of nation’s space assets.
- ✓ **ISRO receives patent for Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment (LCHG)**

About LCHG:

- It is a protective garment made up of biocompatible fabrics that can be used in space, military applications, firefighting, and personal cooling-heating purposes shielding for long term without skin irritation
- It has a system for circulating temperature controlling fluid into and out of the garments through tubes inside the garment.

- ✓ **India witnessed rare Annual Solar Eclipse**

Note:

- It is also known as ‘ring of fire’.
- It coincides with the summer solstice
- Solar eclipse occurs when the moon comes in between the sun and the earth
- In this, Moon is at the farthest point allowing the sun’s disc to be visible while covering the other parts that results in narrow band of light causing ‘ring of fire’ visible.
- ✓ **June 21 marks Summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere**

Note:

- It is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and sun reverses its direction on this day.
- The sun reaches its farthest point north of the celestial equator with maximum tilt in the sky on this day.

- Arctic Circle experience continuous daylight for 24 hours on June 21.
- ✓ **Central Indian Railways launches AI enabled Captain Arjun robot**

Note:

- Arjun stands for Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice
- It is effective for screening and surveillance of passengers and staff along with keeping a watch on anti-social elements.
- It is equipped with motion sensor, one PTZ camera (Pan, Tilt, Zoom Camera) and one Dome Camera with voice and video mode and speaks in local language.
- The robot has a floor sanitisation facility with good battery backup

- ✓ **Home Affairs launches GermiBAN device**

About GermiBAN:

- It is developed by Atal Incubation Centre & Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India Women Entrepreneurs (ALEAP-WE) HUB.
- It kills 99.9% of surface and air microbes and will be useful for quarantine centres and all general places

- ✓ **10. India’s first infectious disease diagnostic lab is all set to start**

Note:

- It is a rapid response mobile laboratory built with the support of Department of Biotechnology in a record time of 8 days
- It has BSL-2 facility with onsite Elisa, rRT-PCR test and Biochemistry analysers.

- ✓ **MoHFW Harsh Vardhan launches India’s first COVID-19 testing mobile lab ‘Infectious Disease Diag Lab (I-LAB)’**

Note:

- It is developed by Department of Biotechnology and will be deployed in the interior, inaccessible parts of the country.
- It has the capability to perform 25 RT-PCR and 300 ELISA tests per day.

- ✓ **12. DRDO developed sanitizing chamber ‘GermiKlean’ to sanitise uniforms of security forces**

Note:

- It has been set up at Parliament Street Police Station.
- It is a dry heat treatment chamber
- ✓ **13. ISRO to organize online ISRO**



Cyberspace Competitions-2020 for young minds

Note:

- It involves drawing competition for Class 1 to 3 students, model making competition for Class 4 to 8 and Essay competition for Class 9 and 10th students.
- Essay competition is organized with space quiz contests in Hindi and English will be organised for class 11 and 12.

✓ **IIT Guwahati develops Flyzy mobile app**

Note:

- It is developed for seamless and contactless air travel that supports multi-currency payments
- It provides contactless boarding, easier baggage drop, manageable parking, better shopping experience, flight notification, etc
- The app has smart UI assistant for easy access to elderly people.
- ✓ **DIAT develops ANANYA disinfectant spray to combat COVID-19**

About ANANYA:

- It is a water-based non-toxic 24 hours spray that can be used on masks, PPEs, hospital linens, and other contaminated surfaces like medical instruments, elevator buttons, doorknobs, corridors, and rooms.
- It has shelf life of more than 6 months.

✓ **DoNER Minister launches COVID BEEP**

About COVID BEEP:

- It stands for Continuous Oxygenation & Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod
- It is India's first indigenous, cost effective, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients.
- It is developed by ESIC Medical College Hyderabad along with IIT Hyderabad and Department of Atomic Energy.

✓ **17. ISRO signs MoU with ARIES for Space Situational Awareness**

Note:

- The MoU will be helpful in safeguarding Indian space assets from critical threats from space debris.

May-January 2020

✓ **NASA renames Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) as Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**

- It will help in tracking, analysis, and space weather studies paving way for future establishment of optical telescope observational facilities.

✓ **U.K Archaeologists using LiDAR data for research amid coronavirus**

Note:

- Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is a remote sensing method that works on laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver generating 3D information about Earth's shape and its surface
- The team has found two Roman roads and around 30 prehistoric large embanked settlement enclosures and can locate around 20 prehistoric burial mounds and remains

✓ **CSIR-CMERI develops new indigenous ventilator**

Note:

- It is designed to meet the requirement as per the patient's parameter that responds to the fluctuating variables of a patient
- It will cost around Rs 80,000 to Rs 90,000.

✓ **SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft landed at International Space Station along with 2 astronauts**

Note:

- It was launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida with NASA's astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley after traveling 19 hours.
- With this, SpaceX became the first private company to launch people into the orbit.

✓ **DRDO develops Ultra Swachh for disinfection of materials**

Note: It will disinfect materials like PPEs, electronics items, fabrics, etc that uses **double layer Ozonated Space Technology** for disinfection.

- It also has catalytic converter for environment friendly exhaust that operates on **15 Ampere, 220 Volts, 50 Hertz power supply**.
- It also has safety features such as emergency shutdown, door interlocks, dual door, delay cycle, and leak monitors, etc.

Note:

- It is a next-generation space telescope set to launch in 2025 to investigate long-standing



astronomical mysteries like universe expansion, distant planets, etc.

- The renaming is initiated to honor Nancy Grace Roman (mother of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope) who is the US space agency's first chief astronomer and paved the way for broader universe space telescopes.

✓ **Russia to launch first satellite 'Arktika-M' to monitor Arctic climate this year**

Note:

- The satellite will be launched by Soyuz - 2,1b carrier rocket with frigate booster.
- The remote sensing Arktika-M will monitor the meteorological conditions in the polar region.

✓ **DRDO develops Ultra-Violet Disinfection Tower 'UV blaster'**

Note:

- It is developed for rapid and chemical free disinfection of high infection prone areas for high tech surfaces like electronic equipment, computers and other gadgets
- The product is also effective for areas with large flow of people such as airports, shopping malls, metros, hotels, factories, offices, etc.
- This sanitizer switches off on accidental opening of room or human intervention.

✓ **NIAB develops portable coronavirus detection kit with saliva samples 'eCovSens'**

Note:

- It gives results within 30 seconds and consists of carbon electrode and coronavirus antibody.
- It is a portable bio-sensor antibody, which is capable of binding with spike protein found on the outer layer of the virus and can be connected via Bluetooth.

✓ **China successfully launches Long March-5B along with a prototype deep-space spacecraft.**

Note:

- It took off from Wenchang launch site on the southern island of Hainan.
- The rocket is a massive vehicle with four strap-on boosters that provide extra thrust at liftoff was a special prototype spacecraft like the deep-space Orion capsule NASA.

✓ **ICMR-NIV develops indigenous antibody-based COVID KAVACH ELISA test kit**

Note:

- It has displayed high sensitivity and accuracy in the validation tests at different sites.
- It can test around 90 samples in approximately two and half hours.

✓ **DRDO develops DRUVS to sanitize electronic gadgets, papers and currency notes**

About DRUVS:

- It will sanitize mobile phones, iPads, laptops, currency notes, challans, paper, envelopes and Bundles of currency notes
- It provides 360-degree exposure of Ultraviolet to the objects placed inside the cabinet.

✓ **CSIR-NAL develops Non-Invasive Ventilator named as 'BiPAP' to treat COVID-19 patients**

Note:

- It is a microcontroller-based precise closed-loop adaptive control system with "3D printed manifold & coupler" and Highly Efficient Particulate Air Filter.
- It is cost effective, compact, and configured with majority of indigenous components.

✓ **Delhi Police along with Indian Robotics Solution launches Thermal Corona Combat Headgear**

Note:

- It will help police personnel and frontline warriors to detect temperature of various people from 10-15 metres and will send live imagery to centralized control centre.
- 'Thermal Corona Combat Drone-(TCCD)' which is fitted with day-vision as well as night utility camera and a disinfectant tank is also launched to sanitize an area, loudspeaker and medical box.

✓ **CSIR-CMERI develops mobile indoor disinfection sprayer units**

Note:

- Units are named as **Battery Powered Disinfectant Sprayer (BPDS)** and **Pneumatically Operated Mobile Indoor Disinfection (POMID)**.
- It will be used for cleaning and disinfecting



pathogenic micro-organism from touched surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, and cardboards.

✓ **11. LISA technique for lung treatment of newborns launched in Jaipur**

About LISA:

- Less invasive surfactant administration (LISA) technique is protective strategy for respiratory management and mechanical ventilation causing damage to the preterm lungs of infants.
- Its regular application would save the lives of premature babies.
- ✓ **CSIRO, Australia develops 'heat resistant' corals to fight bleaching**

Note:

- It is built using 'directed evolution' will manipulate the microalgae, which is a key factor in the coral's heat tolerance.
- This came in the wake of threat over coral reefs due to global warming.
- ✓ **CSIR-IIIM & RIL to develop RT-LAMP based test for Coronavirus**

Note:

- Reverse Transcriptase-Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP) is a rapid (45-60 min), accurate and cost-effective test that can be done with indigenous components with minimal expertise and instrumentation.
- It is a nucleic acid-based test that will be carried out from nasal or throat swab sample.
- ✓ **CSIR approves project to develop 'hmAbs' that can neutralize SARS-CoV-2**

Note:

- It is approved by CSIR through its **New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) programme.**
- **Aim:** To anticipate future adaptation of the virus and generate hmAbs clones that can neutralize the mutated virus so that could be readily used for combating future SARS-CoV infections.
- **Implemented by:** National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), IIT-Indore and PredOmix Technologies Pvt. Ltd. with Bharat Biotech

International Ltd. (BBIL)

- ✓ **National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC)** has initiated a programme on health and risk communication focusing on COVID-19 titled "Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)".

Note: Its aim is to convey authentic best practices to the general public to minimize the risk of transmission of virus at all levels, in the absence of vaccines and cure for COVID-19. This programme will provide scientific awareness and health preparedness to combat the pandemic scenario like COVID-19 outbreak which has posed concerns and challenges around the globe.

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

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

- ✓ Vehicle manufacture **Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.** has announced the launch of 'Own-Online', an end-to-end online vehicle ownership solution.

Note: Mahindra Own-Online will be a one-stop available 24X7 where customers can finance, insure, exchange, accessorise and own a Mahindra vehicle in four steps, without having to visit a dealership. This platform has been launched by (M&M) to offer its customers a transparent, seamless and contactless experience from selection to the delivery of the vehicle. Through this platform, a customer can own a Mahindra vehicle in four simple steps, from their homes, in few clicks.

- ✓ **18.** (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' announced various modifications in the **Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) Scheme.**



Note: The modification will be done to boost research in the country & to enable more students to avail the benefit under the scheme. The scheme is designed to improve the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in the country & with attractive fellowships it seeks to attract the best talent into research through realizing the vision of development by innovation.

- ✓ Two scientific papers on child survival published by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative stated that the under-5 Mortality Rate in India has dropped by what percent since 2000 -- **49 per cent.**

Note: The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative has recently published two scientific papers. The initiative has given its report on district-level trends of child growth and child mortality. The findings show there were 1.04 million under-5 deaths in 2017, down from 2.24 million deaths in 2000. The child mortality rate has dropped by 49% between 2000 and 2017.

- ✓ For the first time the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has included which region of POK in its weather forecast -- **Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad.**

Note: The department taken this decision as it says that it is a part of India and the country always maintains its position that PoK belongs to India. The agency has included the regions as part of its meteorological sub-division of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in its daily forecast for 'north-west India'.

- ✓ **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** has developed a low-cost device to detect the presence of melamine (adulterate) in milk and dairy products.

Note: The techniques currently used to detect the presence of melamine are time-taking and typically require expensive and sophisticated equipment and highly trained personnel. With the help of a newly developed fluorometer device. Researchers were able to detect up to 0.1 parts per million (ppm) of melamine in water and milk, which is much lower than the acceptable limit of 1 ppm.

- ✓ The Indian Railways operationalized the first 12,000 HP electric locomotive built in **Electric Locomotive Factory, Madhepura** locomotive establishment.

- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched a scheme for 100% solarisation of **Konark** city of India
- ✓ Indian software company **TCS** has launched 'Ignio' an AI Digital Workspace solution.
- ✓ **Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad** has developed an AI-based Attendance application (AINA) which allows non-contact-based personnel verification, using facial features of the person in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic
- ✓ **IIT Madras** has developed magnesium alloy to replace steel, aluminium in cars.

Note: There has been an excellent deal of specialising in lowering the carbon footprint of vehicles by using light-weight material in their bodies. Lighter vehicles consume less fuel to run and are therefore play a strategic role in increasing energy-efficiency. Vehicular emissions alone contribute 27 per cent of total CO2 emissions currently.

- ✓ **iGOT e-learning platform** has been launched by the government of India for all front-line workers to equip them with the training and updates in coping with Pandemic.
- ✓ Name the mobile doctor booth created by the West Central Railway's Coach Rehabilitation Workshop (CRWS) -- **CHARAK.**
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** becomes the 1st state with a software-based in-house facility of virtual courts.

Note: As per an apex court directive to develop video conferencing system for hearing cases and also for maintaining social distancing, Allahabad High Court has developed a new software by which multiple court proceedings at the High Court and district courts across the state can be conducted through virtual courts within the court premises without any internet connectivity.

- ✓ **China** has become the world leader in international patent filings via WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).
- ✓ In accordance with the Gartner 2019 Digital Workplace Survey **India** becomes the world's most digitally dexterous (skilful) country in the world.



- ✓ **Note:** India has a vast Gen Z workforce who are keen to learn new digitally powered skills in the workplace. India is followed by the United Kingdom (UK) and United States (US). It should be noted that Generation Z or Gen Z are the ones born between 1995 and 2009.
- ✓ The international day of human space flight is observed across the world annually on **12th April**.
- ✓ The geological survey of **USA** has released the first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon namely “Unified Geologic Map of the Moon”.
- ✓ **Russia** country will launch its first **Arktika-M** satellite for monitoring the Arctic climate and environment at the end of the year.
- ✓ Chak-Hao, the black rice of which state gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag -- **Manipur**.
- ✓ Terracotta work of which place has been granted with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag -- **Gorakhpur (UP)**.

✓ 108th Indian Science Congress 2021 will be held in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

Note: The Indian Science Congress association (ISCA) announced that Pune will host the annual session of 108th Indian Science Congress on January 3-7, 2021 at Symbiosis International University’s Lavale campus with the theme, “Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment”. Dr Vijay Laxmi Saxena elected as general president of the Indian Science Congress, 2020-21

✓ 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference -2020 was held in **New Delhi**.

Note: A 3-day long 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference -2020 based on the theme ‘Empowering Youth for Technology Led Farming’. It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar. The conference, organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), focused on technology-led farming and youth entrepreneurship through agriculture.

✓ An International Conference and Exhibition on Smart

Energy and Water India Smart Utility Week 2020 (ISUW) for Smarter Cities was held in **New Delhi**.

Note: New Delhi based India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) has been organizing India Smart Utility Week 2020 (ISUW) as an International Conference and Exhibition on Smart Energy and Water for Smarter Cities in New Delhi from March 3-7, 2020. India and European Union (EU) called upon the Integrated Local Energy System, in which they will jointly work upon clean energy. India and Sweden are also agreed to jointly work on Smart Grids Programme, which is to be funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST)

✓ International Conference on Nano Science and Technology 2020 (ICONSAT) was held in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

Note: The event was supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and organized by S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata. The conference was held from March 5 to 7, 2020. The conference provides a platform for the young researchers & students from within the country and abroad, with the latest development in the emerging areas of Nano Science and Technology

✓ 5th edition of India Pharma & India Medical Device 2020 Conference held at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Note: The 5th edition of India Pharma 2020 and India Medical Device 2020 Conference & Exhibition will be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from March 5 to 7, 2020. The conference was organized by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

✓ Name the mobile app which has been launched by the government for delivery of diesel at doorsteps of Housing societies, hotels and hospitals in the national capital region -- ‘**Fuel Humsafar**’.

✓ TRIFED launches ‘Tech For Tribals’ program to bring technology to **tribal entrepreneurs**.

Note: A 30- days long capacity-building program called “Tech for Tribal” has been launched by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). It was launched



in association with IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Roorkee, IIM Indore, Kalinga Institute of Social Science, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and SRIJAN, Jaipur (Rajasthan) to provide entrepreneurship skills to the tribal people.

- ✓ **Indore** becomes the first city in India to use drones to sanitize the city.
- ✓ **IIT Madras** is organizing India's first Global Hyperloop Pod Competition named as 'Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition'.
Note: The competition is aimed at increasing awareness and enthusiasm about Hyperloop in India. The competition is open globally and the final round will take place in the IIT Madras campus in July 2020. Team Avishkar from IIT Madras was the only team from Asia to qualify for the finals of 2019 Hyperloop Pod Competition, developing India's first self-propelled Hyperloop Pod.
- ✓ **Gujarat** state Police becomes first in India to introduce taser guns.
- ✓ **Gujarat** state government has signed an MoU with Dutch Flying car-maker PAL-V.

Note: A Dutch Flying car-maker, PAL-V (Personal Air Land Vehicle) will set up a manufacturing plant in Gujarat.

-
- ✓ The Department of Science and Technology has launched a special scheme for Science and Technology infrastructure in India is called **Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)**.

Note: The aim of the scheme is to create shared, professionally managed and strong Science and Technology infrastructure in India. The SATHI scheme will enable academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs to offer high-end analytical testing. This will help to avoid duplication, reduce the dependency on foreign sources & also foster a strong culture of collaboration between institutions.

- ✓ India's biggest rural technical festival 'Antahpragnya 2020' was held in **Telangana**.

Note: The festival was inaugurated by M Prashanthi, District Collector of Nirmal, Telangana. The festival was held for 3 days from 31st January to February 1, 2020. The theme for the year 2020 was "**Spot and encourage rural tech innovators**".

- ✓ According to the recent report published by German cybersecurity firm Greenbone Sustainable Resilience **Maharashtra** state topped hit by global medical data leak.

Note: The analysis was made after data of around 120 million Indian patients were leaked and made freely available on the internet. Maharashtra was followed by Karnataka in 2nd place with 1,82,865 data leaks giving access to 1,37,31,001 images.

- ✓ The "CLIMISHCON" is a Four-day International Conference on changes in Hydrological cycle, Ocean ecosystem, Fisheries and Food security will be held in **Kochi, Kerala**.

- ✓ India's largest air quality monitoring network will be established at **Mumbai**.

Note: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will develop an air quality monitoring network across 90 locations in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It will be the largest network in India. The project will be completed within next 5 years, funded by BMC and private organisations.

- ✓ The National Water Conference was held at **Bhopal**.

Note: The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Kamal Nath has inaugurated the National water conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The conference is being held to finalize the guidelines of "Right to Water Act" or "Water Rights Act" and also discussed the water crisis in the state and also making the state a water-rich state.

- ✓ 3-day long 17th edition of Bio Asia 2020 was held in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

Note: It is Asia's largest Biotechnology and Life Sciences Forum with the theme of 'Today for Tomorrow'. Bio Asia 2020 was held at the life science capital of India i.e. in **Hyderabad**.

8. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research ranked first in the Nature Ranking Index 2020 (**CSIR**).

Note: All the institutions are ranked on the basis of total research output from december 01, 2018 to 30th November, 2019. Numbers in research output are designated by total citations in numbers and shares which indicates the sharing percentage per article.

- ✓ India's 1st Artificial intelligence summit, **RAISE 2020**



will be held in **New Delhi**.

- ✓ To launch the artificial intelligence (AI) based module including AI kits across Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has collaborated with **NASSCOM**.

ISRO-NASA Satellite NISAR scheduled to be launched by 2022

- The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite is expected to be launched by 2022 as India and the US have decided to share Space Situational Awareness Information, which will catalyse efforts to create the conditions for a safe and sustainable space environment.
- The space agencies of the two countries had signed an agreement in 2014 to conduct the joint NISAR mission to co-develop and launch a dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar on an Earth observation satellite.
- **About ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation):** It is the national space agency of India. It operates under the Department of Space.
- **Founded:** 15 August 1969
- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
- **Director:** Kailasavadivoo Sivan
- **About NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration):** It is an independent agency of the U.S. Federal Government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and space research.
 - **Founded:** 1 October 1958
 - **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C.

NASA's SOFIA discovers water on surface of moon

- NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) has confirmed, for the first time, water on the sunlit surface of the Moon. This discovery indicates that water may be distributed across the lunar surface, and not limited to cold, shadowed places.

February 2021

Successful user trials of DRDO-developed Anti-Tank Guided Missile Systems 'Helina' and 'Dhruvastra'

- Joint User Trials for Helina (Army Version)

- SOFIA has detected water molecules (H₂O) in Clavius Crater, one of the largest craters visible from Earth, located in the Moon's southern hemisphere.

IFSCA introduces Framework for Regulatory Sandbox to tap into innovative FinTech solutions

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), with an objective to develop a world class FinTech hub at the IFSC located at GIFT City in Gandhinagar (Gujarat, India), endeavours to encourage the promotion of financial technologies ('FinTech') initiatives in financial products and financial services across the spectrum of banking, insurance, securities and fund management.
- IFSCA has introduced a framework for **"Regulatory Sandbox"**. Under this Sandbox framework, entities operating in the capital market, banking, insurance and financial services space shall be granted certain facilities and flexibilities to experiment with innovative FinTech solutions in a live environment with a limited set of real customers for a limited time frame.
- **Note:** An **IFSC** enables bringing back the financial services and transactions that are currently carried out in offshore financial centers by Indian corporate entities and overseas branches / subsidiaries of financial institutions (FIs) to India by offering business and regulatory environment that is comparable to other leading international financial centers in the world like London and Singapore.
- The **first IFSC** in India has been set up at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar.

Defence:

and Dhruvastra (Air Force Version) Missile Systems have been carried out from Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) platform in desert ranges.

- The missile systems have been designed and



developed indigenously by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- **Note:** The Helina and Dhruvastra are third generation, Lock on Before Launch (LOBL) fire and forget Anti-Tank Guided Missiles that can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode.

Indian Navy Ship Pralaya arrives in Abu Dhabi, UAE to participate in NAVDEX 21 and IDEX 21

- Indian Naval Ship Pralaya arrived at Abu Dhabi, UAE to participate in the NAVDEX 21 (Naval Defence Exhibition) and IDEX 21 (International Defence Exhibition), scheduled from 20 to 25 February 2021.
- INS Pralaya, the second ship of the indigenously built Prabal Class Missile Vessels, was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 18 December 2002.
- **Note:** Towards enhancing interactions between the two navies, the inaugural edition of Indian Navy – UAE Navy bilateral exercise GULF STAR - 1 was conducted in March 2018.
- The next edition of the exercise is likely to be conducted in 2021.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates DRDO Skill Development Centre for Fire Safety Training

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has inaugurated **Skill Development Centre (SDC)** for Fire Safety Training of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Pilkhuwa in Uttar Pradesh.
- **The first of its kind in India**, SDC has been created by Delhi based DRDO laboratory Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES).
- It will provide fire prevention and fire-fighting training to Defence Fire Service Personnel and combatants from the Armed Forces.

Facts about DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation):

Formed: 1958

Headquarter: New Delhi

Chairman: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy

Parent Organization: Ministry of Defence

Successful launches of VL-SRSAM missile system

- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two successful launches of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).
- The launches were carried out from a static vertical launcher from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- **Indigenously designed and developed by DRDO for Indian Navy**, VL-SRSAM is meant for neutralizing various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approves proposals worth Rs 13,700 crore

- Defence Acquisition Council, under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, has approved capital acquisition proposals of various weapons/platforms/equipment/systems, **including 118 Arjun Mk-1A tanks** required by the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.
- Three Acceptance of Necessities (AoNs) for an overall cost of Rs 13,700 crore were accorded.
- All these AoNs are in the highest priority category of Defence Acquisition viz 'Buy [Indian-IDDM (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)].
- **Note:** Recently, the state-of-the-art indigenously developed Arjun Main Battle Tank (Mk-1A) was formally handed over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Army in Chennai.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates more than 57,000 water structures in Madhya Pradesh under 'Jalabhishekam' campaign

- The 'Jalabhishekam' Campaign is fulfilling the intention of 'water for every farm and work for every hand'.
- These water structures were created during COVID era by linking the work with the MNREGA scheme.
- **Facts about State symbols of Madhya**



Pradesh:

State animal: Barasingha

State bird: Paradise flycatcher

State tree: Banyan tree

State Flower: Madonna lily

Indian Navy undertaking mega Exercise 'TROPEX 21' in the Indian Ocean Region

- Indian Navy's largest war game, the biennial "Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise" (TROPEX) 21, which commenced in early January is currently underway with participation of all operational units of Indian Navy including ships, submarines, aircraft as well as units of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard.
- The exercise will culminate by the third week of February.
- TROPEX is being progressed over distinct phases:
- **3 Phases of the Exercise:**

Phase I: India's largest coastal defence drill "Sea Vigil" exercise from January 12-13

Phase II: Tri-Service Joint Amphibious Exercise "AMPHEX-21" from January 21-25.

Phase III: "The weapon workup phase, which concluded recently.

India joins "Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021"

- India has joined Iran and Russia in a two-day navy exercise dubbed "Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021" in the northern part of the Indian Ocean.
- Forces and vessels from the navy divisions of both the Iranian army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) participated in the drill alongside several vessels from the Russian navy.
- **Note:** This is the second such joint Russia-Iran exercise since 2019, when the two nations plus China held a four-day exercise.

Indo-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' begins in Rajasthan

- The 16th edition of the Indo-US joint military training exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' commenced at the Mahajan Field Firing

Ranges in the western sector of Rajasthan.

- Around 250 soldiers from each side will participate in the exercise from February 8-21 at Mahajan field firing range.
- **Note:** The **previous version of the joint exercise** was held at Seattle in the United States.
- Earlier in January 2021, a five-day exercise was also organized in Rajasthan between the **Air Forces of India and France**.
- In the end of 2020, India conducted **Malabar Naval Exercise** with US, Japan and Australia.

First women team inducted into CRPF's CoBRA commando unit

- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) inducted 34 women commandos in its anti-Naxal Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) unit which will undergo training and then will be sent to Naxal hit areas.
- According to the CRPF, on the occasion of the 88th all-women battalion Raising Day, these women commandos have been inducted along with the introduction of all Mahila brass band.

Facts about COBRA:

Founded: 2008

Agency executive: Anand Prakash Maheshwari, Director General

Primary governing body: Central Reserve Police Force

Supreme Court stays dismantling of decommissioned aircraft carrier INS Viraat

- A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde issued notice to the Centre and others seeking their responses on a plea filed by a firm which seeks preservation of the ship from being dismantled and for creating it as a museum.
- **Note:** The centaur-class aircraft carrier, INS Viraat, was inducted into the Indian Navy in 1987 and decommissioned in 2017.
- INS Viraat holds the world record, as mentioned in the Guinness Book of records, for being the longest-serving warship of the world.



Asia's biggest Aero show 'Aero India 2021' begins at Bengaluru in Karnataka

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the three-day (03-05 February 2021) mega event that is taking place for the first time in a hybrid mode due to Covid Pandemic. The 13th edition of Aero India show will see participants in both physical and virtual mode.
- India will host **Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers' Conclave** on February 04, 2021 during Aero India 2021.
- **Note:** Bengaluru has hosted all 13 editions of the show.
- Aero India is a biennial air show and aviation exhibition.
- It is organised by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, Ministry of Defence. The first edition of the air show was held in 1996.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates HAL's second LCA production line

- The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on February 2, 2021, inaugurated the second Light Combat Aircraft- LCA production line of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- The Cabinet Committee of Security chaired by PM Modi on January 13, 2021, had given its approval to the massive deal for indigenous defence procurement. The deal is worth Rs. 48,000 crores for the purchase of 83 LCA Tejas Mark 1A fighter jets.
- **Facts about HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited):** Public Sector Undertaking (Aerospace and Defence)
Founded: 1940 (As Hindustan Aircraft), 1964 (Renamed Hindustan Aeronautics)
Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
Chairman & MD: R Madhavan

January 2021

Maiden flight trial of SAHAYAK-NG, Air Droppable Container

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with Indian Navy conducted the successful maiden test trial of 'SAHAYAK-NG' India's first indigenously designed and developed Air

Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft (Indian Navy) off the coast of Goa.

- The trial was conducted by Indian Navy to enhance its operational logistics capabilities and provide critical engineering stores to ships.
- Two DRDO laboratories i.e. NSTL, Visakhapatnam and ADRDE, Agra were involved in the development of SAHAYAK-NG container along the industry partner M/s Avantel for GPS integration.
- **Note:** SAHAYAK-NG is an advanced version of SAHAYAK Mk I.

Myanmar Navy inducts Indian submarine INS Sindhuvir

- Myanmar formally commissioned INS Sindhuvir into its Navy. India had delivered it to Myanmar in October 2020.
- The Myanmar Navy named the Indian ship UMS Minye Theinkhathu.
- It is the first submarine in the Myanmar Navy's arsenal. The former Soviet-era submarine was in operation in the Indian Navy since 1988.
- **Note:** India and Myanmar share a long 725-kilometre maritime boundary along the Bay of Bengal.

BEL signs contract with Indian Navy for Initial supply of indigenously developed Laser Dazzlers

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a contract with Indian Navy for initially supply 20 Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation Dazzlers (Laser Dazzlers).
- The **Laser Dazzler** is used as a non-lethal method for warning and stopping suspicious vehicles/boats/aircrafts/UAVs/pirates etc. from approaching secured areas during both day and night.
- **Note:** Ministry of Defence has signed contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for procurement of 10 Lynx U2 Fire Control systems for frontline warships of Indian Navy under Buy (Indian) category.

Sea Vigil-21: Indian Navy starts second edition of coastal defence exercise

- The second edition of the coastal defence exercise 'Sea



Vigil-21' has been started on January 12 and will continue till January 13, 2021.

- The exercise aims at assessing India's preparedness in the domain of coastal defence and maritime security.
- The exercise by the Indian Navy will be undertaken along the entire 7,516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India.
- **Note:** The inaugural edition of the exercise was conducted in January 2019. This is a biennial exercise.

Cabinet approves Procurement of 83 Light Combat Aircrafts (LCA) 'Tejas' from HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) for Indian Air Force

- The Cabinet has approved procurement of 73 LCA Tejas Mk-1A fighter aircrafts and 10 LCA Tejas Mk-1 Trainer aircrafts at the cost of Rs. 45,696 Crore along with Design and Development of Infrastructure sanctions worth Rs.1,202 Crore from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- It is the first "Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)" category procurement of combat aircrafts with an indigenous content of 50% which will progressively reach 60% by the end of the programme.

India's first indigenously developed 9mm Machine Pistol

- India's first indigenous 9mm Machine Pistol has been jointly developed by DRDO and Indian Army.
- The Machine Pistol fires the in-service 9mm ammunition and sports an upper receiver made from aircraft grade Aluminium and lower receiver from carbon fibre. 3D Printing process has been used in designing and prototyping of various parts including trigger components.
- The weapon is aptly named "Asmi" meaning "Pride", "Self-Respect" & "Hard Work".

DRDO hands over Motor Bike Ambulance Rakshita to CRPF

- Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), Delhi-based DRDO

laboratory, handed over Rakshita, a bike-based casualty transport emergency vehicle to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

- The bike ambulance will help in overcoming the problems faced by Indian security forces and emergency health care providers.
- **Facts about DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation):** It is an agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development in the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India.

Founded: 1958

Headquarters: New Delhi

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman: Dr G Satheesh Reddy

Five day Indo-French Air exercise 'Ex Desert Knight-21' begins in Jodhpur

- Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force are conducting a bilateral Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21 in Jodhpur (20-24 January).
- The French side will participate with Rafale, Airbus A-330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport, A-400M Tactical Transport aircraft. The Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft participating in the exercise will include Rafale, Mirage 2000, Sukhoi-30 MKI among other aircraft.
- **Note:** Defence exercises between India and France are **Garuda (Air)**, **Varuna (Naval)** and **Shakti (Army)**

Successful flight test of Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)

- DRDO successfully conducted a captive and release trial of indigenously developed Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) from Hawk-I of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) off the Odisha coast.
- SAAW is indigenously designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) Hyderabad.
- This is 125 Kg class smart weapon, capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers, taxi tracks, and runways etc. up to a range of 100 kms.

Successful maiden test launch of Akash-NG Missile



- DRDO conducted the successful maiden launch of Akash-NG (New Generation) Missile from Integrated Test Range off the coast of Odisha.
- Akash-NG is a new generation Surface to Air Missile meant for use by Indian Air Force.
- The Akash-NG system has been developed with better deployability compared to other similar systems with canisterized launcher and much smaller ground system footprint. The test launch was carried out by a combined team of DRDO, BDL (Bharat Dynamics Limited) & BEL (Bharat Electronics) in the presence of the representatives of Indian Air force.

BSF launches operation 'Sard Hawa' at Rajasthan border

- Border Security Force (BSF) on January 21 launched operation 'Sard Hawa' at the western international border of Rajasthan, under which vigil will be beefed-up to check the instances of infiltration due to the dense fog in the area.
- This operation will continue till January 27 with an aim that there is no intrusion.
- Significantly, BSF runs Operation "Garam Hawa" in summer season and operation "Sard Hawa" during the winter season as a routine exercise.
- **Facts about Border Security Force (BSF):** It is India's Primary border guarding organisation on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 1 December 1965

Director-General: Rakesh Asthana

Joint Military Exercise in Andaman Sea

- Towards enhancing joint operational readiness, Indian Armed Forces conducted a large-scale conjoint military training exercise "KAVACH" along with "AMPHEX-21" in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
- The exercise was conducted under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) with participation of Eastern Naval Command (ENC) and Army Southern

Command (SC) involving assets of Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

December 2020

Defence minister hands over 3 DRDO systems to chiefs of armed forces

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh handed over three systems developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation to chiefs of the three armed forces.
 - (i) Indian maritime situational awareness system (IMSAS) to Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh
 - (ii) The Astra Mk-1 missile system to Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria
 - (iii) The Border Surveillance System (BOSS) to Army Chief General M M Naravane

Indian Army signs MoU with Bank of Baroda for new 'Baroda Military Salary Package'

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Lt Gen Ravin Khosla, DG (MP&PS) and Shri Vikramaditya Singh Khichi, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda.
- Services under this Salary Package will be offered to serving and retired personnel of Indian Army through the Bank's network of over 8,200 domestic branches and around 20,000 business correspondent touchpoints.

Successful maiden launch of MRSAM

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a major milestone with the maiden launch of **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)**, Army Version from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the Coast of Odisha.
- MRSAM Army weapon system comprises of Command post, Multi-Function Radar and Mobile Launcher system.
- **Note:** Army version of MRSAM was developed jointly by DRDO, India and IAI, Israel.

Indian & Vietnamese Navy conducts PASSEX-2020 in South China Sea



- Indian and Vietnamese Navy conducted the two-day naval passage exercise PASSEX in the South China Sea as part of efforts to boost maritime cooperation between the two countries.
- **Note:** Indian Naval Ship Kiltan, carrying humanitarian assistance, reached Vietnam's Nha Rong Port in Ho Chi Minh City to deliver 15 tonnes of relief material for flood-affected people under **Mission Sagar-III**.
- This mission of INS Kiltan was part of India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries during the ongoing pandemic.

Cabinet approves export of Akash Missile System and creates a Committee for faster approval of exports

- Akash is country's important missile with over 96 percent indigenisation.
- Akash is a Surface to Air Missile with a range of 25 Kms. The missile was inducted in 2014 in IAF and in 2015 in Indian Army.
- The export version of Akash will be different from System currently deployed with Indian Armed Forces.
- To provide faster approvals for export of such platforms, a Committee comprising of Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and National Security Advisor has been created.

India successfully test fires two Prithvi-2 ballistic missiles

- The trials of the DRDO-developed nuclear-capable surface to surface Prithvi-2 missiles off the eastern coast of Odisha in Balasore were successful.
- The Prithvi-2 missile is capable of carrying 500-1000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.
- **Note:** Earlier on October 16, India had successfully conducted a night trial of Prithvi- 2 missile as a part of a user trial by the Army from a test range in Odisha.

India's first Maritime Theatre Command (MTC) to be launched in 2021

- The country's first MTC will have full operational control over the western and

eastern naval fleets, maritime strike fighter jets and transport aircraft, two amphibious infantry brigades, and coastal patrol vessels.

- The MTC will be the first new "geographical" theatre command to be created as part of the biggest-ever military restructuring plan.
- **Note:** The MTC will look after the 7,516-km long coastline, the entire Indian Ocean Region and the 1,382 islands.

35th edition of IND-INDO CORPAT

- The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy has been conducted from 17 to 18 December 2020.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) *Kulish*, an indigenously built missile corvette along with P8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) undertook coordinated patrol with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI *Cut Nyak Dien*, a Kapitana Pattimura class corvette and a MPA of the Indonesian Navy.
- **Note:** The two navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line since 2002, with the aim of ensuring safety and security of shipping and international trade in the region.

Launch of 2nd Project 17A Ship 'Himgiri'

- '*Himgiri*', the first of the three Project 17A ships being built at M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata was launched.
- **P17A ships are the first gas turbine propulsion and largest combat platforms ever built at GRSE.**
- **Note:** Under the Project 17A program, a total of seven ships, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three ships at GRSE are being built with enhanced stealth features, advanced indigenous weapon and sensor fit along with several other improvements.

Passage Exercise (PASSEX) between Russian Federation Navy and Indian Navy in Eastern Indian Ocean Region from 4 to 5 December



- The exercise involved participation of Russian Federation Navy guided missile cruiser Varyag, large anti-submarine ship Admiral Panteleyev and medium ocean tanker Pechenga. Indian Navy has been represented by indigenously constructed guided missile frigate Shivalik and anti-submarine corvette Kadmat along with integral helicopters.
- **Note:** The two navies have built a robust relationship through regular exercises such as INDRA Navy conducted biennially, with the last edition held in the Northern Indian Ocean Region from 4 to 5 September 2020.

Akash missiles test fired successfully

- The Indian Air Force has successfully test fired the Akash Missiles at Suryalanka test firing range in Andhra Pradesh during the Combat Guided Weapons Firing 2020 exercise.
- This exercise was aimed at practising different scenarios during conflicts to shoot down enemy planes.
- **Note:** Designed and developed by the DRDO, Akash is one of the most successful, indigenously-made missiles inducted into the Indian Army and Air Force.

Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhry assumes charge as Director General Border Roads (DGBR)

- Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry assumed the charge as 27th Director General of the Border Roads Organization on 01 December 2020.
- **Note:** He replaces Lieutenant General Harpal Singh who has been appointed as a new Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army.

Successful test firing of BrahMos by Indian Navy

- BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile in Anti-Ship mode was successfully test-fired against a decommissioned Ship.
- BrahMos is the supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by DRDO and NPOM of Russia as a Brahmos Aerospace joint venture, which became Brahmos Aerospace Private Limited.

- The missile has established itself as a major force multiplier in modern-day complex battlefields with its impeccable anti-ship and land-attack capabilities with multi-role and multi-platform abilities and has been deployed in all the three wings of the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Note:** The first launch of Brahmos took place in 2001 and till date numerous launches have taken place from various ships, Mobile Autonomous Launchers and Su-30 MKI aircraft, making it a versatile weapon.

November 2020

Varunastra: The heavy weight torpedo delivered to Indian Navy

- India's Defence Research and Development (DRDO) chairman and Department of Defence R&D secretary G Satheesh Reddy has flagged off the first Varunastra heavyweight torpedo (HWT) production unit.
- Varunastra is a heavy weight, electrically propelled anti-submarine torpedo. It can be launched from ships that can fire heavyweight torpedoes to engage quiet submarines in deep and shallow waters.
- First Production unit of Heavy Weight Torpedo, Varunastra, is being produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) Vishakhapatnam for Indian Navy.
- BDL is also the production agency for quick reaction surface-to-air missile (QRSAM) and Astra air-to-air missile system.

India successfully test-fires land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

- India successfully fired the surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos in the Andaman and Nicobar as part of a series of planned trials of the weapon, known for its precision strike capabilities.
- The range of the new land-attack version of the missile has been extended to 400 km from the original 290 km but its speed has been maintained at 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.



- According to official sources, in the next few days, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy are scheduled to carry out separate test-firing of the new version of the air-launched and naval versions of the supersonic cruise missile respectively.
- BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the lethal weapon that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms.

India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20

- Indian Navy hosts the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 (23 to 25 November) in Andaman Sea.
- Indian Navy ships including destroyer Rana with integral Chetak helicopter and indigenously built corvettes Kamorta and Karmuk participated in the 2020 edition of SIMBEX.
- In SIMBEX-20, two navies participated in advanced surface, anti-air warfare and anti-submarine warfare exercises including weapon firings, over three days of intensive joint operations at sea.
- **Note:** The SIMBEX series of exercises between Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy being conducted annually since 1994, are aimed at enhancing mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices from each other.

Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20

- Indian Navy Ships including indigenously built ASW corvette *Kamorta* and missile corvette *Karmuk* have participated in the 2nd edition of India, Singapore, and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20, from 21 to 22 November in the Andaman Sea.
- The 2020 edition of the exercise is hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
- The SITMEX series of exercises are conducted to enhance mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices between the Indian Navy (IN), Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), and Royal Thai

Navy (RTN).

- The two days of maritime drills witnessed the three navies participate in a variety of exercises including naval maneuvers, surface warfare exercises, and weapon firings.
- **Note:** The **first edition** of SITMEX, hosted by the Indian Navy, was conducted off Port Blair in September 2019.

Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)

- The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted from 18 – 20 November 2020.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) *Karmuk*, an indigenously built Missile Corvette and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) *Kraburi*, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies participated in the CORPAT.
- **Note:** To reinforce maritime links, the two navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line twice a year since 2005, with the aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade.

Second phase of Malabar naval exercise in Arabian Sea begins

- The navies of India, the US, Australia and Japan on 17 November began the second phase of the Malabar naval exercise in the northern Arabian Sea involving two aircraft carriers and a number of frontline warships, submarines and maritime reconnaissance aircraft.
- The major highlight of the four-day exercise is participation of Indian Navy's *Vikramaditya* carrier battle group and the *Nimitz* strike group of the US Navy. The *USS Nimitz* is the world's largest warship.
- **Note:** The first phase of the Malabar exercise took place in the Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6.
- The Malabar exercise started in 1992 as a bilateral drill between the Indian Navy and



the US Navy in the Indian Ocean. Japan became a permanent member of the exercise in 2015. In the 2020 edition, Australian Navy has also participated.

QRSAM Missile System achieves major milestone

- Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) System has achieved a major milestone by a direct hit on a Banshee Pilotless target aircraft at medium range & medium altitude.
- DRDO launched the missile from ITR Chandipur off the Odisha Coast. The missile is propelled by a single stage solid propellant rocket motor and uses all indigenous subsystems. The Missile is canisterised for transportation and launch using a mobile launcher capable of carrying 6 canisterised missiles.
- The system is capable of detecting and tracking targets on the move and engaging target with short halts.

UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) adopts two India sponsored resolutions on Nuclear disarmament

- The first committee of the UNGA has adopted two India-sponsored resolutions on nuclear disarmament which aim to reduce risk of nuclear accidents and call for a prohibition on the use of nuclear weapons.

Two resolutions- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons and Reducing Nuclear Danger under the Nuclear weapons cluster

- **Note:** The UNGA first committee deals with the issue of disarmament and works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament, the other two bodies to deal with the nuclear issue.
- The resolution on Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons was backed by a majority of UN Members and was tabled by India since 1982.
- The resolution on Reducing Nuclear Danger which was tabled since 1998 puts focus on

unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons and underscore the need for a review of nuclear doctrines.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh unveils Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile model in DRDO Bhawan

- 'Mission Shakti' was country's first ever ASAT missile test successfully conducted on 27th March 2019. This was a highly complex mission, conducted at extremely high speed with remarkable precision.
- The successful conduct of Mission Shakti made India the fourth nation in the world with the capability to defend its assets in outer space.
- **Note:** Earlier Shri Rajnath Singh and Shri Nitin Gadkari witnessed the demonstration of Fire Detection and Suppression System (FDSS) for Passenger Buses. Demonstrations were given on Water Mist Based FDSS for Passenger Compartment and Aerosol Based FDSS for engine fire.

Tri-service exercise 'Bull Strike' conducted at Nicobar Islands

- The armed forces conducted a joint tri-service exercise 'Bull Strike' at the Teresa Island in the Nicobar group of islands located close to the strategic Strait of Malacca.
- The exercise was conducted by the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) from November 3 to 5 involving the three Services components of ANC, elements of the Army's Parachute Brigade, Navy commandos MARCOS and Special Forces.

Two-Day Joint Coastal Security Exercise 'Sagar Kavach'

- A two-day joint coastal security exercise, "Sagar Kavach" was launched at Paradip Coast from 5 to 6 November.
- The exercise is being carried out by a joint effort of the state of Odisha and West Bengal governments. More than 10 such departments, including the Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard, the Odisha Police, the local fishermen, the forest department, and the port marine department, have joined the



joint exercise.

The Bangladesh and US Navies launched the 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh-2020'

- The exercise demonstrates US's continuing commitment to work with the Bangladesh military to address shared maritime security concerns in the region and strengthen partnership to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Malabar-20 Phase-1 Naval Exercise begins in Bay of Bengal

- The First Phase of the 24th edition of the Malabar Naval Exercise has begun in Visakhapatnam, Bay of Bengal on 03 November. Indian Navy, United States Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force and Royal Australian Navy are taking part in the Naval Exercise. It will continue till 6th of this month.
- **Note:**
 - Malabar series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy- United States Navy exercise. Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force joined Malabar in 2015 and the 2020 edition will now witness participation of the Royal Australian Navy in this joint maritime exercise.
 - **Malabar-20 Phase-2** is scheduled to be conducted in the Arabian Sea in mid-November.

Indian Coast Guard ship C-452 to be commissioned

- Rajan Bargotra, Additional Director General (Western Seaboard), will commission Indian Coast Guard's ship C-452 in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.
- The ship was indigenously designed and built by Larsen & Toubro, Surat.
- Earlier in May, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sachet and two interceptor boats (IBs) C-450 and C-451 in Goa. The ICGS Sachet has been designed

and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) and is fitted with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment.

Indian Army develops messaging application 'Secure Application for Internet (SAI)'

- Indian Army has developed a simple messaging application named the Secure Application for Internet (SAI). The application supports end to end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platforms over the internet. The model is similar to applications like Telegram, Whatsapp, SAMVAD and GIMS and utilises end to end encryption messaging protocol.
- **Note:** The indigenous messaging application has been vetted by CERT-in empanelled auditor and Army Cyber Group and the process for filing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) hosting the infrastructure on NIC and working on iOS platform for the app is currently in progress.

India test-fires air launched version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

- The Indian Air Force successfully test-fired an air launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal.
- **Note:** The missile hit a sinking ship with deadly accuracy and the test-firing produced desired results.
- The BrahMos missile provides the Indian Air Force a much-desired capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night and in all weather conditions.

Indian Navy successfully test fires anti-ship missile as part of military drill in Bay of Bengal

- The Indian Navy successfully test fired its anti-ship missile (AshM) in the Bay of Bengal from its Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and hit the target at max range with precise accuracy.



Enhanced version of PINAKA rocket system successfully flight tested

- Enhanced PINAKA rocket, developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- Development of Enhanced Pinaka system was taken up to achieve longer range performance compared to earlier design with reduced length.
- **Note:** A total of six rockets were launched in quick succession and the tests met complete mission objectives. Enhanced version of the Pinaka rocket would replace the existing Pinaka Mk-I rockets.

October 2020

Indian Navy gets first batch of women pilots for Maritime Reconnaissance missions

- Lieutenant Shubhangi Swaroop, Lt Divya Sharma and Lt Shivangi graduated as fully operational Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) pilots on October 22.
- Indian Navy got its first batch of women pilots for Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) missions on Dornier aircraft. The pilots completed Dornier Operational Flying Training (DOFT) on October 20 at INS Garuda in Kerala's Kochi. They were operationalised by the Southern Naval Command (SNC).

Anti-Tank Guided Missile Nag passes final trial

- The long-awaited 3rd generation **Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), Nag**, successfully completed its final user trial in Pokhran, Rajasthan and Nag will enter into the production phase.
- The missile is launched from the NAG missile carrier (NAMICA). The missile will be produced by Defence PSU Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), whereas Ordnance Factory, Medak will produce the NAMICA.
- **Note:** The Nag missile has been developed by DRDO to strike and neutralize highly fortified enemy tanks. It also has night strike capabilities. It has a minimum range of 500 meters and maximum range of 4 kilometers.

Nag uses an imaging infra-red seeker to lock on to the target before launch.

Australia to join Malabar Naval Exercise-2020 with India, US & Japan

- In the 24th **edition** of Malabar exercise, Australia will join the Malabar naval exercise involving India, US and Japan.
- The exercise showcases the deep trust between four major Indo-Pacific democracies and their shared will to work together on common security interests in the maritime domain.
- Exercise Malabar-2020 is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea later this year.
- **Note:** The **Malabar** series of Naval exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy-US Navy exercise and Japan joined the Naval exercise in 2015. Past non-permanent participants are Australia and Singapore.
- The **23rd edition of the MALABAR Exercise** was scheduled among the navies of India, Japan and USA from 26 September to 04 October 2019 off the coast of Japan.

India, US to sign geospatial pact BECA during 2+2 dialogue to deepen military cooperation

- **BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement)** for Geo-Spatial Cooperation will be signed with the US to further tighten the strategic clinch between the two countries during the 2+2 dialogue held on 26 and 27 October.
- **Note:** **BECA**, which will enable the US to share advanced satellite and topographical data for long-range navigation and missile-targeting with India, is expected to be inked during the two-plus-two dialogue.
- BECA will be a very significant development as it would allow India to use global geospatial maps of the US for accuracy of stand-off weapons like cruise and ballistic missiles.
- India inked the General Security of Military Information Agreement (**GSOMIA**) with the US in 2002, which was followed by the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of



Agreement (**LEMOA**) in 2016, and then the Communications, Compatibility and Security Arrangement (**COMCASA**) in 2018.

INS Kavaratti to be commissioned into Indian Navy

- The last of four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes INS Kavaratti under Project 28 (Kamorta class) will be commissioned into the Indian Navy by Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Naravane, at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.
- INS Kavaratti has up to 90% indigenous content. The use of carbon composites to build it has been described as a 'commendable feat achieved in Indian shipbuilding.'
- It has state-of-the-art weapons and a sensor that can detect and take action against hostile submarines. It also has a good endurance for long-range deployments.
- **Note: 'Project 28'** was approved in 2003. The other three warships under this project are **INS Kamorta** (commissioned in 2014), **INS Kadmatt** (2016) and **INS Kiltan** (2017).

India-Sri Lanka begin their 8th edition of annual Navy bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20

- The 8th edition of the annual Indian Navy (IN) and Sri Lankan Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 starts from October 19 to October 21, 2020, in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.
- **Note:** The interaction between the navies of both nations has grown in recent years. It is in agreement with India's 'neighbourhood first' policy and PM Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for all the Region).
- **The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off in Visakhapatnam, India in September 2019.**

India successfully test-fires SANT Missile with 'Lock-On after Launch' & 'Lock-On before Launch' capabilities

- **SANT missile (Stand-off Anti-Tank Guided Missile)**, the air to ground version, has been successfully tested, at the Integrated Test Range in Odisha's Chandipur.
- **Note:** The **SANT missile** has been developed by DRDO's research centre Imarat, in association with Indian Air force, and is an upgrade of Helina's missile, which had a range of 7-8 km.
- The new missile has a range of 15-20 km and is equipped with a new nose-mounted active radar seeker, to help keep the launch platform at a safe distance, to evade defensive fire from the target area.

India conducts successful night trial of nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile

- India successfully conducted a night trial of the indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile as part of a user trial by the Army from a test range in Odisha.
- **Note:** The state-of-the-art surface-to-surface missile blasted off from launch complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore.
- The trial of the missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher. The Prithvi-2 missile is capable of carrying 500-1,000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.

BrahMos Supersonic Missile Successfully Test Fired from Navy's Stealth Destroyer

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) test fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missile successfully from the Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea.
- BrahMos as "prime strike weapon" will ensure the warship's invincibility by engaging naval surface targets at long ranges, thus making the destroyer another lethal platform of Indian Navy.

India to Deliver Kilo Class Submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar Navy



- This will be the first submarine of the neighbouring country. The step is in accordance with India's vision of SAGAR and also in line with India's commitment to building capacities and self-reliance in the neighbouring countries.
- **Note: SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** is India's policy of maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. It was unveiled in 2015.

DRDO test-fires Nirbhay Cruise Missile

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation launched the 800-km range Nirbhay cruise missile from Odisha's test facility into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Note:** Nirbhay is a subsonic missile, flying at a speed of 0.7 Mach, with sea-skimming and terrain-hugging capability that helps the missile stay under the enemy radar to avoid detection. The missile's launch is powered by a solid rocket booster developed by DRDO's Advanced Systems Laboratory.

Facts about DRDO:

- **Formed:** 1958
- **Headquarter:** New Delhi
- **Motto:** "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- **Chairman of DRDO:** Dr G. Satheesh Reddy

India's DRDO successfully tests indigenous combat drone Rustom-II

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) tested the Rustom-2 medium altitude long endurance indigenous prototype drone. It achieved 8 hours off lying at an altitude of 16,000 feet at Chitradurga in Karnataka.
- **Note:** Rustom-2 is capable of carrying different combinations of payloads, which includes electronic intelligence systems, situational awareness systems and also synthetic aperture radar.

DRDO successfully flight tests SMART (Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo)

- Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo was

successfully flight tested from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

Note: SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations far beyond Torpedo range. The launch and demonstration are significant in establishing Anti-Submarine warfare capabilities.

The technology required for SMART has been developed by several laboratories, including the Hyderabad-based Defence Research Development Laboratory (DRDL) and Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Agra-based Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) and Visakhapatnam-based Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL).

India-Bangladesh Naval Forces to Hold Exercise Bongosagar

- The 2nd edition of India-Bangladesh Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar begins on October 3 and will end on October 5 in the Bay of Bengal.
- Note: This edition of the joint naval exercise between Bangladesh and India will include surface warfare drills, seamanship evolutions and helicopter operations
- The exercise Bongosagar is aimed at developing interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of maritime exercises and operations.
- The Exercise Bongosagar will be followed by the 3rd edition of IN-BN Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT). This joint exercise will take place in the Northern Bay of Bengal from October 4-5. India and Bangladesh's navy will patrol along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) during the CORPAT exercise.

India test-fires new version of nuclear-capable 'Shaurya' Missile

- India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear-capable hypersonic missile 'Shaurya' with a strike range of around 1,000 kilometres. 'Shaurya', which is the land variant of India's K-15 missile, is capable of



carrying payloads of 200 kg to 1000 kg and has a strike range of 700 km to 1000 km.

- The surface-to-surface tactical missile was blasted off from a canister strapped to the ground launcher from launch complex 4 of ITR (Integrated Test Range) in the APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha by DRDO.
- According to DRDO, Shaurya is one of the top 10 missiles in the world with its high-performance navigation and guidance systems, sophisticated control technologies, efficient propulsion systems and canisters launch.

September

- ✓ Ministry of Defence launches Defence India Startup Challenge-4
- Ministry launches the Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC 4) during the iDEX event, featuring the initiatives aimed at expanding the horizons of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) ecosystem. Ministry also launches the iDEX4Fauji initiative and Product Management Approach (PMA) guidelines.
- iDEX4Fauji is a first initiative, launched to support innovations identified by members of the Indian Armed Forces and will bolster frugal innovation ideas from soldiers and field formations.
- The purpose of DISC-4 challenge is to promote development and innovation in the country.
- Note: *iDEX* (Innovation for Defence Excellence) initiative was launched in April 2018. *iDEX* purpose is to achieve self-reliance and foster *innovation* and technology development in *Defence* and *Aerospace* by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia.
- ✓ Rajnath Singh Unveils New Defence Acquisition Procedure to Boost Indigenous Military Production
- The new DAP features steps to turn India into a global manufacturing hub of military platforms, reduce timelines for procurement of defence equipment and allow the purchase of essential items by the three services through capital budget under a simplified mechanism.

- DAP has also included provisions to encourage foreign direct investment to establish manufacturing hubs both for import substitution and exports while protecting the interests of the Indian domestic industry.
- DAP-2020 will empower Indian domestic industry through Make in India initiative Finance Minister had approved the constitution of Main Review Committee under Chairmanship of Shri Apurva Chandra.
- ✓ India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) in the North Arabian Sea
- The fourth edition of exercise is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) from 26 to 28 September 2020.
- Note: JIMEX, it focuses on maritime security cooperation, High degree of interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a multitude of advanced exercises, across the spectrum of maritime operations. Multi-faceted tactical exercises involving weapon firings, cross deck helicopter operations and complex surface, anti-submarine and air warfare drills will consolidate coordination developed by the two navies.
- ✓ India conducts night test of indigenously-developed Prithvi short-range ballistic
- DRDO conducted a night test-fire of the nuclear-capable surface-to-surface missile, has a strike range of 350 km, and was carried out from a mobile launcher from complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range at Odisha.
- ✓ Varanasi's Shivangi Singh to be Rafale Squadron of the Indian Air Force (IAF)'s First Woman Fighter Pilot
- Shivangi Singh from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, who is one of IAF's 10 women fighter pilots, joined the air force in 2017.
- Note: The Rafale is a twin-jet fighter aircraft able to operate from both an aircraft carrier and a shore base. The fully versatile Rafale is able to carry out all combat aviation missions: air superiority and air defence, close air support, in-depth strikes,



reconnaissance, anti-ship strikes and nuclear deterrence.

- ✓ Indian Navy to Conduct Two-day Passage Exercise with Royal Australian Navy
- The Indian Navy is scheduled to begin its Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in the East Indian Ocean Region (IOR) from Sept 23 to 24. The exercise would include Australia's HMAS Hobart and India's Naval Ships Sahyadri and Karmuk along with Indian MPA and helicopters from both the nations.
- ✓ Laser-Guided ATGM (Anti-Tank Guided Missile) Test-fired
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation test-fired its laser-guided anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) from the main battle tank (MBT) Arjun at KK Ranges, Armoured Corps Centre and School (ACC&S), Ahmednagar.
- Note: The ATGM defeated a target located at three kilometres. Laser-guided ATGMs lock and track the targets with the help of laser designation to ensure precision hit accuracy. The missile employs a tandem HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles. It has been developed with multiple-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from the gun of MBT Arjun.
- ✓ Flight test of ABHYAS by DRDO from the Interim Test Range, Balasore in Odisha.
- ABHYAS is a high-speed expendable aerial target being built by the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the (DRDO) Defence Research and Development Organisation for the Indian Armed Forces. Abhyas has RCS, Visual and IR augmentation systems required for weapon practice
- DRDO: the Research and Development wing with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- ✓ Women officers in helicopter stream of Indian Navy
- Two women officers: Sub Lieutenant (SLt)

Kumudini Tyagi and (SLt) Riti Singh have been selected to join as "Observers" (Airborne Tacticians) in the helicopter stream. They would in effect, be the first set of women airborne combatants who would be operating from warships at a ceremony held on 21 Sep 20 at INS Garuda, Kochi.

- ✓ 10th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative, DTTI Group Meeting held virtually:
 - As part of the Indo-US Bilateral Defence Cooperation, the 10th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative.
 - Note: DTTI Group Meetings are normally held twice a year, alternating between India and the United States. The aim of the DTTI Group is to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and co-development of defence equipment and create opportunities for co-production.
- ✓ The government puts national security clause in Defence FDI hike to 74 per cent:
 - Under the previous policy, the defence industry can bring FDI up to 49 per cent under the automatic route and above it "under government route, wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded".
 - The new policy raising the cap of foreign direct investment (FDI) through automatic approval in the defence sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent now has a 'National Security' clause as a condition.
- ✓ P-7 Heavy Drop System
 - Developed by Defence Research and Development Organization, DRDO.
 - It is capable of para dropping military stores up to seven-tonne weight class from IL- 76 aircraft.
 - It consists of a platform and a specialized parachute system.
 - The parachute system is a multi-stage system comprises of five Main canopies, five Brake chutes, two Auxiliary chutes, one Extractor parachute and platform is a metallic structure made up of Aluminium or steel alloys.
- ✓ **Indian Navy war game named 'INDRA 2020' conducted**

Note:



- India conducted 2-day war-game named 'INDRA 2020' with Russia in the southern Bay of Bengal on 4th and 5th September.
- It is the 11th edition of 'Indra-Navy' exercise
- India was represented by guided-missile destroyer INS Ranvijay, stealth frigate INS Sahyadri and fleet tanker Shakti, along with integral helicopters.
- ✓ **Iranian Navy conducted Zolfaghar-99 exercise**

August

- ✓ **Rs 2580 Cr contract for Pinaka Missiles to Indian Army**

Note:

- Ministry of Defence signed Rs 2580 Cr contract with Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML), Tata Power Company Ltd. (TPCL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for supplying Six Pinaka Regiments to the Regiment of Artillery of Indian Army, designed by DRDO
- It comprises of 114 launchers with Automated Gun Aiming & Positioning System (AGAPS), 45 Command Posts, and 330 Vehicles.

- ✓ **India withdraws from Russia's multilateral military exercise Kavkaz 2020**

Note:

- India has withdrawn its participation from the multilateral Military Exercise Kavkaz 2020 to be held in Russia between 15th to 26th September 2020.
- The reason for this has been cited as the COVID-19 Pandemic and consequent difficulties in exercise, including arrangements of logistics.
- Kavkaz 2020 would be held in Astrakhan province of Southern Russia where member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating.
- Other countries that would participate in this exercise are- China, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Syria, Iran, Egypt, Belarus, Turkey, Armenia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

Note:

- Iranian navy conducted exercise Zolfaghar-99 in Sea of Oman near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, deploying an array of warships, drones and missiles.
- Aim: To devise tactical strategies for safeguarding territorial waters and shipping lanes.
- Surface-to-surface and shore-to-sea cruise missiles and rocket-launching systems will be tested

- ✓ **Indian Coast Guard launches Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sarthak'**

Note:

- It is developed by Goa Shipyard Limited under 'Make In India' to enhance maritime security.
- It is fitted with Navigation, Communication sensor and machinery and is 105 metre in size
- It has speed of 26 knots, with an endurance of 6000 Nautical Miles

- ✓ **Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO)**

Note:

- Defence Minister launched 3-tiered organisation 'NIIO' with apex level headed by Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC)
- It will have structures to interact with academia and industry fostering innovation and indigenisation for achieving self-reliance in defences sector
- Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has also been created
- Indian Navy's Indigenisation perspective plans titled 'SWAVLAMBAN' was also released

- ✓ **Defence Minister bans import of 101 defence items**

Note:

- The banned list was prepared by Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence (MoD) to enhance indigenisation of Defence production in India boosting Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Banned Import Items:** Artillery guns, assault rifles, corvettes, sonar systems,



transport aircraft, light combat helicopters (LCHs), radars, etc

- ✓ **Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launches Interceptor Boat 'ICGS C-454'**

About ICGS C-454:

- Built by Larsen and Toubro (L&T).

July 2020

- ✓ **India and Japan conduct PASSEX naval exercise towards Malacca Strait in Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**

About PASSEX

- It was the 15th passing exercise by the two nations in last 3 years
- Rajput-class destroyer INS Rana and Kora-class missile corvette INS Kulish of India JS Shimayuki and JS Kashima of Japan participated in the exercise
- It is conducted for the goodwill training and to promote understanding between two nations
- ✓ **Israel launches new spy satellite 'Ofek 16' using Shavit-2 rocket**

About Ofek:

- It is launched to keep track on the potential threats.
- Ofek is an electro-optical reconnaissance satellite with advanced capabilities that can capture high-resolution images of the Earth
- Developed by Israel's Ministry of Defence and Israel Aerospace Industries.
- Launched from Palmachim air base in central Israel into space.
- ✓ **ISRO launches Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite**

About the satellite:

- Launched by Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV)
- First satellite for Earth observation designed for observing and monitoring the deforestation of Amazon Region and will help in the agricultural and vegetation areas.
- It will not be a hitch-hiking satellite.
- ✓ **Indian Navy conducted Passex exercise with US**

June 2020

- ✓ **Defence Minister launches NOC portal for exploration projects**

- It is 27-meter-long boat and has a maximum speed of 45 nautical miles (83 kilometres per hour) and has excellent seakeeping, manoeuvrability and endurance range of 500 nautical miles.

Note:

- It was conducted by Indian Navy ships Rana, Sahyadri, Shivalik and Kamorta together with USS Nimitz (CVN 68), USS Princeton (CG 59), USS Sterett (DDG 104) and USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114).
- USS Nimitz is a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.
- It will be deployed in the Gulf region from the South China Sea.
- Indian Navy had also recently conducted similar joint exercises with Japanese and French Navy.
- ✓ **India anti-tank guided missile 'Dhruvastra' developed by DRDO**

Note

- 'Dhruvastra' or helicopter-launched Nag Missile (HELINA) is tested from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.
- It is a 3rd generation fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile system mounted on Advanced Light Helicopter

- It has a range of 7 Km and is equipped with four foldable wings and has a length of 1.85m, diameter of 0.20m, wingspan of 0.4m and weight of 43kg.

- ✓ **DRDO launches innovation contest 'Dare to Dream 2.0'**

Note

- Contest launched on the 5th death anniversary of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- It was an open challenge to encourage individuals & startups for innovation in defence and aerospace technologies
- The winners will be awarded with prize money of Rs 10 lakh for startup and Rs 5 lakh to individual category.

Note:

- Portal for No Objection Certificate (NOC)



issue of power projects and Research Survey Exploration Exploitation (RSEE) activities in the Indian Territorial Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone launched

- Developed by National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG) and NIC.
- **Aim:** Facilitate the applicants in submitting their proposals online for seeking Security Clearance with effective, speedy and transparent mechanism.

✓ **Navy Inducts Indigenously Developed Advanced Torpedo Decoy System**

Note:

- Indigenously designed and developed by DRDO labs (NSTL and NPOL).
- Capable of being fired from all frontline warships.
- Its induction was jointly done by Indian Navy and DRDO.
- ✓ **India sent 75 Tri-Service members in Victory Day Parade of World War II in Moscow**

Note:

- The parade was held on June 24, 2020 to honour the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russian and other countries in World War II.
- India's participation will mark tribute and solidarity to Russia
- ✓ **Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex inaugurated at Vishakhapatnam**

About DSRV Complex:

- Designed to accommodate the newly inducted Submarine Rescue System with DSRV assets storage in a Rescue-Ready state.

January- May 2020

1. Western Naval Command develops Ultraviolet Disinfection Facilities

Note:

- It will be used for decontamination of tools, clothes, and other items to control the spread of coronavirus at entry/ exit points to prevent COVID-19
- Large common room will be converted into a UV bay by fabrication of aluminium sheets

- Has Remote Operations Vehicle, Side Scan Sonar, Diver Decompression Chambers, and associated equipment.
- Mobilized by air or road to facilitate submarine rescue operations even at distant locations
- ✓ **Ministry of Defence cleared Twin Engined Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF) jet program**

About TEDBF jet program:

- Jets will be developed indigenously under Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) project to operate from the deck of INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant
- It will include 4 Pre-Production Prototypes and will be cheaper.
- ✓ **IAF inducted indigenous Airborne Rescue Pod Isolated Transportation (ARPIT)**

About ARPIT:

- Utilized for the evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude areas, isolated and remote places.
- Lightweight transparent and durable isolation system having life support, monitoring instruments and other essential kits.
- Generates high constant negative pressure that will prevent crew from infection.
- ✓ **India and Australia signs Mutual Logistics Support Agreement**
- Agreement is signed to allow logistics support in a virtual bilateral summit to provide reciprocal access to military logistics facilities, allow more complex joint military exercise, and improve interoperability between two nations.
- Support the rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region facilitating scaling up of overall defence cooperation.

electrical arrangements for UV-C lighting.

2. Govt invites bid for One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)

Note:

- It will set up a framework for global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources.
- Vision behind OSOWOG is "The Sun Never Sets" and is constant at some geographical



location, globally, at any given point of time.

- It will encourage sharing of solar resources among more than 140 countries of West Asia and South East Asia in the first phase.

3. Indian Air Force IAF inducted Tejas Mk-1 FOC aircraft

Note:

- It is inducted into resurrected No 18 Sqn, the “Flying Bullets” at Air Force Station Suler enhancing the operational capability of the Air Force.
- It is built under ‘Make In India’ initiative.
- Tejas Mk-1 FOC is a single engine, light weight, highly agile, all weather multi role fighter aircraft capable of air-to-air refuelling.

4. US Navy tested laser weapon that can destroy aircraft mid-flight in Pacific Ocean

Note:

- Laser weapons system demonstrator (LWSD) will provide defence against drones or armed small boats.
- Directed Energy Weapons are electromagnetic systems capable of converting chemical or electrical energy to radiated energy and focusing it on a target, resulting in physical damage that degrades, neutralizes, defeats, or destroys an adversarial capability.

5. India sets up military war game centre for Ugandan People Defence forces (UPDF)

Note:

- The war game centre is named as 'INDIA'.
- It is a type of strategic game that simulates warfare realistically, as opposed to abstract strategy games such as chess.

6. Indian Navy launches Operation ‘Samudra Setu’ evacuation programme

Note:

- Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa and Magar are presently enroute to the port of Malè, Republic of Maldives to commence evacuation operations.
- The evacuated personnel will be disembarked at Kochi, Kerala and entrusted to the care of State authorities.
- This operation is being progressed in close coordination with Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Health and

various other agencies of the Government of India and State governments.

7. Defence Ministry signs pact with Tata Power to modernize 37 Airfields for Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Indian Coast Guard.

Note:

- The project will give a boost to over 250 MSMEs that will be directly benefitted under phase II.
- It is a turnkey project that includes installation and commissioning of modern airfield equipment like Cat-II Instrument Landing System (ILS) and Cat II Air Field Lightning System (AFLS) etc.

8. Defence Minister abolished 9,304 post in military engineering services on the recommendation of Shekatar Committee

Note:

- It will enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the Armed Forces as almost 70% of the budget is used for payment of salaries and allowances.
- It will also equip MES with leaner workforce, well equipped to handle complex issues in the emerging scenario in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

9. Indian Army to launch Three Years Short Service scheme or Tour of Duty (ToD)

About the scheme:

- 100 officers and 1,000 men will be initially tested for recruitment and will be a voluntary engagement of civilians catering the shortage of defence personnel
- Tax-free 3-year period experience and will be given preference in public sector jobs as well as post-graduate courses.

10. Defence Minister commissioned 105-metre-long indigenously made Coast Guard ship 'Sachet'

About ICGS Sachet:

- It will carry twin-engine helicopter, 4 high speed boats and 1 inflatable boat for swift boarding and search & rescue operations and can have a speed of 26 Knots with 6,000 nautical miles endurance
- It is also capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to undertake oil spill pollution response at sea.

11. Indigenously developed Utility Ship ‘INLCU



L57' commissioned into Indian Navy in Port Blair

Note:

- INLCU L57 is built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and can carry 160 troops and can be used for transporting and deploying main battle tanks like Arjun, T72, etc.
- It can also carry out multiple activities like search & rescue, disaster relief operation, supply and replenishment and evacuation from distant islands.

✓ Border Roads Organisation has constructed 430 feet long bailey "Daporijo bridge" in Arunachal Pradesh.

Note: The bridge was inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu over video conferencing. The bridge is built over Subansiri River the largest tributary of Brahmaputra. The new bridge will provide adequate movement of supplies for 451 villages and approximately 3,000 security force personnel deployed along the India-China border. The bridge replaced an older bridge in Daporijo, which was constructed in 1992.

2. North Korea test fired anti-ship cruise missiles as a part of military exercises recently.

Note: The missiles were of short range and test fired into the sea. The missiles were test fired to celebrate the birth anniversary of Kim II Sung. He was the grand father of the current North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The missiles were capable of travelling 150 kilometres. According to the South Korean officials, multiple missiles were test fired.

3. National Cadet Corps (NCC) has offered its volunteer cadets to assist the civilian authorities to fight COVID-19 under 'Exercise NCC Yogdan'.

4. 'Operation Sanjeevani' launched by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to air-lifted 6.2 tonnes of essential medical supplies to Maldives via transport aircraft C-130J as assistance in the fight against the virus.

Note: Medicines including influenza vaccines, anti-viral drugs such as Lopinavir and Ritonavir & other

useful items were purchased by the Maldives' State Trading Organisation (STO) from 8 suppliers in India. But due to the 21-day lockdown imposed due to the COVID-19 epidemic, it could not be possible to take them to Maldives by any other means.

5. Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam has designed 'Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)'.

Note: This oxygen manifold is designed to supply oxygen to multiple patients at a time, which could prove helpful in a contingency created by COVID-19 spread. The preliminary trials were conducted at MI Room at NDV, followed by rapid trials at the Naval Hospital INHS Kalyani, where it was successfully installed within 30 minutes. The Navy personnel from the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) have developed a 'Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)' using a six-way radial header fitted to a single cylinder.

6. Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated Mobile Virology Research and Diagnostics Laboratory (MVRDL) which is developed by DRDO.

Note: This mobile lab has the testing capacity of more than 1000 to 2000 samples daily. The Mobile Viral Research lab is the combination of a Bio-Safety Level (BSL)-3 and a BSL-2 lab essential to carry out activities. The Mobile lab was set up in a record time of 15 days which usually takes about 6 months

7. The premier multilateral air combat training Exercise Pitch Black 2020 has been cancelled which was to be conducted by the Royal Australian Air Force.

1) Indian Air Force signed MoU with Savitribai Phule Pune University to establish a 'Chair of Excellence' named "Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence".

2) Note: Indian Air Force (IAF) and Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) to establish a 'Chair of Excellence' at Department of Defense & Strategic Studies at Pune, Maharashtra.



In order to pay tribute to the legend and commemorate the centenary birth year of the MIAF (Marshal of the Indian Air Force), IAF has named it as “Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence”.

- 3) National Conference on Women in Police and CAPFs held in **New Delhi**.
- 4) The proposed new “Draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020” will come into effect from **1st April 2020**.
- 5) **Note:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has proposed a new “Draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020”. It will replace DPP 2016 and would remain in force till 31 March 2025. Its draft has been finalized by a high-level committee headed by Apurva Chandra, Director General (DG) Acquisition, Ministry of Defence that was set up in August 2019.
- 6) The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) opened a 360 feet long bailey suspension bridge for traffic over -- **Teesta River**.
Note: The bridge constructed will be useful for the people residing in Lahen town, North Sikkim. The bridge constructed will facilitate the movement of logistics for the Armed forces deployed in forward areas and also acts as tourist spots.
- 7) **Operation Namaste**. has been given to the initiative launched by Indian Army to protect 1.3 million strong forces from coronavirus.

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1. Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, ‘MatlaAbhiyaan’ in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
Note: Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, ‘MatlaAbhiyaan’ at Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban delta waters. Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, ‘MatlaAbhiyaan’ at Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban delta waters.
 2. The 4th edition of East Asia Summit Conference

Maritime Security Cooperation 2020 was held in **Chennai Tamil Nadu**.

Note: The conference was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

3. The 11th edition of the Biennial Mega Defence Exhibition “DefExpo 2020” held in **Lucknow**.
Note: The 11th edition of DefExpo-2020, organized by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence with a support of Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) for the first time from 5th to 9th Feb 2020. Its main theme was “India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub” with focus on “Digital Transformation of Defence”. This expo is also termed as “Mahakumbh of defence manufacturing companies”. The last two days of the expo was opened for public.
4. The “2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2020)” was held at **Bhubaneswar/Puri, Odisha**.
Note: The themes of the exercise were “A cultural heritage site that suffers severe damage in the Earthquake” & “Flooding or Storm”. Organized by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), on behalf of the Government of India, BIMSTEC DMEx-2020 was inaugurated by Chief Minister Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik. The first similar kind of exercise took place in 2017.
5. The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted at **Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted on February 12,2020 by creating a mock situation using a naval Dornier aircraft by INS Dega, (a naval air station of the Indian navy) at Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh and the main objective of the exercise was to test the plans and procedures handled by various agencies during hijack threats.
6. The Central Government has renamed Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) after **Manohar Parrikar**.
7. 5-day long 5th edition of India-UK bilateral air exercise “Indradhanush-V” 2020 was held in **Air Force Station Hindan in Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.
8. Fifth Edition of Joint Military ExerciseAjeya Warrior -2020 is conducted between India and **United Kingdom (UK)**.



9. Air-launched cruise missile Ra'ad-II has been launched by **Pakistan**.

Note: The Ra'ad-II weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance & navigation systems ensuring of engagement targets with high precision. Ra'ad-II missile is planned to be attached to Mirage aircraft or F-16 fighter jets of the Pakistan Air Force. The cruise missile with a range of 600 km significantly enhances air delivered strategic standoff capability on land and at sea.

10. 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group meeting of SCO held in **Islamabad, Pakistan**.

Note: The conference was to discuss different aspects of cooperation between the SCO member states and regional security. They have agreed on joint training and military exercises. The event was hosted by Pakistan as part of the 'SCO Defence & Security Cooperation Plan – 2020'. India has attended this meet along with China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Belarus attended the meeting as the observer state.

Health

February 2021

Over 1.2 lakh died due to air pollution in India in 2020: Greenpeace Report

- According to the report by **Greenpeace**, a global climate activist group, titled '**Greenpeace: Cost to Economy Due to Air Pollution Analysis 2021**', around 1.2 lakh lives were lost due to air pollution in six Indian cities and that the economic losses on account of bad air amounted to over ₹2 lakh crore.
- According to the study, there were 54,000 air pollution-related deaths in Delhi, 25,000 in Mumbai, 12,000 in Bengaluru, 11,000 each in Hyderabad and Chennai and around 6,700 in Lucknow.
- **Note:** Globally, approximate 160,000 deaths have been attributed to PM2.5 air pollution in the five most populous cities (Delhi, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Shanghai and Tokyo).

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and CSIR, India sign MoU to promote health research

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the development, conduct and promotion of health research in India.
- Gates Foundation and CSIR will work together to identify opportunities to initiate scientific and technological collaborations.
- **Note: Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** is India's premier S&T organization comprising 37 research laboratories focused on diverse scientific and industrial research areas.
- **Facts about the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation:**
Founded: 2000
Headquarters: Washington, USA
Founders: Melinda Gates, Bill Gates

India becomes 1st country in world to identify need for action for Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, launched the operational guidelines for Integration of NAFLD (Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease) with NPCDCS.
- **About NPCDCS (National Programme for Prevention & Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke):** In order to prevent and control major NCDs (Non-communicable diseases), the NPCDCS was launched in 2010.

Food regulator FSSAI notifies regulations to limit trans fat in food items

- Under the regulation notified on December 29 last year, FSSAI said it has limited industrial TFA (trans fatty acids) to not more than 3 per cent in all fats and oils by January 2021 and not more than 2 per cent by January 2022.
- The Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Second Amendment Regulations, 2021, has been notified.
- This regulation states that all food products in which edible oils and fats are used as an ingredient should not contain industrial trans



fatty acids more than 2 per cent by mass of the total oils/fats present in the product, on and from January 1, 2022.

- **Note:** In 2018, the WHO called for elimination of industrially-produced trans fat from the food supply by 2023 and released an action package 'REPLACE' for the same.
- **Facts about FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India):** It has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Founded: August 2011

Headquarters: New Delhi

Agency executive: Rita Teatonia
(Chairperson)

January 2021

Covishield and Covaxin are the first two Covid-19 vaccines to be approved in India

- Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) has given approval for restricted use in emergency situations of vaccines-Covishield from Serum Institute of India (SII) based on the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine and Covaxin from Bharat Biotech.
- The decision of the DGCI came after the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) recommended their emergency use.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurates CEPI Centralized network lab at DBT-THSTI Faridabad

- The Minister for Science & Technology, Health & Family Welfare and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated one of the seven labs of the world called as the centralized network lab of **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)** established at Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad.
- **Note:** CEPI is an innovative partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil organizations, launched at Davos in 2017, to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics.

Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1, India Report

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare released India Report on Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1.
- The National Programme for Health Care of Elderly, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has undertaken the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India, through International Institute for Population Sciences, (IIPS), Mumbai in collaboration with Harvard School of Public Health, University of Southern California, USA, Dte.GHS, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and National Institute on Ageing.
- It is India's first and the world's largest ever survey that provides a longitudinal database for designing policies and programmes for the older population in the broad domains of social, health, and economic well-being.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches the pan India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive on 16 January

- This is the world's largest vaccination program covering the entire country.
- **Note:** India's drugs regulator gave emergency use authorisation to Covishield, produced by Pune-based Serum Institute of India after securing licence from British pharma company AstraZeneca, and Covaxin, indigenously developed jointly by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech and Indian Council of Medical Research scientists.

December 2020

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launches Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT to extend coverage to all residents of Jammu & Kashmir

- Scheme will provide financial cover up to Rs 5 lakh per family on a floater basis; free and cashless treatment in any public and private empanelled hospital across the country.
- Right now about 6 lakh families of the state are getting the benefit of Ayushman Bharat Scheme. All 21 lakh families living in J & K will get the same benefit after the SEHAT scheme.



- **Note:** **AB-PMJAY** (Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) is a flagship health scheme of the central government, which was launched in 2018, and provides a cover of up to Rs 500,000 per family every year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

The first and only indigenous Pneumonia vaccine launched by Serum Institute of India (SII)

- The product of the company is named the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV).
- This vaccine is used for active immunisation against invasive disease and pneumonia caused by Streptococcus pneumonia in infants and has been developed by SII in collaboration with other partners like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- **Note:** Serum Institute of India is also the pharma company that is testing and producing the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine candidate in India.

Indian Railways launches Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) trial project

- The trail project has been launched over South Central Railway.
- **About HMIS:** The HMIS in Railways has been developed by Indian Railways in coordination with RailTel Corporation Limited.
- Its objective is to provide a single window of clearance of hospital administration activity such as clinical, diagnostics, pharmacy, examinations, industrial health etc.

National Centre for Divyang Empowerment (NCDE) inaugurated in Hyderabad

- Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated the National Centre for Divyang Empowerment at the CRPF Group Centre in Hakimpet near Hyderabad.
- This is the first of its kind establishment to re-skill and rehabilitates the Divyang Warriors of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) who suffered life threatening injuries in line of duty.

NITI Aayog releases a white paper " Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India"

- The white paper lays out India's vision 2035 for public health surveillance through the integration of the three-tiered public health

system into Ayushman Bharat.

- Citizen-friendly public health surveillance system will ensure individual privacy, enabled with a client feedback mechanism. India aims to provide regional and global leadership in managing events that constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

India's first mRNA vaccine for Covid-19

- India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine has received approval from the Drug Controller General of India to initiate Phase I/II human clinical trial.
- The mRNA vaccine, HGC019 has been developed by Gennova, a company based in Pune and supported with seed grant under the Ind-CEPI mission of Department of Biotechnology of Science and Technology Ministry.
- **Note:** The mRNA vaccines do not use the conventional model to produce immune response. Instead, mRNA vaccine carries the molecular instructions to make the protein in the body through a synthetic RNA of the virus.

India continues to make impressive gains in reduction of malaria burden: WHO

- According to the **World Malaria Report 2020** released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6 percent in 2019 as compared to 2018. The Annual Parasitic Incidence reduced by 27.6 percent in 2018 compared to 2017.
- The percentage drop in the malaria cases was 71.8 percent and deaths were 73.9 percent between 2000 to 2019.
- **Note:** Malaria elimination efforts were initiated in the country in 2015 and were intensified after the launch of National Framework for Malaria Elimination in 2016 by the Health Ministry. The National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination was launched by the Health Ministry in July, 2017 which laid down strategies for the next five years.



November to September 2020

- ✓ COVID-19 vaccine web portal' and the 'National Clinical Registry for COVID-19' launched by Health Ministry
- The National Clinical Registry for COVID-19 will collect systematic data on clinical signs and symptoms, laboratory investigations, management protocols, the clinical course of COVID-19, disease spectrum and outcomes of patients.
- The vaccine web portal is icmr.org.in. This portal provides essential information related to vaccine development, ongoing clinical trials and progress made in this area locally and globally.
- ✓ The report 'Health in India' released by The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- The main objective was to gather necessary quantitative information on India's health sector. According to the report, Religion-based classification:
- The Zoroastrian community was the most vulnerable to ailments. 31.1 % of Zoroastrians reported that they were suffering from an ailment during the survey.
- The number for other communities is:

Communities	Percentage
Sikhs	11 %
Jains	11.2 %
Christians	10.5 %
Muslims	8.1 %
Hindus	7.2 %
Buddhists	8 %

- 5 % of Indian people reported that they suffer from ailments. In rural only 6.8 % and in Urban 9.1 % were suffering from an ailment.

Sex-based classification:

- In rural, 6.1 % of males and 7.6 % of female said that they were suffering from ailments. In urban 8.2 % of males and 10 % of females said that they were sick.
- Note: Ailment as any deviation from a person's state of physical and mental well-

being. The 'Proportion of Persons who Responded as Ailing', or PPRA, in a 15 days when the surveyors approached them, were registered as those suffering from ailments.

- ✓ Government to Set up First Medical Device Park MedSpark in Kerala
- Note: The medical device park emphasis on the high-risk medical device sector involving medical implants and extracorporeal devices. The Park will provide an enabling support system for Research and Development, testing and evaluation of medical devices, technology innovation, manufacturing support and knowledge dissemination.
- ✓ PM, Narendra Modi launches the Age Appropriate Fitness Protocols on the first anniversary of the Fit India Movement
- He gave the mantra 'Fitness dose, Half an hour every day' for everyone's health. He said the Youth Ministry and Health Ministry together released Fitness protocols. He said that we have envisaged Age Appropriate Fitness Protocols for three age groups: 5 – 18, 18 – 65 and above 65.
- Note: Fit India Movement is a nation-wide movement to encourage people to remain healthy and fit by including sports and physical activities launched by PM Narendra Modi at Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi on 29 August 2019.
- ✓ New Brucellosis Vaccine by ICAR: Brucella Abortus S19 Delta Per vaccine
- Hester Bioscience Ltd has acquired technology from the government's research body ICAR-IVRI (Indian Council of Agriculture Research - Indian Veterinary Research Institute) to develop a new generation vaccine for controlling brucellosis disease in cattle that causes huge losses to the dairy industry.
- Note: "Brucella is a disease of economic importance worldwide. Not only does it impact cattle, sheep, goat and swine, but it also gets transmitted to human beings. Incidentally, there is no vaccine available to protect humans against Brucella.
- ✓ Health Minister at UN: India targets to end tuberculosis by 2025

- While addressing Ministers of Member Nations of WHO, Heads and Representatives of UN Agencies, Dr Harsh Vardhan has said that India has accorded high priority for ending tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Note: Tuberculosis A potentially serious infectious bacterial disease that mainly affects the lungs. The bacteria that cause TB are spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Most people infected with the bacteria that cause tuberculosis don't have symptoms.
- Patients with active symptoms will require a long course of treatment involving multiple antibiotics.
- ✓ eSanjeevani OPD of Health Ministry completes 3 lakh teleconsultations within six months of launch
- Note: eSanjeevani OPD services have enabled patient-to-doctor telemedicine in midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This helps in containing the spread of COVID by ensuring physical distancing and has simultaneously enabled provisions for non-COVID essential healthcare.
- eSanjeevani platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services viz. Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations.
- ✓ Aarogya Manthan 2.0 on 2nd Anniversary of Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana
- The purpose of the Aarogya Manthan is that all-important stakeholders of PM-JAY meet and discuss the challenges faced in the past year in the implementation of the scheme and to forge new understanding and pathways towards improving implementation.
- Note: AB PM-JAY (Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana) is the world's largest health assurance scheme which aims to provide a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 10.74 crores poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) that form the bottom 40% of the Indian population.
- ✓ COVID-19 test 'FELUDA':
- The Tata Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, CRISPR test, powered by CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) FELUDA has received regulatory approvals from the Drug Controller General of India for commercial launch.
- The test has met high-quality benchmarks with 96 per cent sensitivity and 98 per cent specificity for detecting the Novel Coronavirus.
- ✓ Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed by Rajya Sabha;
- The Bill aims to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to include protections for healthcare personnel combating epidemic diseases and expands the powers of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases.
- The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020 makes injury, harm, hurt or danger to the life of healthcare service personnel as a cognizable and non-bailable offence.
- ✓ Parliament passed 'Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020':
- Parliament has passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020.
- The bill seeks to establish an Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda and declare it an Institute of National importance.
- The bill also has the provision to merge three Ayurveda institutes situated in Jamnagar, Gujarat into one. These institutes are the Shree Gulabkunverba Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, the Indian Institute of Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical Sciences and Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda. The proposed Institute will be situated in the campus of Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar.
- ✓ SCTIMST develops a low-cost device for prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis
- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, has developed a



device for the prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT).

- Deep vein thrombosis is the formation of a blood clot in a deep vein, usually occurring in the legs.
- this device will be priced less than Rs. 1 lakh compared to the currently available imported devices which cost around 2 to 5 lakh rupees.
- ✓ National Nutrition Week 2020:
 - National Nutrition Week 2020 is celebrated on September 1st through 7th. During this period, initiatives are taken up by the government. These initiatives centre around nutrition and the effects of good food with a healthy body, mind and lifestyle.
 - It was first organized by the Food and Nutrition Board that operates under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Running since 1982, it puts emphasis on educating people in all states across India regarding the importance and necessity of good nutrition in diets.
 - The theme for National Nutrition Week 2020 is 'Eat Right, Bite by Bite'.
 - Awareness generation camps, workshops and educational programmes inform people on how food helps with immunity, preparing food right to avoid loss of nutritional value and more.
- **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.
- **India** and Maldives signed an agreement to establish "Emergency Medical Services" in Male.
- **Assam** government has launched Kitchen Garden to promote nutritious food, as part of the PoshanMaah.

Note: Kitchen Garden or Nutri garden will be set up at Anganwadi Centres and Government Primary Schools across the state. PoshanMaah 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.

- **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.

August 2020

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched a public awareness campaign "Ek Mask-AnekZindagi" 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.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the 'Ek Sankalp – Bujurgoke naam' campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.
- ✓ India collaborated with **Israel** country to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds.

July 2020

1. India's rank among 10 Asia-Pacific countries in the "Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control" prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)-- **eighth**.
2. **Zimbabwe** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
3. **Manodarpan** initiative has been launched by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health.



June 2020

1. India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) comes under the purview of **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Arun Singhal as chief executive officer of India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Singhal is special secretary, department of health and family welfare.

2. **DRDO** has developed a disinfection unit called Ultra Swachh.
3. The union cabinet has approved to re-establish the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy as Subordinate Office under **Ministry of AYUSH**.
4. Name the National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies -- **Aarogyapath**.
5. **DRDO** has developed a sanitizing chamber named 'GerminKlean' to sanitise uniforms of security forces.
6. A Five-day Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene Expo was organized by industry bodies **FICCI**.

Note: The event is to create a self-reliant ecosystem in the Pharmaceuticals and Health & Hygiene Sector by ramping up domestic production. In our resolute fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, this sector has a greater significance.

7. **Uttar Pradesh** becomes the first state in the country to prepare one lakh beds for COVID-19 patients.
8. **Chhattisgarh** has launched a special campaign "Spandan" to check mental stress and depression among its police personnel.
9. **Gujarat Govt.** occupied top position in the 'Food Safety Index 2019-20 released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) among the larger state.

Jan-May 2020

- ✓ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** has launched the mobile application 'AYUSH Sanjivani' App and two AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19 situation.

Note: The app was developed by the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY). The AYUSH Sanjivani mobile app will help to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact on the prevention of COVID-19. It is expected to reach out to a target of 50 lakh people.

- ✓ **Bengaluru** cities has launched "Pranavayu Programme" to create awareness about the respiratory health of the residents.
- ✓ To send medical aid to five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amid COVID-19 pandemic India has initiated -- "**Mission Sagar**".

Note: In this regard, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide Food items, COVID related Medicines including Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams. For Maldives, 600 tonnes of food items will also be provided and for Comoros medicines related to dengue would be given. This mission is launched in coordination with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and other agencies of GOI.

- ✓ Two scientific papers on child survival published by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative stated that the under-5 Mortality Rate in India has dropped by what percent since 2000 -- **49 per cent**.

Note: The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative has recently published two scientific papers. The initiative has given its report on district-level trends of child growth and child mortality. The findings show there were 1.04 million under-5 deaths in 2017, down from 2.24 million deaths in 2000. The child mortality rate has dropped by 49% between 2000 and 2017.

- ✓ **National Health Authority** is the nodal agency for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).



Note: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare(HFW), Harsh Vardhan to mark 1 crore treatments(milestone) of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana(AB-PMJAY).The National Health Authority(NHA) is responsible for implementing the scheme.

- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched the AyushKavach app that will provide health-related tips and information about ayurvedic medicines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) has released the first “The State of the World’s Nursing 2020” report amid COVID19 pandemic in partnership with Nursing and **International Council of Nurses (ICN)**.

Note: In accordance with the report, there are 28 million nurses worldwide but still, there is a global shortfall of 5.9 million. Countries facing the greatest shortfall of nurses are in Africa, South East Asia and the WHO Eastern Mediterranean region as well as some parts of Latin America. Between 2013 and 2018, nursing numbers increased by 4.7 million. More than 80% of the world’s nurses work in countries that are home to half of the world’s population.

- ✓ **Italy** country has developed ‘iFeel-You’ bracelet for social distancing.
- ✓ The COVID- 19 National Preparedness Survey 2020 was conducted in **410** districts.

Note: The COVID-19 National Preparedness Survey 2020 was conducted in 410 Districts in the Country within 3 working days beginning on March 25, 2020. The survey was conducted with responses from 410 civil servants who are providing field level leadership.

- ✓ To fight COVID-19 Civil services associations form an initiative called ‘**Caruna**’.
- ✓ **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has divided the health centres into 3 categories namely- COVID Care Centre, Dedicated COVID Health Centre and Dedicated COVID Hospital.
- ✓ Name the mobile doctor booth created by the West Central Railway’s Coach Rehabilitation Workshop (CRWS) -- **CHARAK**.
- ✓ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launched ‘Suposhit Maa Abhiyan’ in **Kota, Rajasthan**.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
Note: Andhra Pradesh (AP) ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN (Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan as per September 2019 progress report of NITI Aayog, “Transforming Nutrition in India: POSHAN Abhiyaan”. The 2nd anniversary of POSHAN Abhiyaan is recognized by celebrating PoshanPakhwada from 8th-22nd March 2020.
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** government has set up “Team-11” comprising of as many inter-departmental committees to fight the coronavirus spread.
- ✓ First country to close its financial markets due to the COVID 19 (Coronavirus) outbreak -- **Philippines**.



Important Days

February 2021

21 February, International Mother Language Day

- International Mother Language Day is a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.
- The theme of the 2021 International Mother Language Day is “Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society.”
- **Note:** The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh. It was approved at the 1999 UNESCO General Conference and has been observed throughout the world since 2000.

20 February, World Day of Social Justice

- World Day of Social Justice is an international day recognizing the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender equality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections.
- The theme of the day is ‘A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy’
- **Note:** The United Nations General Assembly has decided to observe 20 February annually, approved on 26 November 2007 and starting in 2009, as the World Day of Social Justice.

February 13, National Women’s Day

- India celebrates Sarojini Naidu’s birthday as National Women’s Day every year on February 13.
- **About Sarojini Naidu:** Sarojini Naidu was not only a freedom fighter, but she also became the first woman governor of the United Provinces, the present Uttar Pradesh.
- She was famous for her nickname ‘Nightingale of India’ or ‘Bharat Kokila’

because of her poems.

February 13, World Radio Day

- The Day was decided by UNESCO on 3 November 2011 during its 36th conference and subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day.
- The theme of World Radio Day 2021 was "New World, New Radio".
- **Note:** Radio has remained the most resilient and effective mode of communication, which is, till date, used by the majority for receiving information. Even after 110 years, Radio still reaches difficult terrains to connect people.

February 12, National Productivity Day

- The formation of the National Productivity Council is being celebrated every year all over the country by commemorating 12th February as Productivity Day.
- About National Productivity Council (NPC): It, established in the year 1958, is an autonomous organization under Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

The NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based APO (Asian Productivity Organization), an intergovernmental body, of which the Government of India is a founding member.

First Ever International Day of Human Fraternity

- In December 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare **4 February** as International Day of Human Fraternity.
- International Day of Human Fraternity aims to underline the importance of raising awareness about different cultures and religions, or beliefs, and the promotion of tolerance.

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

- International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female



Genital Mutilation is a United Nations-sponsored annual awareness day that takes place on **February 6** as part of the UN's efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. It was first introduced in 2003.

- The theme of the Day was "No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation."

February 11, International Day of Women and Girls in Science

- The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is the 11th day of February, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on 22 December, 2015.
- The theme is "Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19".
- **Note:** The 6th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly is organized by the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT). The theme is "Beyond the Borders: Equality in Science for Society".

January 30, Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas)

- Every year, Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day is observed on 30 January in India. This day marks the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- On January 30, 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse in Birla House.
- Note: **March 23** is also celebrated as **Martyr's Day** to pay tribute to three extraordinary revolutionaries of India who were hanged to death by the British namely Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.

World Leprosy Day 2021

- World Leprosy Day is celebrated on the last Sunday of January every year all over the world to increase knowledge about it and propagate the need and importance of eradicating the disease.
- This year World Leprosy Day took place on 31 January.
- **In India**, the day is celebrated on January 30, which is also remembered as the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, father of the nation.

- **National Leprosy Eradication Program** is a health scheme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to eradicate leprosy in India. It was launched in 1983 as a continuation of the National Leprosy Control Program of 1955.

February 2, World Wetlands Day

- 2 February each year is World Wetlands Day to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet.
- This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.
- The theme is Wetlands and Water.
- **Note:** There are 42 Ramsar sites in India. These are wetlands deemed to be of "international importance" under the Ramsar Convention.

February 4, World Cancer Day

- World Cancer Day is an international day marked on February 4 to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment.
- The theme for World Cancer Day 2021 is 'I Am and I Will.'
- **Note:** World Cancer Day was originated at the first World Summit against Cancer in 2000. It was held in Paris and was founded by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).
- Recent studies estimate about one out of six people worldwide died from cancer that's more than HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined.

According to the World Health Organization, India contributes to nearly 60% of head and neck cancer patients worldwide and this number is expected to double by 2030.

January 2021

January 04, World Braille Day

- World Braille Day is celebrated every year on January 4 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Louis Braille who was the inventor of Braille for persons with visual disabilities.



- Braille is a code which represents letters that can be recognized by visually impaired individuals by their sense of touch.
- **Note:** The first World Braille Day was celebrated on January 4 in 2019 after it got approval from the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) via a proclamation in November 2018.

January 10, World Hindi Day

- Hindi is not only the country's most-spoken language, but it is **the third most-spoken language in the world** with 615 million speakers after English, Mandarin, according to the UN.
- Every year on Jan 10, World Hindi Day is marked to commemorate the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference that took place in 1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, had inaugurated the conference.
- The World Hindi Day was observed for the first time in 2006.
- **Note:** National Hindi Divas is celebrated annually on September 14.

January 12, National Youth Day

- National Youth Day is celebrated on 12 January being the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. In 1984 the Government of India declared this day as National Youth Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.

Government decides to celebrate birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as 'Parakram Divas' on 23rd of January every year

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the Parakram Divas event in Kolkata and will inaugurate an exhibition there.
- **Note:** Recently Government has decided to constitute a High Level Committee headed by Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

January 23, Parakram Divas 2021

- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti or

officially "Parakram Divas" is a national event celebrated in India to mark the birthday of a prominent Indian freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

- He was the head of Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fouj). He was the founder-head of the Azad Hind Government.
- **Note:** The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi attended the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Kolkata.
- Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) and Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari have been selected for the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar** for their excellent work in Disaster Management.

January 24, National Girl Child Day

- It was started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India in 2008, with the purpose to spread awareness among people about all the inequalities girls face in the Indian society.
- In January 2015, Narendra Modi government had launched Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme with an objective to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio.
- Sex Ratio at Birth has improved by 16 points from 918 in 2014-15 to 934 in 2019-20.

January 24, International Day of Education

- This year's theme for International Education Day is "Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation."
- As per UNESCO data, around 258 million children are out of school, 617 million children and adults cannot read and do basic math.
- **Note:** The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming this day as International Day of Education on December 3, 2018, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.

January 25, National Tourism Day

- Every year on 25 January National



Tourism Day is celebrated in India to raise awareness and educate people about the importance of tourism and the role it plays in the Indian economy.

- **Note:** The **World Tourism Day** is celebrated on 27 September.

25 January- National Voters Day (NVD)

- The theme for this year's NVD, '**Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed**', envisages active and participative voters during elections.
- The National Voters' Day has been celebrated on January 25 every year since 2011, all across the country to mark the foundation day of Election Commission of India, i.e. 25th January 1950.
- **Note:** During the event, the Honourable President of India will confer the **National Awards for the year 2020-21** and launch ECI's Web Radio: '**Hello Voters**'.
- Union Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad will launch the **e-EPIC** programme and distribute **e-EPICs and Elector Photo Identity Cards to five new voters**.

January 24, Uttar Pradesh Diwas

- Theme of Uttar Pradesh Divas was 'Self-reliant Uttar Pradesh: Women, youths, Farmers: Development of all, Honour to All.' **Sabka Vikas Sabka Samman** '.
- Uttar Pradesh Diwas is observed as the **foundation day of this state**. It was on this very same day in 1950, Uttar Pradesh had got itself renamed. Earlier the state was known as United Provinces. On May 2017, it was announced by the UP state government that the 24th January will be celebrated as Uttar Pradesh day (Uttar Pradesh Diwas).
- **Note:** On this day (24 January 2021), **Laxman Award and Rani Laxmibai Award** were given to male and female sportspersons who have achieved remarkable achievement in the world of sports.
- On this day (24 January 2021), '**Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana**' announced by CM Yogi Adityanath to give a free coaching facility to the youth. In this coaching center, IAS, IPS and PCS

officers will directly give coaching to the students of the state.

January 26, Republic Day of India

- India is celebrating its 72nd Republic Day this year.
- **Note:** Republic Day of India is celebrated on January 26 to mark the day when the Constitution of India came into effect. The Constitution of India, which was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, came into effect on January 26, 1950.
- **Flight lieutenant Bhawana Kanth** will be a part of the Republic Day parade this year to become the first woman fighter pilot to take part in India's biggest ceremonial event on January 26.
- This year, **Rafale fighter** jet will also take part in the Republic Day parade for the first time.
- **A tableau from Union Territory of Ladakh** will participate in the Republic Day Parade on Rajpath for the first time this year.
- For the first time, a 122-member strong contingent of the **Bangladesh Armed Forces** will participate at the Republic Day celebrations.
- On the occasion of Republic Day, 2021, 73 personnel have been **awarded Fire Service Medals**.
- A total of 946 Police personnel have been awarded Medals (**Award of Gallantry Medals / Service Medals**) on the occasion.
- The President of India has approved the conferment of **Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards – 2020** on 40 persons.
- For his association with the farming community, his memorial in New Delhi was named the Kisan Ghat.

December 2020

December 25, Good Governance Day

- This Day is observed in India annually on 25 December, the birth anniversary of former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was established in 2014.
- **Note:** On the occasion of the 96th birth



anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr. Modi released a book titled '**Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Parliament: A Commemorative Volume**', highlighting the life and works of the former Prime Minister.

- On the occasion, Hardeep Singh Puri, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister launched **E-Sampada**, a new web portal and mobile app.

World celebrates 1st International Day of Epidemic Preparedness on 27 December

- The first International Day of Epidemic Preparedness was celebrated by United Nations on **December 27, 2020**.
- The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness aims to promote international awareness and action on the prevention of, preparedness for and partnership against epidemics.

December 24, National Consumer Day

- On this day the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986** had received the assent of the president. The enactment of this Act is considered as a historic milestone in the consumer movement in the country.
- **Note:** On July 20th, 2020, the new **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** came into force in India, replacing the previous enactment of 1986.
- **World Consumer Rights Day** is celebrated on March 15 every year.

December 23, Kisan Diwas 2020

- Kisan Diwas or National Farmers' Day is observed on December 23, the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, the fifth prime minister of India.
- The government, in 2001, decided to mark Charan Singh's birth anniversary as Kisan Diwas.

December 20, International Human Solidarity Day

- It is an international annual unity day of the United Nations and its member states introduced by the general assembly during the 2005 World Summit. It was established on December 22, 2005.

- It is a part of the World Solidarity Fund and United Nations Development Programme focused on achieving goals set for worldwide poverty eradication.
- **Note:** The General Assembly, on 20 December 2002, established the World Solidarity Fund, which was set up in February 2003 as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme.

December 14, National Energy conservation day

- Energy conservation day is celebrated on December 14 every year since 1991 to focus on making people aware of global warming and climate change and promotes efforts towards saving energy resources.
- **Note:** In India Energy Conservation Act was implemented by the Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) under the Ministry of Power in 2001. BEE is a constitutional body which works under the Government of India and helps in the development of policies and strategies to reduce the use of energy.

December 16, Vijay Diwas

- Vijay Diwas is commemorated every 16th December in India, to remember Indian military's victory over Pakistan in Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 for the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan.
- **Note:** Same day is commemorated in Bangladesh as Bijoy Dibos.

December 18, International Migrants Day

- The International Migrants Day 2020 theme is Reimagining Human Mobility.
- According to the United Nations, an estimated number of migrants globally reached 272 million in 2019.
- **Note:** On 18 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

December 7, Armed Forces Flag Day

- The Armed Forces Flag Day or the Flag Day is a day dedicated towards collection



of funds from people of India for the welfare of the Indian Armed Forces personnel. It has been observed annually in India on December 7 since 1949.

- **Note:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the Centre, states and union territories will celebrate the current month of December as “Gaurav Maah” (pride month) to honour the contributions of the armed forces and their veterans to the nation.

December 9, International Anti-Corruption Day 2020

- The theme of this year is ‘United Against Corruption’.
- As per UN statistics, every year USD 1 trillion is being paid as bribes while USD 2.6 trillion are stolen due to corruption measures. As per the United Nations Development Programme, it is estimated that there are 10 times the funds lost due to corruption in the developing countries.
- **Note:** The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption on October 31, 2003. The General Assembly also designated December 9 as World Anti-Corruption Day to raise awareness about corruption and of the role of the Convention in battling and preventing it. The Convention came into force in December 2005.

December 10, Human Rights Day

- The theme of Human Rights Day 2020 is ‘Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights’.
- **Note:** Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

December 11, UNICEF Day 2020

- UNICEF works in 190 countries and territories aiming to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfill their potential, from early childhood

through adolescence.

- **Note:** The United Nations General Assembly created UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) on December 11, 1946, as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.
- The organisation was originally named United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. However, in 1953, it became a permanent agency of the UN, and the words 'International' and 'Emergency' were dropped from the official name but the acronym (UNICEF) continued.

December 4, Indian Navy Day

- Indian Navy Day is celebrated every year on December 4 to commemorate the attack on the Karachi harbour during the India-Pakistan war in 1971. On this day, the Indian Navy's attack on Karachi harbour contributed to the ultimate victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan.
- The theme of Navy Day 2020 is "Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive".
- **Note:** Presently, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) is Admiral Karambir Singh.
- The Navy plans to celebrate 2021 as ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’ as part of commemorating the 50th anniversary of the victory in the 1971 war.

December 3, International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2020

- The theme is "Building back better: towards an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world by, for and with persons with disabilities".
- **Note:** WHO estimates that more than one billion people - about 15% of the world's population - experience some form of disability.
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol was adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- International Day of Persons with



Disabilities is an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992.

December 1, World AIDS Day

- World AIDS Day brings together people from around the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.
- The theme for 2020 is “Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact”.
- World AIDS Day was first observed in 1988.
- **Note: AIDS:** Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and **HIV:** Human immunodeficiency virus
- **National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) in India:** The National AIDS Control Organisation, established in 1992 is a division of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that provides leadership to HIV/AIDS control programme in India.

November 2020

Department of Fisheries celebrated ‘World Fisheries Day’ on 21st November

- The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India celebrated the ‘World Fisheries Day’.
- World Fisheries Day started in 1997 where “World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers” met at New Delhi leading to formation of “World Fisheries Forum” with representatives from 18 countries and signed a declaration advocating for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies.
- India is the leading fish producing country and second major producer of fish through aquaculture in the world.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme “**Blue Revolution**” was launched in December, 2015.
- This year, on 10th September, 2020, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the “**Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada**

Yojana” (PMMSY) at an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores for a period of five years, i.e., from 2020-21 to 2024-25. It aims to achieve fish production to 22 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2024-25.

- **Note:** During the event, for the first time in the Fisheries Sector the Government of India will **award best performing States** for 2019-20 namely, Odisha (amongst Marine states), Uttar Pradesh (amongst Inland states) and Assam (amongst Hilly and NE states).

Harsh Vardhan launches the National Newborn Week 2020

- Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare chaired an event to mark the National Newborn Week 2020, observed from 15th through 21st November to reinforce the importance of newborn health as a key priority area of the health sector and to reiterate the commitment at the highest level.
- The theme of National Newborn Week this year is ‘**Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere**’.
- **Note:** In 2014, India became the first country to launch the India Newborn Action Plan (INAP), in alignment with the Global Every Newborn Action Plan towards eliminating preventable deaths of new-borns and stillbirths.

November 21, World Television Day

- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day in December 1996.
- On 21 and 22 November 1996, the first World Television Forum was held by the United Nations to discuss the increasing importance of television in today's changing world and its ability to enhance their mutual cooperation.
- **Television History in India:** Television programming has created a huge impact on Indian culture ever since its introduction in 1959. Television was launched in India with the assistance of the United Nations



Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation. During the initial thirty years, government-owned Doordarshan stayed the only national channel.

observing 'Ayurveda Day' every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras) since 2016.

November 19, World Toilet Day

- This year the theme remarks the importance of "Sustainable sanitation and climate change".
- World Toilet Day celebrates toilets and raises awareness of the 4.2 billion people living without access to safely managed sanitation. It is about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- **Note:** The resolution declaring the Day titled "Sanitation for All" was adopted on 24 July, 2013, and urged UN Member States and relevant stakeholders to encourage behavioural change and the implementation of policies to increase access to sanitation among the poor, along with a call to end the practice of open-air defecation, which it deemed extremely harmful to public health.
- **In India**, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) in the Ministry of Jal Shakti is celebrating 'World Toilet Day' under 'Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen (SBMG)'.

Two National Premier Ayurveda Institutions to the nation on the 5th Ayurveda Day

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated two national premier Ayurveda institutions to the nation to mark the celebration of the **5th Ayurveda Day**.
- First is the **Institute of Teaching & Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar** as an Institution of National Importance (INI), and second is the **National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur**.
- **Note:** Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced the setting up of the Global Centre of Traditional Medicine in India.
- The Ministry of AYUSH has been

November 14, World Diabetes Day

- The theme for World Diabetes Day 2020 is **The Nurse and Diabetes**.
- **World Diabetes Day (WDD)** was created in 1991 by IDF (International Diabetes Federation) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes.
- World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations Day in 2006. It is marked every year on **14 November**, the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922.
- **Note:** On World Diabetes Day, WHO announces the **Global Diabetes Compact**, a comprehensive and inclusive approach to support countries in implementing effective programmes for the prevention and management of diabetes.

National Education Day

- The birth anniversary of India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is celebrated across the nation as National Education Day on November 11.
- Abul Kalam Ghulam Muhiyuddin served as the first education minister of independent India from 1947 to 1958. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1992.
- **Note:** The Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education) on September 11, 2008, announced, "The ministry has decided to commemorate the birthday of this great son of India by recalling his contribution to the cause of education in India."

November 10, World Science Day for Peace and Development

- The theme of this day is "Science for and with Society in dealing with COVID-19".
- World Science Day for Peace and Development is an international day that



highlights the important role that science has in society and is celebrated each year on November 10.

- World Science Day was proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2001 and celebrated for the first time in 2002.

November 7, National Cancer Awareness Day 2020

- In 2014, Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan had first announced the National Cancer Awareness Day with an aim to create awareness on early detection and educate people against living a cancer-causing lifestyle.
- According to the WHO, in India every year since 2018, over 1 million cases of cancer have been brought to light.
- **Note:** World Cancer Day is an international day marked on February 4.

November 5: World Tsunami Awareness Day 2020

- A report on the United Nations official website reveals that in the past 100 years, 58 Tsunamis have claimed more than 260,000 lives, but the highest number of deaths during a Tsunami occurred in the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004.
- In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day.
- In 2020, World Tsunami Awareness Day will promote target (E) of the "Sendai Seven Campaign," which encourages countries and communities to have national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in place to save more lives against disasters by the end of 2020.
- **Sendai Framework** for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in March 2015.

Three-day 'Ganga Utsav 2020'

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organises three-day Ganga Utsav 2020 from Nov 02 to 04.
- Ganga Utsav 2020 is a cultural and educational festival to celebrate the glory

of holy river Ganga.

- **Note:** On 4th November 2008, Ganga was declared "**National River**".
- Since 2016, every year on 4 November the National Mission for Clean Ganga has been celebrating Ganga Utsav, with an objective to promote stakeholder engagement and ensure public participation under the aegis of Ganga Knowledge Center.

October 31, National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas)

- This year National Unity Day is celebrated to commemorate 145th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel.
- It was introduced by the Government of India in 2014.

October 2020

October 24: United Nations Day

- 75th anniversary of UN Day
- UN day is observed on October 24, every year since 1948.
- **Note:** India elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, will serve as the president of the powerful 15-nation UN body for the month of August, 2021.

October 24: World Development Information Day

- **The theme of this Day is** Information and Communications Technologies: New Solutions to Development Challenges.
- **Note:** The General Assembly in 1972 established World Development Information Day to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.

October 24: World Polio Day

- World Polio Day was established by Rotary International over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop the vaccine against the disease.
- In the last three decades, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), led by national governments and the WHO, has been monitoring the disease situation globally.



- **Note:** As per the WHO, since 1980, the cases of wild poliovirus have decreased by over 99.9 per cent as a result of vaccination efforts made around the world.
- **India's situation with regard to the disease:** India was declared polio-free in January 2014, after three years of zero cases, an achievement widely believed to have been spurred by the successful pulse polio campaign in which all children were administered polio drops.

October 23: World Snow Leopard's Day

- 'International Snow Leopard Day is observed on to raise awareness on protection of endangered snow leopards.
- This started from October 23, 2013, when political leaders from 12 countries endorsed the on the conservation of snow leopards'.
- These are distributed across 12 countries in central Asia and are usually found in high, rugged mountain landscapes.
- **Government of India** has been conserving snow leopard and its habitat through the Project Snow Leopard (PSL). The PSL was launched in 2009.
- India is also party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013. India has identified three large landscapes, namely, Hemis-Spiti across Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh; Nanda Devi – Gangotri in Uttarakhand; and Khangchendzonga – Tawang across Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

WORLD STATISTICS DAY, 20 October 2020

- This is the 3rd World Statistics Day.
- The theme is “**Connecting the world with data we can trust.**” This theme reflects on the importance of trust, innovation, authoritative data and the public good in national statistical systems.
- **Note:** World Statistics Day is an international day to celebrate statistics which is created by the United Nations Statistical Commission. It was first celebrated on 20 October 2010. The day is

celebrated every five years.

Facts about National Statistics Day in India:

- Every year, the Statistics Day is celebrated on 29th June, the birth anniversary of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, to recognise his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October

- The theme is “**Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all.**”
- A research done by The World Bank has revealed that, as of 2020 around 1.89 billion people or nearly 36 percent of the world's population is living in extreme poverty. And nearly half of the populations in developing countries have been living on less than \$1.25 a day.
- **Note:** In 1992, the United Nations (UN) declared to dedicate October 17 as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

October 10: World Mental Health Day

- The theme of this international awareness day is “Mental Health for All” and an increased investment in mental health. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as a health issue associated with thoughts, behavior, emotions, and relationship with others.

10 October, World Migratory Bird Day 2020

- World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated on the second Saturday of October and May every year. The day is celebrated as an awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. Its objective is to draw attention to the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.



- World Migratory Bird Day's theme is "Birds Connect Our World."

Indian Air Force Day: 8th October

- **The Indian Air Force, also known as Bhartiya Vayu Sena, was officially established by the British Empire, as India was under the rule of Britishers at that time. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is the air arm of the three Indian armed forces, and their primary mission was to secure the Indian airspace and conduct aerial activities during the times of conflict.**

International Day for Disaster Reduction: 13 October

- The United Nations General Assembly has designated October 13th as the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction to promote a global culture of disaster risk reduction.
- Its basic objective was to decrease the loss of life, property destruction and social and economic disruption caused by natural disasters such as earthquake, tsunami, floods, landslides, volcanic eruption, droughts locust infestations, and other disasters of natural origin.
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in March 2015.

World Food Day 16 October

- World Food Day 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization).
- World Food Day is celebrated in honor of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945. Many other organizations concerned with food security, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Food Programme also celebrate this day.

World Space Week, 4-10 October

- By resolution of 6 December 1999, the

General Assembly proclaimed World Space Week, to celebrate the contributions of space science and technology to the welfare of the human condition.

- World Space Week is the largest annual space event in the world. The weeks helps build up the workforce of tomorrow by inspiring students; demonstrates visible public support for the space programme; educates the public about space activities; and fosters international cooperation in space outreach and education.
- Note: The 2020 theme is "Satellites Improve Life." The World Space Week will show the importance of satellites in daily life and how our lives are affected by satellites such as in communications, environmental monitoring, transportation, weather forecasting, telemedicine, science, and in many other ways.

October 1, International Day of Older Persons

- This year (2020) marks the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP) 2020: "Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?"
- In view of the higher risks confronted by old age persons during the outbreak of pandemics such as COVID-19, policy and programmatic interventions must be targeted towards raising awareness of their special needs. Recognizing older person's contributions to their own health and the multiple roles they play in the preparedness and response phases of current and future pandemics is also important.
- Note: The United Nations General Assembly designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons on 14 December 1990.

International Day of Non-Violence 2 October

- This Day is observed on 2 October on account of the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. He was the great leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of



non-violence.

- According to the UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) resolution of 15 June 2007, which established the commemoration, the International Day is an event to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through public awareness and education".

World Habitat Day 2020, October 05

- The 2020 theme is Housing For All: A better Urban Future. This day will be hosted by the city of Surabaya, in Indonesia.
- Note: In 1985 the (UN) United Nations designated the first Monday of October as World Habitat Day. It aims to reflect on the state of our cities and towns and the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It intends to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.
- The Habitat Scroll of Honour, most prestigious human settlements award, was launched by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in 1989.

Wild Life Week 2020 is observed from the 2nd of October to 8th of October in India.

- Wildlife Week is celebrated in the country with the view to preserve the fauna, which means the animal life of India.
- The Government has established an Indian Board of Wild Life, whose purpose is to improve the consciousness as well as the awareness of the Indian people towards wildlife preservation.

Objectives of Wild Life Week:

- To create awareness of the protection and conservation of wildlife.
- To focus the people's attention towards the importance of conservation of wildlife.
- To implement more services to preserve wildlife.
- To discuss all the issues related to the preservation of wildlife.

- ✓ The first-ever observance of the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction celebrated on 29 September.
- Reducing food losses and waste is essential where the many people affected by hunger has been slowly on the rise since 2014, and tons and tons of edible food are lost and/or wasted daily. Worldwide, around 14 per cent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail and significant quantities are also wasted in retail and at the consumption level. Food loss and waste results in unnecessary pressure on the natural resource base and on the environment, depleting the natural resource base and generating greenhouse gases.
- Note: In 2019, the 74th United Nations General Assembly designated 29 September as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, recognizing the fundamental role that sustainable food production plays in promoting food security and nutrition.
- ✓ World Heart Day on 29 September
- This day informs people around the world that cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, is the world's leading cause of death lives each year. Its objective is to drive action to educate people that by controlling risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity.
- Note: Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a disease that affects the heart or blood vessels. It's usually linked with a build-up of fatty deposits inside the arteries and an increased risk of blood clots.
- ✓ September 27, World Tourism Day 2020
- The theme is "Tourism and Rural Development" by United Nations World Tourism Day. The day focuses on the celebration of the unique role played by tourism in job creation in small towns and rural areas. It can also advance inclusion and highlight the unique role tourism can play in preserving and promoting natural and cultural heritage and curbing urban migration.
- ✓ 23 September, International Day of Sign Languages

September 2020



- The International Day of Sign Languages provides an opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all sign language users.
- It is celebrated by World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).
- Note: Sign language is one of the earliest forms of human communication. In the deaf community, Sign language is a form of visual language that uses hand gestures and body language to convey meaning. People commonly use signs when you wave hello or point to something you want.
- ✓ World Rhino Day on 22 September
 - Five species of rhinos around the world is celebrated on World Rhino Day. These five species of rhinos include White, Black, Greater One-horned, Javan and Sumatran. The day raises awareness of the plight of these beautiful beasts from a conservation perspective.
- ✓ World Rose Day: A Day to Bring Happiness in the Lives of Cancer Patients
 - World Rose Day is observed On September 22 in the memory of 12-year-old Melinda Rose from Canada who was diagnosed with Askin's Tumour, a rare form of blood cancer.
- ✓ International Day of Peace:
 - The International Day of Peace is celebrated on 21 September every year. The main aim of Peace Day is for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.
 - 2020 Peace Day Theme: Shaping Peace Together
- ✓ World Alzheimer's Day:
 - World Alzheimer's Day is the international campaign on every 21 September to raise awareness and challenge the stigma that surrounds dementia.
 - Note: Alzheimer's disease is a progressive disorder that causes brain cells to waste away (degenerate) and dies. The common cause of dementia, a continuous decline in thinking, behavioural and social skills that disrupts a person's ability to function independently. The symptoms of this disease may be forgetting recent events or conversations.
- ✓ World Patient Safety Day, 17 September:
 - On 17th September, The World Patient Safety Day is observed globally to focus a global awareness for patient safety and urge people to show their commitment to making healthcare safer.
 - The theme for World Patient Safety Day 2020: Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety.
- ✓ The 56th ITEC day was observed online by the High Commission of India in Dhaka:
 - Note: Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC): The ITEC, a flagship programme of the Indian government, was instituted in 1964 as part of India's development assistance programme offering developing countries the benefit of India's development experience.
- ✓ Engineer's Day:
 - Engineer's Day celebrated on September 15 as National Engineer's Day to appreciate the contributions of Visvesvaraya.
 - M Visvesvaraya was a pioneer in his field, credited for inventing the Block System for dams – the automated doors what shut during an overflow.
 - Note: Ayyalasomayajula Lalitha becoming the countries first-ever woman engineer.
- ✓ Hindi Diwas
 - Hindi Diwas is being celebrated across the country today on 14th On this day in 1949 the constituent assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the country.
 - Today, Hindi is one of the widely spoken languages in the world and the first language of more than 520 million people.
- ✓ World Suicide Prevention Day
 - World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is observed on 10 September every year.
 - The aim is to reinstate our worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world since 2003.
 - The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)



to host World Suicide Prevention Day.

- Theme: Working together to prevent suicide
- ✓ International Day to protect education from attack
- The first-ever International Day to protect education from the attack was celebrated on 9th September 2020 with the theme “Protect Education, Save a Generation”. The day has been established by a unanimous decision of UN General Assembly. UNESCO and UNICEF will facilitate the observance of the day every year in collaboration with other partners.
- ✓ International Literacy Day 2020
- September 8 marks the celebration of International Literacy Day.
- This year Theme: ‘Literacy teaching and learning in the Covid-19 crisis and beyond.’
- This year’s celebration is going to shed light on “the role of educators and changing pedagogies.
- In 1966, the first-ever International Literacy Day was declared.
- This day is celebrated in an effort to combat these problems and to provide a quality education for all.
- Introduced by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- ✓ International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies
- The Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on September 7, 2020, chair a webinar on the first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies.
- During the webinar, the Union Minister will also review the progress of activities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) which was launched in 2019.

August 2020

- ✓ **World Lung Cancer Day** is being observed on **1st August** to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer.
Note: August 1 to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer. The campaign was first organized in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies
- ✓ The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week celebrated annually in the first week of

The objective of International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies:

- The day aims at raising public awareness at all levels that clean air is important for productivity, environment, and economy.
- It will also demonstrate the close link of air quality to other environmental and developmental challenges such as Global Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change.
- Facilitate solutions that will improve the air quality by sharing actionable knowledge best practices, success stories, and innovations.
- The international day will bring together international actors who have been working on this topic to form a strategic alliance to gain momentum for effective air quality management.

On December 19, 2019, the General Assembly of the UN had adopted a resolution to observe the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on September 7 every year, starting from the year 2020.

- ✓ **World Coconut Day**
- World Coconut Day is observed on the 2nd of September, every year.
- It is observed by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) to emphasize on the importance of the fruit in poverty reduction.
- The aim for this year's World Coconut Day is to encourage investments and promote the development of the coconut industry in the member countries of APCC.

Five uses of coconut for better health

- Coconut helps in boosting immunity
- Coconut for managing blood sugar
- Coconut oil for hair
- Coconut oil for skin healing
- Coconut as an ingredient in food

August from 1st to 7th of August-- **“Support Breast feeding for a healthier planet”**.

Note: The day is celebrated to encourage breastfeeding and improve the babies’ health around the world. The day was commenced after signing the Innocenti Declaration in August 1990.

- ✓ 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. Sanskrit is a beautiful language which has made India a repository of knowledge for many years.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **National Handloom Day** is being celebrated every year on 7th August.

Note: 7th August was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on the same date in the year 1905. The objective is to generate awareness about the Handloom Industry among the public and its contribution to socio-economic development.

- ✓ United Nations observes the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples every year on **09th August**.

Note: The day is being observed to raise awareness of the needs of indigenous peoples. The **theme** of International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples 2020 is “**COVID-19 and indigenous peoples’ resilience**”.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **International Youth Day** is being celebrated every 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.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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. World Lizard Day has not yet been taken up for serious conservation work by international agencies or organizations like the IUCN or WWF, and is focused on creating awareness of the reptiles, apparently mostly as pets.

- ✓ 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. This year is the 11th edition of World Humanitarian Day.

- ✓ 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. The day celebrates the arts, crafts, science and history of Photography.

- ✓ Indian AkshayUrja 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 AkshayUrja Day was established in 2004 to support renewable energy development programs and promote its use instead of traditional sources of energy. The very first event relating to AkshayUrjaDiwas was organized in New Delhi.

- ✓ **Rajiv Gandhi** birth anniversary is celebrated as SadbhavanaDiwas 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. The Indian National Congress instituted Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award in 1992, a year after his death. Every year this day is celebrated in the memory of the late Rajiv Gandhi who was the youngest Prime Minister of India at the age of 40 years.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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

July 2020

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

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.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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'**.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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 Dhyana Chand who was the star of hockey team of India.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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.

celebrated every year on **1st July**.

- ✓ The theme of the National Doctor's Day 2020 which is celebrated every year in the country

on 1st July-- **Lessen the mortality of COVID 19.**

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

- ✓ World Sports Journalists Day is observed globally every year on **2nd July.**
- ✓ The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the **first Saturday of July.**
- ✓ International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) celebrated Dharma Chakra Day on **4th July.**
- ✓ World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day is observed every year on **7th July.**
- ✓ World Population Day is observed globally every year on **11th July.**
Note: This year theme of World Population Day 2020: Putting the brakes on COVID-19: Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls.
- ✓ The United Nations celebrates World Malala Day to honor the young activist, Malala Yousafzai every year on **12th July.**
- ✓ World Youth Skills Day is observed every year on **15th July.**
- ✓ World Day for International Justice is observed every year on **17th July.**
- ✓ United Nations celebrates World Chess Day globally every year on **20th July.**
- ✓ To mark the anniversary of man's first historic landing on the moon the Space Exploration Day is celebrated every year on **20th July.**

June 2020

- ✓ **World Milk Day 2020** observed every globally on **1st June 2020.**
- ✓ The theme of the Global Day of Parents 2020 celebrated every year on 1st June-- **Appreciate all parents throughout the world.**
- ✓ World Bicycle Day is celebrated every year on **3rd June.**
- ✓ International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed globally every year on **4th June.**
- ✓ The theme of the World Environment Day 2020, celebrated every year on June 5 -- **Celebrate Biodiversity.**
 - the day was hosted by China under the theme "Air Pollution".

- ✓ Nelson Mandela International Day is celebrated every year on **18th July** by the United Nations.
- ✓ National Broadcasting Day is observed every year all over India on **23rd July.**
- ✓ Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on **26th July.**
- ✓ The theme of the 2020 World Hepatitis Day (WHD) celebrated every year on 28th July -- **Hepatitis-Free Future.**
- ✓ In a bid to promote conservation, raise awareness and encourage sustainability, every year World Nature Conservation Day is observed on **28th July.**
However, this year a global theme has not been decided due to the pandemic.
- ✓ International Tiger Day is observed every year on which date across the globe to create awareness about tiger conservation -- **29th July.**
- ✓ United Nations observes 30th July every year as **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** days.
Note: The 2020 theme for the World Day Against Trafficking: "Committed to the Cause – Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking".
- ✓ The International Day of Friendship is observed every year on **30th July.**
- ✓ The International Day for the conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem is observed every year on **26th July.**

- ✓ Every year June 2nd is celebrated as the **International Sex Workers Day.**
- ✓ The International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing 2020 is celebrated on **5th June.**
- ✓ World Pest Day or World Pest Awareness Day is celebrated every year on **6th June.**
- ✓ United Nations Russian Language Day is celebrated every year on **6th June.**
- ✓ The World Ocean Day is celebrated every year on **8th June.**
 - This year, the World Oceans Day is celebrated under the theme 'Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean'.
- ✓ World Brain Tumour Day 2020 was



- observed on **8th June**.
- ✓ 9th June of Every year is celebrated as the **World Accreditation Day**.
 - The Theme of World Accreditation Day 2020 is “Accreditation: Improving food safety”
- ✓ The World Day against Child Labour is observed every year on **12th June**.
 - **Note:** The theme this year is, “COVID-19 - Protect children from child labour now, more than ever”.
- ✓ International Albinism Awareness Day is observed every year on **13th June**.
 - Theme of the 5th anniversary of International Albinism Awareness Day is "Made to Shine."
- ✓ The World Blood Donor Day is observed on every on **14th June**.
 - This year (2020) the World Blood Donor Day is celebrated under the theme ‘Safe Blood Saves Lives’.
- ✓ Every year, the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is celebrated on **15th June**.
 - The theme of the ‘World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2020 is "Lifting up Voices".
- ✓ World Wind Day or Global Wind is observed every year on 15th June. NThe International Day of Family Remittances is observed every year on **16th June** by the United Nations.
- ✓ World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2020 observed every year on 17th June. The theme of 2020 is **Food. Feed.Fibre. – the links between consumption and land.**

- ✓ Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed globally every year on **18th June**.
- ✓ World Hydrography Day is observed globally every year on **21st June**.
 - World Hydrography Day 2020 theme is “Hydrography enabling autonomous technologies”.
- ✓ World Music Day is observed globally every year on **21st June**.
- ✓ The theme of the International Day of Yoga 2020 -- **Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home**.
 - The theme of International Day of Yoga 2020 is “Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home”.
- ✓ The United Nations Public Service Day is observed globally every year **23rd June**.
- ✓ The International Widows Day is observed globally every year on **23rd June**.
- ✓ The theme of Day of the Seafarer, 2020 celebrated every year on 25th June -- **Seafarers are Key Workers**.
- ✓ The theme of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2020 observed every year globally on 26th June -- **Better Knowledge for Better Care**.
- ✓ International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed every year on **26th June**.
- ✓ National Statistics Day 2020’ celebrated every year on **29th June**.
 - "Good Health and Well Being and Gender Equality", is the theme for National Statistics Day 2020.
- ✓ The **UN’s International Day of Parliamentarism** is observed globally every year on **30th June**.
 - The theme for 2020 International Day of the Midwife is Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise, unite – our time is NOW!

May 2020

- ✓ International Labours day or May Day is celebrated every year on **1st May**.
- ✓ World Tuna Day is observed globally every year on **2nd May**.
- ✓ World Press Freedom Day is observed globally every year on **3rd May**.
 - The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2020 is “Journalism without Fear or Favour”.
- ✓ International Firefighters’ Day is observed globally every year on 4th May.
- ✓ International Day of the Midwife is observed globally every year on **5th May**.

- ✓ World Hand Hygiene Day observed globally on **5th May**.
 - The theme of the campaign is “SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands”.
- ✓ World Asthma Day is observed every year on **1st Tuesday of May**.
 - The theme for 2020 is ‘Enough



Asthma Deaths'. World Asthma Day is annually organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).

- ✓ The World Athletics Day is observed every year on **7th May**.
- ✓ To increase awareness about athletics and to encourage youth to take up sports World Athletics Day is observed every year on **7th May**.
- ✓ World Red Cross Day is observed globally every year on **8th May**.
- ✓ World Thalassaemia Day is observed globally every year on **8th May**.
- ✓ World Migratory Bird Day is observed globally every year on **9th May**.
 - This time the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is "Birds Connect Our World".
- ✓ Mother's Day is celebrated every year on **Second Sunday of May (9th May 2020)**
- ✓ National Technology Day is celebrated every year on **11th May**.
- ✓ International Nurse Day is observed globally on every year **12th May**.
- ✓ Armed Forces Day is observed every year on **____third Saturday in May (16th May 2020)**.
- ✓ The International Day of Light is celebrated every year on **16th May**.
- ✓ World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed globally every year on **17th May**.
 - The theme of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day of 2020: "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"
- ✓ World Hypertension Day is observed globally every year on **17th May**.
- ✓ International Museum Day is celebrated every year on **18th May**.
 - The International Museum Day 2020 was celebrated with the theme "Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion".
- ✓ World Bee Day is observed globally every year on **20th May**.
- ✓ International Tea Day is observed globally every year on **21st May**.
- ✓ World Metrology Day is observed globally every year on **20th May**.
- ✓ Anti Terrorism Day 2020 is observed every year in India on **21st May**.
 - **Note:** The day marks the death anniversary of India's seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 21 May 1991.
- ✓ World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is celebrated every year on **May 21**.
- ✓ The United Nations celebrates International Day for Biological Diversity every year on **22nd May**.
- ✓ The United Nations observes International Day to End Obstetric Fistula every year on **23 May**.
 - The theme for International Day to End Obstetric Fistula 2020 is "End gender inequality! End health inequities! End Fistula now!".
- ✓ World Turtle Day is being celebrated every year on **23rd May**.
- ✓ International Missing Children's Day is observed globally every year on **25th May**.
- ✓ World Thyroid Day is observed globally every year on **25th May**.
- ✓ International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed globally every year on **29th May**.
 - The Theme of day for 2020 is "Women in Peacekeeping: A Key to Peace".
- ✓ International Day of Action for Women's Health is observed globally every year on **28th May**.
- ✓ World Hunger Day is observed globally every year on **28th May**.
- ✓ International Everest Day is being observed every year on **29th May**.
- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates World No Tobacco Day every year on **31st May**.



April 2020

World Autism Awareness Day is observed every year on **April 2**.

- The theme for 2020 is “The Transition to Adulthood”.
- ✓ The **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action** is observed every year on **4th April**.
- ✓ The **57th Edition of National Maritime Day (NMD)** was celebrated on **April 5, 2020**.
- ✓ The **International Day of Conscience (IDC)** is observed for the 1st time on **5th April 2020**.
- ✓ The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSP) is celebrated every year on **6th April**.
- ✓ The International Romani Day is observed every year on **8th April**.
 - **Note:** The day is observed annually to raise awareness of the issues faced by Romani people and to celebrate Romani culture.
- ✓ The **World Homeopathy Day** is celebrated every year on **10th April**.
 - Theme of the day this year 2020 is “**Enhancing the scope of Homeopathy in Public Health**”.
- ✓ The **Play True Day** is observed every year on **9th April**.
 - **Note:** The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) celebrated the Play True Day 2020.
 - The theme of this year is ‘Play Safe on Play True Day 2020’.
- ✓ **National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD)** is celebrated annually on **11th April**.
- ✓ The **international day of human space flight** is observed across the world annually on **12th April**.
- ✓ National Pet Day is celebrated every year on **11th April**.
- ✓ The **World Voice Day (WVD)** is celebrated every year on **16th April**.
 - The Theme of the day for the year 2020 is “**FOCUS ON YOUR VOICE**”.
- ✓ The International Day of Mathematics (IDM) was celebrated for the first time on **March 14, 2020**.
 - Theme for the year 2020 is “**Mathematics is Everywhere**”.
- ✓ **World Haemophilia Day** is celebrated worldwide on **17th April**.
 - The theme of the **World Haemophilia Day 2020** is “**Get+involved**”.
- ✓ The World Art Day is celebrated every year on **15th April**.
- ✓ World Heritage Day is celebrated every year on **18th April**.
 - Theme for the year 2020 is “**Shared Culture, Shared Heritage and Shared Responsibility**”.
- ✓ **World Liver Day (WLD)** is observed every year on **19th April**.
- ✓ **World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID)** is celebrated all across the world on April 21.
- ✓ The **National Civil Service Day** is celebrated every year on **21st April**.
- ✓ **Mother Earth Day** is celebrated every year on **22nd April**.
 - The theme for **Earth Day 2020** is “**Climate Action**”.
- ✓ World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated every year on **23rd April**.
- ✓ Every year the United Nation Celebrates the UN English Language Day and UN Spanish Language Day on **23rd April**.
- ✓ The **World Day of Laboratory Animals** has been observed annually on **24th April**.
- ✓ National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) is observed annually on **24th April**.
- ✓ Every year 25th April is celebrated as **World Malaria Day**.
 - The theme of World Malaria Day 2020 is “**Zero Malaria Starts with Me**”
- ✓ World Intellectual Property Day established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), is celebrated every year on **26th April**.
 - The theme of this year is “**Innovate**”.



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for a Green Future”

- ✓ International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on **26th April**.
- ✓ 25th April of every year is celebrated as **World Penguin Day**.
- ✓ The **World Day for Safety and Health at Work (WDSHW)** is observed every year on **28th April**.
 - Theme of the Day for the year 2020 is Stop the pandemic: Safety and health at work can save lives.

Summits & Conference

February 2021

Third Quad Ministerial Meeting

- Foreign Ministers of Quad countries - India, Australia, Japan and US - discussed the necessity to promote freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar represented India at the Third Quad Ministerial Meeting.
- **Note:** The 1st meeting of Quad was organized in New York in the year 2019 and the 2nd meeting in Tokyo in the year 2020.

India hosts first meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies

- India hosted a meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies virtually and was co-Chaired by Shri. Tarun Bajaj, Secretary Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Dr. Michael Patra, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India.
- Other participants included BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies of Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa.
- **Note: India assumed the BRICS Chairship in 2021**, at a time when BRICS is celebrating its 15th anniversary.
- This was the first meeting on the BRICS Financial Cooperation under India Chairship in 2021.

Union Minister of Education Shri Ramesh

Pokhriyal ‘Nishank,’ delivers inaugural address at the 16th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2021

- The 16th edition of FICCI higher Education Summit (25th - 27th February 2021) is being organised virtually by FICCI in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The theme of the summit is **‘Higher Education @ 2030: R.I.S.E. – Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability, Enterprise.’**
- The Inaugural session also witnessed the release of FICCI- EY report **‘Higher Education in India: Vision 2040**.
- **Facts about FICCI** (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry): It is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in India.

Founded: 1927

Headquarters: New Delhi

President: Uday Shankar

Founders: Purshottamdas Thakurdas, Ghanshyam Das Birla

Prime Minister addresses NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum (NTLF) via video conferencing.
- It is the flagship event of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).
- The theme of this year's event is 'Shaping the future towards a better normal'.
- **Note:** The Prime Minister listed the steps taken in recent times such as National Communication Policy, policy to make India Global Software Product Hub and Other Service Provider (OSP) guidelines which were issued during Corona period.
- **Facts about NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies):** It is a non-profit organisation.

Chairperson: U. B. Pravin Rao

Founded: 1 March 1988



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Headquarters: New Delhi

India hosts SAARC virtual meet

- India hosted a virtual health secretary-level meeting with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries on February 18, 2021 to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Pakistan has been also invited to attend the workshop.
- The virtual workshop was held on COVID-19 management and response to the pandemic and exchange of best practices amid the pandemic.
- **Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed a Coronavirus Emergency Fund for the SAARC region during a video conference of the SAARC Heads of State on March 15, 2020.
- **Facts about SAARC:** The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia. Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Founded: 8 December 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Headquarters: Kathmandu, Nepal

Secretary General: Esala Weerakoon

1st India-EU High Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment held

- The 1st High Level Dialogue (HLD), co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and the European Union Executive Vice-President & Trade Commissioner Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, was held on 5th February 2021.
- The Ministers also agreed to meet within the next three months, with an objective for reaching consensus on a host of bilateral trade & investment cooperation issues- a bilateral Regulatory Dialogue; an India-EU Multilateral Dialogue.
- **Note:** Commitment to the establishment of this Dialogue was a major outcome of the

15th India-EU Leader's Summit held in July 2020.

• **Facts about the European Union (EU):**

Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

Founded: 1 November 1993

Members Countries: 27

- The United Kingdom became the first member state to leave the EU on 31 January 2020.
- In 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit-2021

- The theme of the summit is '**Redefining Our Common Future: Safe and Secure Environment for All**'.
- **Note:** The 20th edition of The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) flagship event, the World Sustainable Development Summit, is being organized online from 10-12 February in New Delhi and will bring together a wide number of governments, business leaders, academicians, climate scientists, youth, and the civil society in the fight against climate change.

2nd Maritime India Summit (MIS) - 2021

- Around 20,000 delegates will participate, 24 partner countries will join and more than 400 Projects are set to be showcased in the 2nd edition of Maritime India Summit (MIS) 2021 to be held virtually from **2nd March to 4th March**.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Maritime India Summit-2021 on 2nd March.
- The event is being organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) jointly with FICCI as Industrial Partner and EY as Knowledge Partner.
- MIS-2021 is going to provide a powerful platform for international collaboration and bring in partner countries for mutual exchange of knowledge and opportunities.

5th Joint Meeting of the India-Japan Act East



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Forum

- India and Japan held the fifth joint meeting of the India-Japan Act East Forum (AEF) on 28 January 2021 in New Delhi.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, and H.E. Mr. Suzuki Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India.

About Act East Forum (AEF): It was established in 2017 to provide a platform for India-Japan collaboration in the North Eastern Region under India's "Act East Policy" and Japan's vision for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific"

January 2021

India sets up high-level group for South Asia energy security

- The center has set up a high-level group to help build a South Asia-focused energy security architecture.
- The high-level group, headed by former Union power secretary Ram Vinay Shahi, is named the South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE).
- It has been set up under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)-run think tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on January 9, 2021

- The theme of the event was 'Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- The names of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees 2020-2021 will also be announced.
- **Youth Pravasi Bhartiya Divas** was observed on the theme "Bringing together Young Achievers from India and Indian Diaspora" on 8 January 2021.
- **About Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD):** This day has its own significance as it is the day when Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa in 1915.
- *The first Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or Non-Resident Indian Day was celebrated on 9 January, 2003. Its format has been revised*

since 2015 to celebrate the PBD once every two years.

4th 'One Planet Summit' for biodiversity

- **The Summit was organized by France, in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank on January 11, 2021.**
- The summit's theme is "Let's act together for nature!"
- The Summit programme focused on biodiversity preservation: the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, the promotion of agroecology, the mobilization of funding for biodiversity, and the link between deforestation, species and human health.

Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurates the 'Prarambh': Startup India International Summit

- The two day 'Prarambh', Startup India International Summit (15-16 January 2021) held in New Delhi, with members of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries participating in the inaugural event.
- The Summit was organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, M/o Commerce & Industry.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a seed fund worth Rs 1,000 crore for startups to provide them with initial capital to start and grow their business during the summit.
- **Note:** The summit marked the fifth anniversary of the Startup India initiative launched by Modi on this day in 2016.

Britain invites PM Modi to attend G7 Summit to be held in June this year

- The United Kingdom has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the G7 Summit as a guest. The G7 Summit is to be held on June 11-13 this year.
- A statement by the British High Commission said, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is also likely to visit India ahead of the G7 Summit.



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- Besides India, Australia and South Korea have also been invited as guest countries.
- **Facts about G7:** The heads of government of the member states, as well as the representatives of the European Union, meet at the annual G7 Summit.

Founded: 1975

Members: United Kingdom, United States, Japan, France, Germany, Canada, Italy

Climate Adaptation Summit 2021

- The online international Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) 2021 on 25 and 26 January was hosted by the Netherlands, convened global leaders and local stakeholders.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 25, 2021 addressed the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 and said that India is targeting 450 gigawatt of renewable energy capacity by the year 2030.
- **Note:** The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as **COP26**, is the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference. It is scheduled to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from **1 to 12 November 2021** under the presidency of the United Kingdom.

PM Modi addresses World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue on January 28, 2021.
- The Prime Minister asserted that India is working on all the four factors of Industry 4.0- connectivity, automation, artificial intelligence or machine learning and real-time data.
- The Davos Dialogues agenda marks the launch of the World Economic Forum's Great Reset Initiative in the post Covid-19 world.
- **About World Economic Forum:** It is an international NGO that was founded on January 24, 1971. Klaus Martin Schwab is the founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum. The World

Economic Forum hosts its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland at the end of January.

India signs Strategic Partnership Agreement with International Energy Agency (IEA)

- The Framework for Strategic Partnership between the International Energy Agency (IEA) members and the Government of India was signed on 27th January, 2021 to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation & enhance global energy security, stability and sustainability.
- The MoU was signed by Mr. Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, Secretary (Power) from the Indian side and Dr. Fatih Birol, IEA Executive Director from the IEA side.
- **Facts about International Energy Agency:**
Headquarters: Paris, France
Membership: 30 member countries
Executive Director: Fatih Birol
Establishment: November 1974
- **Note:** In March 2017, India joined the IEA as an association country. (Total 8 association countries are in IEA).

December 2020

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to attend G7 summit in 2021

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's invitation to attend the G7 Summit in 2021, which will be hosted by the United Kingdom.
- **Note:** British PM will be Chief Guest of India's 72nd Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi in January 2021.
- Johnson will be just the second British leader ever to attend India's Republic Day parade in New Delhi as a guest of honour, after John Major in 1993.

First Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port

- The Ministry of External Affairs said, this will open up economic opportunities for the traders and business community of the region.



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- **Note:** All the countries welcomed India's proposal to hold a "Chabahar Day" on the margins of the International Maritime Summit to be hosted by New Delhi in January next year.
- **Chabahar Port** is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- The port is being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan to boost trade ties among the three countries.

PM Narendra Modi addresses Climate Ambition Summit 2020

- The summit was co-hosted by the United Nations, the United Kingdom and France in partnership with Chile and Italy to mark the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement on December 12, 2020.
- The prime minister added that India has reduced its emission intensity by 21 percent over 2005 levels. Our solar capacity has grown from 2.63 GigaWatts in 2014 to 36 GigaWatts in 2020. Our renewable energy capacity is the fourth largest in the world.
- **Note:** The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recently released the **Emissions Gap Report, 2020**.
- The report finds that, despite a brief dip in carbon dioxide emissions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is still heading for a temperature rise in excess of 3°C this century – far beyond the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming.

'Swadhinata Sarak' between Bangladesh and India to be opened on March 26, 2021

- Swadhinata Sarak remains functional on the Indian side while it will be connected through Mujibnagar, Meherpur district in Bangladesh.
- **Note:** During the summit meeting between the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh on December 17, Chilahati-Haldirbari rail link which was active till 1965 will be inaugurated.

2nd The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) 2020

Conference

- Dr Harsh Vardhan, the Minister of Science and Technology and Vice President of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), virtually inaugurated the 2nd TCGA 2020 conference on 04 December.
- The Conference brings together scientists and clinicians from across the globe to build Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) which has been initiated by a consortium of key stakeholders in India led by CSIR, Government of India.
- Note: TCGA is a landmark cancer genomics program that molecularly characterized over 20,000 primary cancers and matched normal samples spanning 33 cancer types. This joint effort between the US- National Cancer Institute and the National Human Genome Research Institute began in 2006, bringing together researchers from diverse disciplines and multiple institutions.

November 2020

Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2020

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Bengaluru Tech Summit (19 – 21, November 2020).
- The summit is organised by the Government of Karnataka along with Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, Karnataka government's Vision Group on Information Technology, Biotechnology & StartUp, Software Technology Parks of India and MM Activ Sci-Tech Communications.
- The theme of the summit is "Next is Now".
- Note: The Bangalore IT.com established in 1998 and Bangalore BIO in 2000 are the two events of the Government of Karnataka that has positioned Bengaluru as one of the most dynamic cities in the world. In the year 2017, these two leading events were brought together under one umbrella event Bengaluru Tech Summit at iconic Bangalore



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Palace. Since then BTS has become the place of convergence for the leading cross-sector tech companies to startups, technocrats to young innovators, policymakers to investors, researchers to academia, facilitating dialogue and collaborations.

October 2020 to September 2020

✓ RAISE 2020 – Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence to be held from October 5-9

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog will organize a Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020.'
- Note: RAISE 2020 is a first of its kind, a global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence to drive India's vision and roadmap for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility, among other sectors.
- AI (Artificial intelligence) means the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think like humans and mimic their actions.
- ✓ Ministerial Meeting of the G4 Countries
 - On 23 September 2020, the Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries met virtually during the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.
 - Note: G4 nations are Brazil, India, Germany and Japan. The G4's primary aim is the permanent member seats on the Security Council.
- ✓ Informal Meeting of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Council of Ministers
 - Minister of External Affairs, the Republic of India, Dr S. Jaishankar, participated in the annual Informal Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers on 24th September 2020 chaired by Nepal. Dr. Jaishankar called upon SAARC member states to collectively resolve to defeat the scourge of terrorism, including the forces that nurture, support and

encourage an environment of terror and conflict, which impede the objective of SAARC to realize its full potential for collective collaboration and prosperity across South Asia.

- Note: SAARC: It promotes the development of economic and regional integration. The member is Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It founded in Dhaka on 8 December 1985. Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ✓ UN, Britain to co-host a global climate summit on Dec 12, 2020
- United Nations and Britain will co-host a global climate summit on December 12, 2020. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will co-host the event to rally much greater climate action and ambition.
- Note: Climate change includes both the global warming driven by human emissions of greenhouse gases and the resulting large-scale shifts in weather patterns.
- ✓ PM Modi to inaugurate VAIBHAV Summit on 2nd October 2020
- Note: The VAIBHAV Summit is a joint initiative of all S&T and Academic Organisations of India (working in Research, Academic and Scientific fields) to enable deliberations on thought processes, practices and R&D culture with a problem-solving approach for well-defined objectives.
- Summit aims to give an impetus to the objectives of Atal Innovation Mission by leveraging the collaborative experience and deep expertise of International and Indian subject experts.
- Vaibhav summit seeks active support and ideation from Indian Diaspora for developing skills of Indian aspirants in alignment with the New Educational Policy.
- ✓ Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare attended Joint G20 Finance and Health Ministers Meeting through video conference:



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- Saudi Arabia bestowed with the Presidency of G20 grouping hosted the session.
- Note: G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation and brings together the leaders of developing and developed countries.
- The representatives of G20 countries gather to talk about financial and socio-economic issues.
- Members represent around 80% of the world's economic output, three-quarters of international trade and two-thirds of the global population.
- ✓ IBSA Foreign Ministers' Virtual Meeting:
 - Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India chaired the customary meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers.
 - The Ministers focus on various issues of global significance including peace, climate change, sustainable development, security, countering terrorism, multilateral trading system, disarmament, non-proliferation issues and South-South Cooperation.
 - Note: IBSA is a formal association of India, Brazil and South Africa; all three are large democracies and major economies from three different continents, facing similar challenges.
- ✓ 10th virtual meeting of BRICS NSAs chaired by Russia:
 - The National Security Advisors of the BRICS nations will deliberate upon the issues related to strengthening political security and cooperation among the five countries
 - Note: BRICS is an organization of 5 major Countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The BRICS aims to deepen and intensify cooperation within the grouping and among the individual countries for more equitable, sustainable and mutually beneficial development. The BRICS members are known for their significant present on regional affairs.
- ✓ Environment Ministerial Meeting of G20 countries held through video conferencing:
 - The Environment Ministerial Meeting of the G20 countries was held through video conferencing under the Presidency of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
 - Note: The meetings focused on various social and economic issues such as agriculture, anti-corruption, climate, digital economy, education, employment, energy, environment, health, tourism, trade and investment.
 - ✓ New ASEAN-India Plan of Action adopted for 5 years at Ministerial Meeting:
 - External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar co-chaired the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting along with his Thailand counterpart Don Pramudwinai.
 - It reviewed the status of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership in several areas including connectivity, education, maritime cooperation and capacity building and people-to-people contacts.
 - The new ASEAN-India Plan of Action works from 2021 to 2025 was adopted at the Meeting.
 - ✓ Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar addresses conference on Afghan peace negotiations in Doha, Qatar:
 - Addressing the conference virtually, EAM addressed that the peace process must be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, and Afghan-controlled. It has been India's stand for long.
 - EAM also said that the process must respect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and promote human rights and democracy. EAM stressed that the Intra Afghan talks must ensure the interest of minorities, women, and the vulnerable section of society.
 - ✓ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to attend SCO Foreign Ministers meeting in Moscow
 - The Council of Foreign Ministers meeting of SCO in Moscow will review the preparations for the forthcoming SCO Summit and also deliberate on international and regional issues. This will be the third Council of Foreign Ministers meeting that India will be attending in the capacity of a full member of SCO



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About SCO:

- The SCO has eight members namely India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and four observer states - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.
- India and Pakistan joined SCO in 2017.
- ✓ World Solar Technology Summit
- The first World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) being organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a joint initiative of France and India, launched during COP21 with the aim of making an unprecedented effort to promote solar energy.
- The ISA is putting in place concrete tools, capacity-building measures and innovative financial instruments.
- ✓ Indo-Pacific Business Forum
- The third annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum is slated to be held in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on October 28 and 29, 2020.
- The forum advances a vision for the Indo-Pacific as a free and open region composed of nations that are independent, strong and prosperous.
- Government and business leaders from the US, Vietnam and across the Indo-Pacific will discuss energy and infrastructure, the digital economy, market connectivity, health and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and US-Indo-Pacific partnerships and commercial opportunities.
- ✓ **Cycling Federation of India (CFI) to host first ever Cycling Summit in 2021 across Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru**

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.
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **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**.
- ✓ **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.



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- ✓ **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 2020**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

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **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

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **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.

- ✓ **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.

July 2020**36th biannual ASEAN Summit held virtually**

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under the chairmanship of Vietnamese

Note:

- Its theme was ‘**Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN**’
- The summit focuses on COVID-19 epidemic response, post-pandemic recovery and further cooperation with partners.

2. PM delivered the inaugural address at India Global Week 2020

About India Global Week 2020:

- It is a 3-day virtual conference including 5000 global participants from 30 nations by 250 global speakers across 75 sessions
- **Theme: ‘BeTheRevival: India and a Better New World’**
- It will also feature performance on ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ by Madhu Nataraj and a special 100 birth anniversary concert in tribute to the sitar maestro Ravi Shankar

3. 5th edition of Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies inaugurated in Delhi

Note:

- **Theme: ‘Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Mission’.**
- It was organised by **Tamil Nadu Technology Development & Promotion Centre (TNTDPC), Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).**
- **Aim:** Development of defence and Indian civil Aviation MRO market to enhance Aerospace and Defence industry’s market to 70 billion Dollar by 2030.

4. Second U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership held

Note:

- **Aim:** Review progress, accomplishments, and new areas for cooperation between India and US.
- It was co-chaired by Dan Brouillette (Energy Minister) and Dharmendra Pradhan (MoPNG)
- MoU was signed on Strategic Petroleum Reserves, storing oil, PACE-R and for India’s first-ever Solar Decathlon in 2021
- USAID tied-up with POSOCO to develop

India’s National Open Access Registry (NOAR).

- Public-private Hydrogen Task Force has also been launched

6. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship organises virtual conclave marking 5th year of Skill India Mission and World Youth Skills Day

Note:

- It was addressed by PM Narendra Modi with new mantra for the youth to ‘**skill, reskill and upskill**’.
- **Focus:** ASEEM portal, SWADES, Vision Report 2025, eskill India Platform, and other initiative by MSMEs Ministry

7. PM Narendra Modi addressed United Nations Economic and Social Council session

Note:

- Theme: ‘**Multi-lateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary**’
- India’s developmental motto of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas’ was linked with the core Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) principle of leaving no one behind.

8. PM Modi addresses India Ideas Summit 2020 virtually

Note:

- **Focus:** Building global economic resilience through stronger domestic economic capacities
- It is being hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC) marking its 45th anniversary
- **Theme:** ‘Building a Better Future’.

9. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates CII National Digital conference on Ease of Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat

- **Focus:** Policy simplification and asked for industry's feedback and cooperation.
- Conference paved the way for a single window system for industrial approvals that will soon be in place along with easier labour law and soft launch of land bank portal

June 2020



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I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurates Virtual India Pavilion at Cannes Film Market 2020

Note:

- It took place from 22 to 26 June 2020.
- It facilitates B2B meetings and linkages between film makers, media and entertainment industries stakeholders.
- India will screen two films: MaiGhat (Marathi) and Hellaro (Gujarati).

2. Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers inaugurates India's first Virtual Healthcare and Hygiene EXPO 2020

Note:

- It was held from 22nd to 26th June, 2020.
- It has been organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

3. DST constitutes Joint Science Communication Forum for coordination amongst public sector science communication institutions and agencies.

Note:

- It will facilitate easier communication with adoption of common policy and practices.
- It is also mandated to formulate countrywide programmes, policies, and activities in the science communication.

4. World Economic Forum to host 2021 Unique Twin Summit

Note:

- Theme: 'The Great Reset'
- WEF will hold the summit both in-person and virtual series 'The Great Reset Dialogues' making it available for everyone across the globe
- It will bring together leaders from across the globe pushing beyond traditional thinking boundaries.

5. PM Modi addresses virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020

Note:

- It was hosted by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and was attended by business leaders, UN Agencies, civil society of 50 countries virtually.
- It witnessed a new era of global health

cooperation as world leaders show overwhelming commitment to equitable immunisation and health security due to COVID-19 pandemic.

May 2020

1. Army Commanders' Conference inaugurated in New Delhi

Note:

- The 1st phase of the conference was held from 27 May to 29 May 2020 and the second phase was held in June 2020.
- It is an apex biannual event that takes into consideration operation, administrative, logistics, and security issues.

2. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit 2020 under the chairmanship of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev

Note:

- Theme: "We are together against COVID-19".

3. Bamboo Conclave held via Video Conferencing

Note:

- It featured the participation of representatives of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Union Ministry of Agriculture and various other stakeholders from different sectors.
- Conclave discussed the significance of Bamboo that will help India economically post COVID-19

4. Technology Development Board (TDB) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) jointly organized Conference "RE-START" Conference

Note:

- RE-START: Reboot the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations
- The conference was organized on the occasion of National Technology Day.
- It was followed by technical sessions on 'Medicines & Medical Technologies', 'Advanced Materials: New Technology Horizons' and 'Technology Alliance for Global Economic Leadership'.



5. ‘Van Dhan Scheme: learnings for post COVID-19’ webinar launched

Note:

- It was organised under Know Your Scheme- Lecture Series and hosted by Dept of Science and Technology in collaboration with Trifed, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- TRIFED has also assure revenue of Rs 20k to 30k per person per year through Van Dhan Value addition Scheme’s minimum support price.
- TRIFED is also looking towards launching ‘Tech for Tribals’ initiative for this

Important Committees and Commissions in India

✓ Committees and commissions are formed for studying a problem/issues and then putting forth recommendations to resolve those issue. The govt can either accept or reject the findings/recommendations of the committee/ commission:

Committee/Commission	Head	Objective
Justice Mukandakam Sharma Committee	Justice Mukandakam Sharma	The aim is to review the draft of the National Code for Good Governance in sports.
General Shekatkar Committee	General Shekatkar	Committee of Experts on rebalancing defence expenditure.
Naresh Chandra Committee	Naresh Chandra	Report on the Taskforce on National security
Prakash Tandon Committee(1994)	Prakash Tandon	Unification of existing railway service
Rajat Bhargav Committee	Rajat Bhargav Committee	Panel on petrochemical investment
H R Khan Committee	H R Khan Committee	Code for responsible lending in Micro Credit
Tapan Ray Committee	Tapan Ray	It will review the regulatory guidelines and supervisory framework of Core Investment Companies (CIC)
Harsh Vardhan Committee	Harsh Vardhan	It will examine the existing state of mortgage securitization in India and Development of Housing Finance Securitization
Monetary Policy Committee/Shaktikanta Das Committee	Shaktikanta Das	It will accelerate the GDP growth of the country
High-level Committee/Nandan Nilekani Committee	Nandan Nilekani	It will suggest measure to strengthen the safety and security of digital payments in the country
High-level and Bezbaruah Committee	M.P. Bezbaruah	It will review the implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord
Expert Committee/UK Sinha Committee	UK Shina	It will look into the various challenges faced by MSMEs
National Implementation Committee/Rajnath Singh Committee	Rajnath Singh	It will look into the multiple challenges faced by MSMEs



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Rajiv Kumar Committee	Rajiv Kumar	It will look at selling as many as 149 small and gas fields of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output.
Injeti Srinivas High-Level committee	Injeti Srinivas	It will review the existing framework and guide, and formulate a roadmap for a coherent policy on Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR)
Ethics Committee /Lal Krishna Advani	Lal Krishna Advani	It is a Committee of Lok Sabha which examines complaints related to any unethical conduct by members of Lower House of Parliament
Bhaskar Ramamurthy Committee	Bhaskar Ramamurthy	It will suggest changes to JEE(Advanced)in the wake of an inadequate number of candidates qualifying the entrance test.
B Sesikeran Committee	B Sesikeran	To review food labelling standards
High-level Empowered Committee	Cabinet Secretary	It will suggest measures to address issues of Stressed Thermal Power Projects.
Sub-Committee/Dr. NilimaKshrisagar Committee	Dr NilimaKshrisagar	It will evaluate 324 irrational FDCs in three months
Group of Minister(GOM)and High-Level Committee/Rajiv Gauba	Rajiv Gauba	It will deliberate and make a recommendation for a separate penal provision on incidents of mob violence
13-member Committee/Ravinder H Dholakia Committee	Ravinder H Dholakia.	It will review Sub-National Accounts to upgrade the norms for the computation of economic data.
Sunil Mehta Committee	Sunil Mehta	It will examine setting up of Asset Reconstruction /Management Company for faster resolution of stressed assets of PSB
Minorities Commission and S.C., S.T. Commission	Mohammed Qamaruddin	For Minorities and S.C., S.T.
14-member panel/Umesh Sinha Committee	Umesh Sinha	It will study the use of social media and other digital platforms in the voting and give suggestions on how to adapt the Model Code of Conduct to these changes.
Manmohan Juneja Committee	Manmohan Juneja	The panel will revisit "Schedule VII of Companies Act, 2013, based on references received from stakeholders, including ministries and department of centre and states, members of Parliament, member of state legislatures and civil societies".
Defense Planning Committee(DCP)/AjitDoval Committee	AjitDoval	It will suggest measures to reform the process of higher defence planning and national security strategy.



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Injeti Srinivas Committee	Injeti Srinivas	It will suggest improvements in the National Sports Development Code and functioning of Sports Federations
Negotiation Committee	A representative from Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation	On Mahanadi & its Tributaries
Timothy Gonsalves Committee	Timothy Gonsalves	The committee suggested creating 20% reservation seats for the girl students in IITs
Vinod Rai Committee	Vinod Rai	To manage the Indian cricket board
N.S Kang Committee	N.S Kang	It will frame uniform rules for the states to avoid delay in the fast implementation and reduce hindrance of the Rights of Person with Disabilities (RPD) Act in the country
N.K. Singh Committee	N.K. Singh	It will review the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management(FRBM)
Amitabh Chaudhry Committee	Amitabh Chaudhry	To analysis the existing framework of IRDA-kinked and non-linked insurance product regulation
Afzal Amanullah Committee	Afzal Amanullah	It suggests ways to improve India's Haj policy. It also looks into the issue of subsidy to the pilgrimage.
H. R. Nagendra Committee	H. R. Nagendra	The objective is to prepare a Yoga Protocol for Diabetes Control
Dr Pritam Singh Committee	Dr. Pritam Singh	The aim is to study the setting up of a Defence procurement organization
Meena Hemchandra Committee	Meena Hemchandra	It reviews the threats inherent in the existing and emerging technology also consider the adoption of various security standards and protocols, interface.
Partha Mukhopadhyay Committee	Partha Mukhopadhyay	It suggests the necessary legal and policy framework protecting the interests of the migrants in the country.
Arvind Panagariya Committee	Arvind Panagariya	It will examine the working of the regulatory bodies Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) and Central Council of Homeopathy(CCH)
AK Bajaj Committee	AK Bajaj	It will address issues related to the management of the waters of Krishna River between warring Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
Lt. Gen. D.B. Shekatkar Committee	Lt. Gen. D. B. Shekatkar	It will Reform the military and improve financial management.
Justice Shri Girdhar Malviya Committee	Justice Shri Girdhar Malviya	To prepare draft Ganga Act



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Kewal Kumar Sharma Committee	Kewal Kumar Sharma	To review the recommendations made by the University Grants Commission (UGC) panel on implementation of the 7 th pay commission in educational institutions
Mr Ashok Dalwai Committee	Mr Ashok Dalwai	To establish a regulated wholesale agri-market at a distance of every 80 km
Dr R B Barman Committee	Dr R B Barman (Chairman of the national statistical Commission)	The objective is to lay down technical standards for the performance of core services and other services
Arvind Panagariya Committee	Arvind Panagariya	To compute timely data on the employment situation in the country
Madhav Chitale Committee	Madhav Chitale	The objective is to recommend measures for de-siltation of river Ganga
Smt. Rina Mitra Committee	Smt. Rina Mitra Special secretary (internal security) in the ministry of Home affairs.	It examines the rules which allow free movement of Indians and Myanmar Citizen.
Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan Committee	Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan	To draft the national education
Uday Kotak Committee	Uday Kotak	It will suggest improvement in the standards of corporate governance of listed companies
Pradeep Kumar Committee	Pradeep Kumar	It will look at the stressed assets of the banking sector
CK Khanna Committee	CK Khanna	The objective is to support staff of the Indian team and then decide in the contracts that will hand over to the coaches
Pradeep Kumar Shina Committee	Pradeep Kumar Sinha	To select the national anti-profiteering authority
Usha Nath Banerjee Committee	Usha Nath Banerjee	Deal with the players' transfer dispute.'
Justice B N Srikrishna Committee	Justice B.N. Srikrishna	It is an expert committee to study various issues relating to data protection.
Renuka Chowdhury Committee	Renuka Chowdhury	According to the committee, Genetically modified(G.M.) crop should be introduced only after biosafety, socio-economics evaluation
Tarun Ramadorai Committee	Tarun Ramadorai	Rights-based privacy framework in household finance



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India's Ranking & Index

Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Aazad, five Indian-origin persons, feature in TIME magazine's list of 100 emerging leaders

- **Bhim Army** is an Ambedkarite and dalit rights organisation in India. It was founded by Satish Kumar, Vijay Ratan Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad in 2015.
- Five Indian-origin persons featured in Time: Twitter lawyer Vijaya Gadde, UK's Finance Minister Rishi Sunak, Instacart founder and CEO Apoorva Mehta, Get Us PPE executive director and doctor Shikha Gupta and founder of nonprofit Upsolve's Rohan Pavuluri
- **Note: The 2021 TIME100 Next** is an expansion of TIME's flagship TIME100 franchise of the most influential people in the world and highlights 100 emerging leaders who are shaping the future.

India falls to 53rd position in EIU's Democracy Index

- India slipped two places to 53rd position in the 2020 Democracy Index's global ranking as India was ranked 51st in the 2019 Democracy Index.
- Norway topped The EIU's latest Democracy Index report titled "Democracy in sickness and in health?" with Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Canada making up the top five.
- Out of 167 countries, the Democracy Index classifies 23 countries as full democracies, 52 as flawed democracies, 35 as hybrid regimes and 57 as authoritarian regimes.
- India has been classified as a 'flawed democracy' along with countries such as the U.S., France, Belgium and Brazil.
- **Facts about the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU):** It is the world's leading resource for economic and business research, forecasting and analysis.
Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
Parent organization: Economist Group
Founded: 1946

India to be largest source of energy demand growth to 2040: IEA's India Energy Outlook 2021

- India will make up the biggest share of energy demand growth at 25 % over the next two decades, as it overtakes the European Union as the world's third-biggest energy consumer by 2030.
- India's energy consumption is expected to nearly double as the nation's gross domestic product expands to an estimated \$8.6 trillion by 2040 under its current national policy scenario.
- **Facts about International Energy Agency (IEA):**
Headquarters: Paris, France
Member Countries: 30 member countries and 8 association countries
Executive Director: Fatih Birol
Establishment: November 1974

India ranked 86th in Corruption Perception Index 2020

- India's rank is 86 out of 180 nations with a score of 40 released by Transparency International (TI).
- India's rank has slipped six places in 2020 as India was ranked at 80th position out of 180 countries in 2019.
- New Zealand and Denmark were ranked at first position with scores of 88.
- Somalia and South Sudan were ranked lowest at 179th position.
- **Facts about Transparency International (TI):**
Headquarters: Berlin, Germany
Chairperson: Delia Ferreira Rubio
Founded: 4 May 1993

India ranks 86th on Covid-19 Response Index

- India has ranked 86th in a coronavirus performance index comprising 98 countries, according to the performance index compiled by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute.



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- **Top three countries** are New Zealand, Vietnam, Taiwan respectively and Brazil was ranked at the bottom in the list.
- The study measured a number of key indicators, including confirmed cases, deaths, cases per million people and deaths per million people.

Reliance Jio ranked fifth strongest brand globally

- Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's four-year-old telecom venture Reliance Jio has been ranked the fifth strongest brand globally.
- Jio has entered the ranking for the first time and claimed fifth position with a BSI score of 91.7 out of 100 and the elite AAA+ brand strength rating.
- **According to the Brand Finance's Global 500, 2021, Chinese mobile app WeChat was at the top position.**

UN World Tourism Organization confirms 2020 as 'Worst Year on Record'

- Global tourism suffered its worst year on record in 2020, with international arrivals dropping by 74 percent according to the latest data from the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
- Destinations worldwide welcomed 1 billion fewer international arrivals in 2020 than in the previous year (2019), due to an unprecedented fall in demand and widespread travel restrictions.
- **Facts about the World Tourism Organization:** It is the United Nations specialized agency.

Headquarters: Madrid, Spain

Formation: 1 November 1974

Head: Zurab Pololikashvili

India ranks 10th in Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index

- India ranked 10th out of 11 Asia Pacific countries in a newly-launched health index to measure the progress towards personalised healthcare.

- Singapore ranked 1st, Taiwan 2nd and Japan 3rd in the index.
- **Note:** The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) report 'Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index', developed by the Copenhagen Institute for Future Studies in partnership with Roche, measures the readiness of 11 health systems across the region — Australia, China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and New Zealand — in adopting personalised healthcare.

Maharashtra ranks first in justice delivery in India

- In the second edition of the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2020**, Maharashtra has retained the top spot on delivering justice to people among 18 large and medium sized states, followed by Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Punjab and Kerala.
- Only 29 % of Judges in High Courts across the country are women.
- Bihar, Uttarakhand, Tripura and Meghalaya have no woman judges in their High Courts.
- **About the India Justice Report:** It is an initiative of Tata Trusts in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS-Prayas, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, and How India Lives.

PHDCCI: India 2nd most resilient economy among the top 10 leading economies in 2021

- *Germany ranks 1st in the PHDCCI International Economic Resilience (IER) Rank followed by India and South Korea at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.*
- *The analysis of the leading economies conducted on the basis of the five leading macroeconomic parameters.*
- *India's Real GDP growth rate is projected to be the highest at 11.5% in the year 2021 among the top 10 leading economies in the world.*
- **About PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry:** It is a



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proactive National Apex Chamber working as a catalyst in the promotion of industry, trade and entrepreneurship.

Establishment: 1905

President: Sanjay Aggarwal

Headquarters: New Delhi

RBI unveils digital payment index

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constructed a composite Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.
- The RBI-DPI has been constructed with March 2018 as the base period. The DPI for March 2019 and March 2020 work out to 153.47 and 207.84 respectively, indicating appreciable growth.
- **Note:** The RBI-DPI comprises five broad parameters that enable the measurement of deepening and expansion of digital payments in the country over different time periods.
- These parameters include Payment Enablers (weight 25%), Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors (10%), Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors (15%), Payment Performance (45%) and Consumer Centricity (5%).

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) report of 146 National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country

- At present, India has a network of 903 Protected Areas covering about five percent of the total geographic area of the country.
- 70 percent of the global tiger population, 70 percent of Asiatic lions and more than 60 percent of leopard's population in country, is a certificate of India's thriving biodiversity.
- The Minister also announced that from this year onwards ten best National Parks, five Coastal and Marine parks and top five Zoos in the country will be ranked and awarded every year.
- Javadekar also launched the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Indian Zoos framework which proposes guidelines,

criteria and indicators for evaluation of zoos of the country.

India ranks 85th in World's most powerful passports index 2021

- Henley Passport Index 2021 has revealed the list of the world's most powerful passports and India has been ranked 85th on it.
- India's passport got a visa-free score of 58, which means Indian passport holders can visit 58 countries without prior visa.
- **First rank-**Japan (191), **Second rank-**Singapore (190)
- Iraq and Afghanistan are the countries with the worst passport with score 28 and 26 respectively.

At 18 million, India has the world's largest diaspora population

- India has the largest diaspora population in the world with 18 million people from the country living outside their homeland in 2020. India's large diaspora is distributed across the United Arab Emirates (3.5 million), the United States of America (2.7 million) and Saudi Arabia (2.5 million).
- Other countries hosting large numbers of Indian migrants included Australia, Canada, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar and the United Kingdom.
- Other countries with a large diaspora population included Mexico and Russia (11 million each), China (10 million).
- The US remained by far the largest country of destination of international migrants with 51 million migrants in 2020, equal to 18 percent of the world's total. Germany hosted the second largest number of migrants worldwide at around 16 million.
- **Note:** The report 'International Migration 2020 Highlights' was released by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

11 domestic companies in Hurun's top 500 list, India ranked 10th



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- Total 11 private Indian firms have made it to the list of 500 most valuable companies across the world, and the country is ranked 10th on the chart.
- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries ranked 54th, Tata Consultancy Services' ranking 73rd globally and making it the second most valuable Indian firm.
- The list of 500 is led by consumer technology major Apple and is followed by Microsoft and Amazon.
- **Note:** The Hurun Global 500 List recognizes the world's top 500 non-state-owned companies, which are ranked according to their market capitalization or valuations.

NITI Aayog releases 2nd edition of India Innovation Index-2020

- The index demonstrates the government's continued commitment towards transforming the country into an innovation-driven economy.
- In the India Innovation Index-2020, the States and Union Territories have been divided into 17 Major States, 10 North-East and Hill States and 9 Union Territories and Small States for effectively comparing their performance.
- Karnataka stands at the first position in the Major States category.
- In the North East and Hill States category, Himachal Pradesh stands at first position.
- Delhi stands at the first position in the Union Territories and small States category.
- **Facts about NITI Aayog:** It is a policy think tank of the Government of India.
Formed: 1 January 2015
Headquarters: New Delhi
Chairperson: Shri Narendra Modi

The Global Risks Report 2021

- The 16th edition of the Global Risks Report, published by the World Economic Forum with support from Marsh McLennan in partnership with SK Group and Zurich Insurance Group, highlights the disruptive implications of major risks, including the

COVID-19 pandemic that may reshape our world in 2021 and over the next decade.

- **Note: World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda** scheduled to be held in virtual mode between 25-29 January, 2021.
- **Facts about World Economic Forum:** It is an international NGO.
Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland
Founded: January 1971
Leader: Klaus Schwab

Global Firepower Nations Index (2021) - Military Strength Ranking

- According to the defence analytics website, Global powers ranked by potential military strength.
- The finalized Global Firepower ranking below utilizes **over 50 individual factors** to determine a given nation's **PowerIndex ('PwrIndx')** score with categories ranging from military might and financials to logistical capability and geography. There are currently **138 countries** considered for the Global Firepower (GFP) annual defense review (which currently covers the year 2021).
- First rank- United States of America
- Second rank- Russia
- Third rank- China
- **Fourth rank- India**
- Fifth rank- Japan

Global Climate Risk Index 2021

- The Global Climate Risk Index 2021, released by **Germanwatch -an NGO based in Bonn, Germany**, analyses to what extent countries and regions have been affected by impacts of weather-related loss events.
- The most recent data available for 2019 and from 2000 to 2019 were taken into account.
- The countries and territories affected most in 2019 were Mozambique, Zimbabwe as well as the Bahamas.
- For the period from 2000 to 2019 Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti rank highest.
- **India ranks seventh** among countries most



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affected in 2019 by climate change.

Global Nutrition report, 2020

- At global level, India is among those 88 countries that are likely to miss global nutrition targets by the year 2025.
- It is a multi-stakeholder initiative that assesses progress in meeting 2025 Global Nutrition Targets that are established by the World Health Assembly (WHA).
- Aim- Inspire governments, civil society and private stakeholders to work to end malnutrition in all its forms.

World Migration Report, 2020

- Released by International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- India (17.5 million diaspora) is the largest country of origin of international migrants, followed by Mexico, and China.
- Top three remittance recipients are India, China and Mexico.

Global Liveability Index, 2020

- This annual index is released by the Economist's Intelligence Unit.
- This index ranks global cities according to their living conditions.
- Top Indian cities- New Delhi (118th) and Mumbai (119th) out of 140 cities.
- Top city- Vienna (Austria)

Global Social Mobility Index, 2020

- Released by- World Economic Forum (WEF).
- This index identifies areas for improving social mobility and promoting equally shared opportunities in their economies, regardless of their development.
- Top countries- Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden.
- India's rank- 76th out of 82 economies

Human Development Report, 2019

- Released by- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Theme- Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century
- India (score 0.647) ranks 129 out of 189 countries.
- Top 3 countries- Norway, Switzerland and Ireland.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2019

- Released by NITI Aayog
- It measures progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal targets.
- Top Performers- Kerala, Himachal Pradesh.
- Worst Performer- Bihar

Global Hunger Index, 2020

- It is released by Welthungerhilfe.
- This index is measuring and tracking hunger at the global, regional, and country levels.
- India's rank- 94 out of 107 countries

Global Gender Gap Report, 2020

- Released by- World Economic Forum
- This report ranks 153 countries on their progress towards gender parity across four thematic dimensions: Economic Participation & Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, & Political Empowerment
- India's rank- 112
- Top 3 countries- Iceland, Norway and Finland

SDG Gender Index

- India's rank 95 among 129 countries.
- Developed by Equal Measures 2030.

QS India University Rankings

- Top position- IIT Bombay
- In this ranking, 96 Indian institutions rank among 550.

Healthy States, Progressive India

- Released by- NITI Aayog
- Top performers (Larger States)- Kerala,



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Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra.

- Top performers (Smaller States)- Mizoram and Manipur.
- Top performers (Union Territories)- Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

Status of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2020

- Released by United Nations
- At global level, 7.3 percent (49.5 million) children under 5 years of age are wasted, of which two-thirds are living in Asia.
- With comparison to men, women have a higher chance of suffering from food insecurity.
- Latin America has the largest gender gap.

Global Energy Transition Index, 2020

- Released by World Economic Forum
- About- It measures how countries are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.
- India's rank 76th out of 115 countries.
- Top 3 countries- Sweden, Switzerland and Norway.

State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index 2019

- It is jointly developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in association with the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).
- The states have been categorized as 'Front Runner', 'Achiever', 'Contender' and 'Aspirant' based upon their efforts and achievements.
- Top Performing States- Haryana, Karnataka and Kerala.

Global Assessment Report. 2019

- Released by- UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
- At global level, the Asia Pacific region accounts for 40% of the global economic losses due to extreme climate changes, with the greatest impact in the largest economies

of Japan, China, Korea and India.

Composite Water Management Index, 2019

- Released by NITI Aayog
- Aim- to assess and improve the performance in efficient management of water resources.

Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI), 2020

- Released by- jointly by INSEAD Addeco and Google.
- This report focuses upon Global Talent in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.
- India's rank 72 among 132 countries
- Top country- Switzerland

Human Capital Index, 2020

- Prepared by World Bank
- India's rank 116 out of 174 countries.
- Top 3 countries- Singapore, Hong Kong (China), Japan

Global Competitiveness Index, 2019

- Prepared by- Institute for Management Development
- India's rank- 43
- Top 3 countries- Singapore, Denmark and Switzerland

Ease of Doing Index, 2019

- Released by World Bank
- India's rank- 63
- Top and Bottom Country- New Zealand and Somalia.

Global Terrorism Index 2020

- Released by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- Top 3 countries- Afghanistan, Iraq and Nigeria.
- India ranks 8th in the index.

Fortune Ranking of 500 Indian Companies, 2020

- Published by Fortune India.
- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has topped the 2020 Fortune 500 list of Indian companies.

Best Police Stations in India



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- The data released by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Best Police Station in India- Thoubal (Manipur)

Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL) Index, 2020

- Released by- Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- Top 3 cities- Hong Kong (China), Paris (France) and Zurich (Switzerland)
- Bottom place cities- Damascus (Syria), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Lusaka (Zambia)

Climate Change Performance Index, 2020

- Top 3 ranks weren't allocated to any country. So Sweden (Rank 4), United Kingdom (Rank 5), Denmark (Rank 5) are top countries.
- India's rank- 10th

FIFA Rankings

- Top 3 countries- Belgium, France and Brazil
- India's rank- 102

TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020

- 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.
- India is placed at 77th position.

Anemia Mukht Bharat Index

- Initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF.
- Top State- Haryana

World Best Employer 2020

- Released by Forbes
- Top employer in world- Samsung
- Top employer in India- HCL Technologies

India Tourism Statistics 2020

- Released by Ministry of Tourism
- Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for attracting a large number of an Indian tourists.
- Tamil Nadu has topped in the list of attracting foreign visitors.

Asia Power Index 2020

- India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 out of 100.
- 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.

International Migration Outlook Report 2020

- Released by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
- Top countries- China (1st Rank), India (2nd Rank).

Reports released by the Indian Government		
1.	India State of Forest Report	Forest Survey of India (FSI)
2.	National Air Quality Indices	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
3.	National Ambient Air Quality Standard	
4.	Performance of Health Outcome index	NITI Aayog
5.	School Education Quality Index	NITI Aayog and MHRD
6.	India Innovation Index	NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Confederation of Indian Industry



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Note: Global Innovation Index is released by Cornell University, INSEAD and WIPO		
7.	Report Card of Swachh Bharat Mission	Quality Council of India
8.	Interest Subvention Report	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
9.	Financial Stability Report	
10.	Internet Readiness Index	Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)
11.	Annual Survey of Education Report	PRATHAM
12.	RESIDEX	National Housing Bank
13.	India Social Development Report	The Council of Social Development
14.	Red Data Book	Botanical Survey of India
Reports released by the UN and its Specialized Agencies		
15.	Gender Parity Index	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
16.	Global Education Monitoring Report	UNESCO
17.	The State of World's Children Reports	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
18.	Report on Regular Resources	
19.	World Drug Report	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
20.	Global Report on Trafficking in Persons	
21.	World Wildlife Crime Report	
22.	E-Governance Readiness Index (EGRI)	United Nations Public Administration Programme (UNPAP)
23.	E-Government Development Index (EGDI)	
24.	E-Participation Index	
23.	ICT Development Index	United Nations International Telecommunication Union (UN-ITU)
24.	World Investment Report	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
25.	The Information Economy Report	
26.	The Trade and Development Report	
27.	The Least Developed Countries Report	
28.	The Technology and Innovation Report	
29.	Industrial Development Report	United Nations Industrial Development



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		Organization (UNIDO)
30.	Reports on Counterfeiting and Organized Crime	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
31.	State of World Population Report	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
32.	Global Assessment Report	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
33.	World's Women Report (released once in 5 years)	UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)
34.	Habitat Commitment Index	UN-Habitat
35.	World Cities Report	UN-Habitat
36.	World Happiness Report	UN-Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
37.	World Employment and Social Outlook	International Labour Organization (ILO)
38.	World Social Protection Report	International Labour Organization (ILO)
39.	Global Wage Report	
40.	World of Work Report	
41.	Gender Inequality Index	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
42.	Education Development Index	
43.	Global Environment Outlook	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
44.	Emission Gap Report	
45.	Actions on Air Quality	
46.	The Rise of Environmental Crime Report	UNEP and INTERPOL
47.	World Health Statistics	World Health Organization (WHO)
48.	World Tuberculosis Report	
49.	Ambient Air Pollution Report	
50.	Safety Reports	International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
51.	World Intellectual Property Report (WIPR)	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Report and Indexes released by Non-Profit Organizations

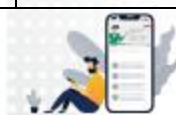


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52.	Global Corruption Report (GCR)	Transparency International
53.	Corruption Perception Index	Transparency International
54.	The Energy Report and Living Planet Report	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
55.	Global Hunger Index Report	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
56.	World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders
57.	Death Penalty Report	Amnesty International
58.	Global Pension Index	Melbourne Mercer
59.	Climate Change Performance Index	German Watch
60.	New Health Index	Global Burden of Disease
Reports and Indexes by the Financial Institute		
61.	World Development Report	World Bank
62.	Global Economic Prospect (GEP) Report	
63.	Ease of Doing Business	
64.	Ease of Living Index	World Bank
65.	Remittance Report	
66.	The Service Trade Restriction Index	
67.	India Development Update	
68.	Universal Health Coverage Index	
69.	World Economic Outlook	International Monetary Fund (IMF)
69.	Global Financial Stability Report	
70.	The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)	Organization of Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD)
71.	World Trade Outlook Indicator	World Trade Organization (WTO)
72.	Global Competitiveness Report	World Economic Forum (WEF)
73.	Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report	
74.	Global Information Technology Report	
75.	Enabling Trade Report	
76.	Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report	



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77.	Inclusive Development Index	
78.	Global Environment Performance Index	
79.	Global Gender Gap Index	
80.	Human Capital Index	
81.	Global Financial System Report	Bank for International Settlement
82.	Global Money Laundering Report	Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
Reports and Indexes released by Research Centers and other institutes		
83.	Intellectual Property Index	US Chamber of Commerce
84.	Global Peace Index	Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), Australia
85.	Global Terrorism Index	
85.	Index of Economic Freedom	Heritage Foundation
86.	Global Ecological Footprint	Global Footprint Network
87.	Social Progress Index	Social Progress Imperative
88.	Global Talent Competitiveness Index	INSEAD, Adecco Group and the Human Capital Leadership Institute of Singapore

Military Exercises

1. Exercise Red Flag

- This military exercise is organised by the United States Air Force.
- The US invites only friendly countries in this exercise to take part.

2. Kavkaz

- It is a multi-nation military exercise which is held in Russia.
- Around 20 countries will participate in it including China, Pakistan etc.

3. Malabar naval exercise

- It is a multilateral naval exercise which will be held among Australia, India, US and Japan.
- This year it has been held in Visakhapatnam (Phase 1) and Arabian Sea (Phase 2).

4. JIMEX 20

- It is a bilateral maritime exercise held between India and Japan.
- Its 4th edition has been held in the North Arabian Sea from 26 to 28 September 2020.

5. PASSEX

- It is a bilateral naval exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) held in the East Indian Ocean Region from 23th to 24th September, 2020.

6.



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AUSINDEX

- It is a bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy.

7. INDRA Navy

- This is a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy.
- It was held in the Bay of Bengal from 4th to 5th September 2020.

8. AJEYA WARRIOR – 2020

- This exercise was held between India and the United Kingdom
- Its fifth edition was conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom in February 2020.

9. Lucknow Declaration

- It is a joint declaration adopted as an outcome of the first India-Africa Defence Ministers' at Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh, India).

10. Sea Guardians 2020

- It is a joint naval drill between Pakistan and China.
- Its latest edition was held in Karachi.
- Theme- "Augmenting interoperability and strategic cooperation."

11. MILAN 2020

- It is a multilateral exercise conducted by the Indian Navy

12. SAMPRITI-IX

- It is a bilateral military exercise between India and Bangladesh.
- Its ninth edition has been conducted in Umroi, Meghalaya in February, 2020.

13. Tiger Triumph

- It is an India-U.S.bilateral tri-services exercise.

14. Ex Ekuverin – 19

- A joint military exercise between Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force.
- The 10th edition was held in Pune, Maharashtra.

15. Nomadic Elephant 2019

- It is joint military training between India and Mongolia.
- The exercise will be conducted from 05 Oct 19 to 18 Oct 19 at Bakloh..

16. EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V

- It is a bilateral joint air force exercise between Indian Air Force and Royal Air Force Oman (RAFO).
- It was held from 17-26 Oct 19, at Air Force Base Masirah.

17. Danx- 19

- This exercise is conducted by Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.
- The 2nd edition was held at Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

18. Shakti-2019

- It is a biennial joint exercise between India and France.



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- The 2019 edition was held in Rajasthan.

19. Indo-Thai CORPAT

- 28th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was held.

20. SAMUDRA LAKSAMANA

- The Indian Navy and Malaysian Navy had participated in the bilateral exercise 'Samudra Laksamana'.
- It was conducted from 12-15 September 2019 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

21. SITMEX-19

- It is a two days maritime drill between India-Singapore-Thailand.
- It was conducted in the Andaman Sea.

22. ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise (AUMX)

- The first ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise (AUMX) between the regional bloc- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United States was held at the Sattahip Naval Base in Thailand.

23. GARUDA VI

- It is a bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the French air force. The latest edition was held in France.

24. SIMBEX

- It is a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy.

25. SLINEX

- It is an annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Sri Lanka Navy.
- Other military exercises between India and Sri Lanka: Ex MITRA SHAKTI, IN-SLN SF Ex, SAMVEDNA.

26. MAITREE

- It is a joint military exercise between India and Thailand.

27. Yudh Abhyas

- Joint military exercise between Indian and US armies.

28. Exercise Surya Kiran- XIV

- Joint military exercise between India- Nepal

29. Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII

- Joint military exercise between India-Sri Lanka

30. Exercise SAMPRITI-IX

- Military exercise between India and Bangladesh

31. Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr



- Joint maritime exercise between the navies of India and Qatar.

32. Dustlik

- First-ever joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan.

33. Hand in Hand

- Military exercise between India and China

34. Exercise Indradhanush-V

- Exercise between the Indian Air Force and Royal Air Force of United Kingdom

35. IndSpaceEx

- It is India's first-ever simulated space warfare exercise

Important Military Operations of 2020

1. Operation Sankalp

- This operation was launched by the Indian Navy in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to reassure Indian flagged vessels transiting through the area following the maritime incidents in the region.

2. Operation Vanilla

- Indian navy performed Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations in Madagascar under 'Operation Vanilla'.
- It has been launched to provide assistance to the affected population of Madagascar post devastation caused by Cyclone Diane.

3. OPERATION SUDARSHAN

- Border Security Force (BSF) has launched this exercise to fortify Anti-Infiltration Grid along Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu.

4. Operation Sunrise

- The armies of India and Myanmar targets insurgent groups in the North East region.

5. Operation Samudra Maitri

- India had launched this humanitarian operation to provide assistance to earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia.

6. Operation Him Vijaya

- This operation was conducted by Indian army to test offensive capabilities against China in Arunachal Pradesh.

7. Operation Namaste

- The Indian Army has launched this operation to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in country.

8. Operation Sahyog (2018)

- Indian Army launched Operation Sahyog to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala.

9. Operation Randori Behak (2020)



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- Under this mission, the Indian Army killed terrorists in Keran sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

10. Operation Madad (2018)

- Indian Navy had launched Operation Madad, major rescue, and relief operation in flood-hit Kerala.

11. Operation Bandar (2019)

- An airstrike carried out by Indian Air Force in response to the Pulwama terror attack on 14 February 2019 by a suicide bomber, killing 40 Indian soldiers.

Sport Events

Leon Mendonca becomes India's 67th Chess Grandmaster

- Goa's 14-year-old Leon Mendonca has become India's 67th chess Grandmaster by winning the third and final norm at a tournament in Italy.
- Mendonca is the second GM from the coastal state.
- The first GM from Goa is Ivana Maria Furtado, she achieved it in 2011.
- Chennai player G Akash, had in July, become the country's 66th Grandmaster.

Claire Polosak becomes first female match official in men's Test match

- Australia's Claire Polosak became the first female match official in a men's Test match when she took up the fourth umpire's role in the third Test between India and Australia.
- **Note:** The 32-year-old from New South Wales had, earlier, already earned the distinction of being the first woman on-field umpire in a men's ODI match during ICC's Division 2 league between Namibia and Oman played at the Windhoek in 2019.

In UT Ladakh, Khelo India Ice Hockey Tournament organised at Chiktan in Kargil district

- Alongwith 11 teams from different villages of Chiktan, for the first time two Women Teams of Chiktan also participated in the Khelo India Games.
- Shakar Chiktan SDM, Kacho Asgar Ali khan inaugurated the tournament.

Jigmet Dolma from India secured fourth position in the Dhaka Marathon 2021

- Jigmet Dolma is an SPO of Ladakh police.
- In the full marathon, among the SAARC and local runners, Bahadur Singh of India became the champion in the men's category and Pushpa Bhandari of Nepal became the champion in the women's category.
- 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.

First ever Ice climbing festival celebrated in Nubra valley

- In Leh, the first ever Ice climbing festival was celebrated in Nubra valley.
- To promote winter tourism in Nubra valley, Nubra Adventure Club, with the help of Social activist Dr. Nordan Otzer, has organized the seven day Ice Climbing festival.

In Ladakh, a 13-day Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sport & Youth festival 2021 began from 18th January

- A series of snow based activities are scheduled for next 13 days in the Snow bound, picturesque remote Zaskar.
- The first ever Zaskar winter festival would definitely open a new arena in Ladakh for adventure and Nature loving tourists and a boost for local Youth to hone up their skills in winter sports to represent India.



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Team India creates history; clinches test series against Australia 2-1

- India becomes the first Asian team to win at the Gabba.
- India created history by defeating Australia by three wickets in the fourth and final Test at the Gabba in Brisbane and retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.
- **Note: Recent series between India and Australia**
T20 International series: India won the 3-match series 2-1
One Day International series: Australia won the 3-match series 2-1

Yonex Thailand Open badminton tournament 2021

- **Location:** BANGKOK, THAILAND
- It was the first badminton tournament of 2021 by Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- **List of winners**

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Winner- Viktor Axelsen	Winner- Carolina Marin	Winner- Lee Yang, Wang Chi-Lin	Winner- Greysia Polii, Apriyani Rahayu	Winner- Dechapol Puavaranukroh, Sapsiree Taerattanachai
Runner-up- Angus Long	Runner-up- Tai Tzu-Ying	Runner-up- Goh V Shem, Tan Wee Kiong	Runner-up- Jongkolphan Kititharakul, Rawinda Prajongjai	Runner-up- Praveen Jordan, Melati Daeva Oktavianti

Asian Games - The Asian Games, also known as Asiad is a Pancontinental multi-sport event held every four years among athletes from all over Asia. The Games were regulated by the Asian Games Federation (AGF).

Note: First Asian games were held in **New Delhi, India in 1951.**

- Venue of Asian Games 2014 – **Incheon, South Korea.**
- Venue of Asian Games 2018 - **Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia.**
- Venue of Asian Games 2022 – **Hangzhou, China.**
- Venue of Asian Games 2026 – **Nagoya, Japan.**

Commonwealth Games (CWG) - The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations held every four years.

Note: The first Commonwealth Games held in **1911 in London, England.**

- Venue of **CWG 2010** – **New Delhi, India.**
- Venue of **CWG 2014** – **Glasgow, Scotland.**
- Venue of **CWG 2018** – **Gold Coast, Australia.**
- Venue of **CWG 2022** – **Birmingham, England.**

Note: The 2022 Commonwealth Games will no longer take place in Durban, South Africa as the South African government failed to give financial guarantees for the event.

Olympics Games - The Olympic Games are held every four years, with the Summer and Winter Games alternating by occurring every four years but two years apart.

Note:

i. The first modern Olympics games were held in **Athens, Greece, in 1896.**



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ii. International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters - **Lausanne, Switzerland.**

iii. IOC President - **Thomas Bach.**

Summer Olympic -

- Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2016 – **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**
- Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2020 – **Tokyo, Japan.**
- Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2024 – **Paris, France.**

Winter Olympic –

- Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2014 – **Sochi, Russia.**
- Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2018 – **Pyeongchang, South Korea.**
- Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2022 – **Beijing, China.**

ICC World Cup Cricket - The ICC Cricket World Cup is the international championship of One Day International (ODI) cricket. The event is organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC), every four years.

Note:

i. The first World Cup was held in **England in June 1975.** West Indies won the title by defeating Australia in the final.

ii. **India** won the first World Cup title in **1983** by defeating West Indies in the final.

iii. **Australia** won the World Cup title in **2015** after defeating New Zealand in the final.

iv. **Australia** has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with **5 titles** and 2 runners-up.

v. International Cricket Council (ICC) headquarter - **Dubai, United Arab Emirates.**

vi. President of ICC – **Zaheer Abbas.**

vii. Chairman of ICC – **Shashank Manohar.**

viii. CEO – **David Richardson.**

- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 – **India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh.**
- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 – **Australia & New Zealand.**
- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 – **England, Wales.**
- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 – **India.**

ICC World Cup T20 – The ICC World Twenty20 is the international championship of Twenty20 cricket. It is organised the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Note:

i. The first T20 World Cup was held in **Johannesburg, South Africa in 2007.**

ii. **India** won the **first T20** world cup title in 2007 after defeating Pakistan in the final.

iii. **West Indies** won the title in **2016** after defeating England in the final.

iv. West Indies won the T20 World Cup title two times.

- Venue of World Cup 2014 – **Bangladesh.**
- Venue of World Cup T20 2016– **India.**
- Venue of World Cup 2020 – **Australia.**

ICC Women's Cricket World Cup – The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is the oldest and most prestigious international women's cricket tournament.

Note:

i. The first Women's World Cup was held in **England in 1973**, two years before the inaugural men's tournament. England won the title by defeating Australia in the final.

ii. **England** won the Women's World Cup in **2017** by defeating India in the final.

iii. Australia has been the most successful team in the Women's World Cup, with 6 titles and 3 runners-up.



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- Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2013 – **India**.
- Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2017 – **England**.
- Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2021 – **New Zealand**.

ICC Women's World Cup T20 - The ICC Women's World Twenty20 is the international championship for Women's Twenty20 cricket. It is organised the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Note:

i. The first Women's T20 World Cup was held in **England in 2009**. England won the first T20 world cup title after defeating New Zealand in the final.

ii. **West Indies** won the title in **2016** after defeating Australia in the final.

iii. Australia has been the most successful team in the Women's World Cup, with 3 titles and 1 runners-up.

- Venue of World Cup 2014 – **Bangladesh**.
- Venue of World Cup T20 2016– **India**.
- Venue of World Cup 2020 – **Australia**.

Hockey Men's World Cup – The Hockey World Cup is an international field hockey competition organized by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). It is held every four years, bridging the four years between the Summer Olympics.

Note:

i. The first Men's Hockey World Cup was held in **1971 Barcelona, Spain**. Pakistan won the title after defeating Spain in the final.

ii. **Australia** won the title in **2014** after defeating Netherlands in the final.

iii. Pakistan has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 4 titles from 6 appearances in the final.

iv. International Hockey Federation (IHF) headquarters - **Lausanne, Switzerland**.

v. President of IHF - **Narinder Batra**.

- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2010 – **New Delhi, India**.
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2014 – **The Hague, Netherlands**.
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 – **Bhubaneswar, India**.

Hockey Women's World Cup - The Women's Hockey World Cup is an international field hockey competition organized by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). It is held every four years, bridging the four years between the Summer Olympics.

Note:

i. The first Women's Hockey World Cup was held in **1974 in Mandelieu, France**. Netherlands won the title after defeating Argentina in the final.

ii. **Netherlands** won the title in **2014** after defeating Australia in the final.

iii. Netherlands has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 7 titles from 11 appearances in the final.

- Venue of Hockey Women's World Cup 2010 – **Rosario, Argentina**.
- Venue of Hockey Women's World Cup 2014 – **The Hague, Netherlands**.
- Venue of Hockey Women's World Cup 2018 – **London, England**.

FIFA (Football) World Cup – The FIFA World Cup is an international association football competition contested by the senior men's national teams of the members of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every four years.

Note:

i. The first FIFA World Cup was held in **1930 in Uruguay**. Uruguay won the title after defeating Argentina in the final.



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- ii. **Germany** won the title in **2014** after defeating Argentina in the final.
- iii. Brazil has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 5 titles from 7 appearances in the final.
- iv. Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) headquarter - **Zürich, Switzerland**.
- v. President of FIFA - **Gianni Infantino**.

- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2014 – **Brazil**.
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2018 – **Russia**.
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2022 – **Qatar**.

FIFA Women's World Cup – The FIFA Women's World Cup is an international football competition contested by the senior women's national teams of the members of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every four years.

Note:

- i. The first FIFA Women's World Cup was held in **1991 in China**. The United States won the title after defeating Norway in the final.
- ii. The **USA** won the title in **2015** after defeating Japan in the final.
- iii. The USA is the most successful nation in the tournament's history, with 3 titles and 1 runners-up.

- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2015 – **Canada**.
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2019 – **France**.

FIFA (U-17) World Cup – The FIFA U-17 World Cup, founded as the FIFA U-16 World Championship, later changed to its current name in 2007, is the world championship of association football for male players under the age of 17 organized by Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every two years.

- i. The first FIFA (U-17) World Cup was held in **1991 in Italy**. Ghana won the title after defeating Spain in the final.
- ii. **Nigeria** won the title in **2015** after defeating Mali in the final.
- iii. Nigeria is the most successful nation in the tournament's history, with five titles and three runners-up.

- Venue of FIFA (U-17) World Cup 2015 – **Chile**.
- Venue of FIFA (U-17) World Cup 2017 – **India**.

Books and Authors

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu releases a book "Maveric Messiah", a political biography on N.T. Rama Rao

- The book was authored by senior journalist, Ramesh Kandula.
- **Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, popularly known as NTR**, was an Indian actor, producer, director, film editor and politician who served as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for seven years over three terms.

Home Minister Amit Shah releases book 'Rashtra Pratham - 82 varshon ki Swarnim Gatha'

- This book depicts the dignified history of CRPF, its entire journey, challenges, successes and dedication.
Note: CRPF celebrated its **first-ever Veterans Day**.
- The third Friday of February will be celebrated every year as the Veterans Day of the force.

Award-winning author Irwin Allan Sealy's new novel ASOCA: A Sutra

- The novel will be presented as an imagined memoir of Ashoka The Great.
- It will be published by Penguin Random House India.



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- **Note:** Allan has won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, Best First Book, Europe and South Asia, the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1991, the Crossword Book Award and the **Padma Shri** by the President of India in 2012.

Nobel laureate Olga Tokarczuk's art book, 'The Lost Soul'

- Olga Tokarczuk translates The Lost Soul, from Polish to English and merged with illustrations to produce a picture book.
- First published in Poland in 2017 as Zgubiona dusza.
- The illustrations were done by Joanna Concejo and translated by Antonia Lloyd-Jones.
- It is published by Seven Stories Press.
- **Note:** Tokarczuk was awarded the **2018 Man Booker International Prize** for novel 'Flights'.
- She was awarded the **2018 Nobel Prize in Literature**.

Kabir Bedi's autobiography, 'Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Journey of an Actor'

- Veteran actor Kabir Bedi will tell the story of his life in his memoir which will be published this April.
- This is the story of a middle-class boy from Delhi who met with extraordinary successes. The book is published by Westland Publications.

Priyanka Chopra releases her memoir 'Unfinished'

- The former Miss World, Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas officially turned author with the release of her first book, "Unfinished: A Memoir".
- The end result is a book, published by the Michael Joseph imprint, which covers her dual-continent 20-year-long career as an actor and producer and her work as a Unicef Goodwill Ambassador.

Mohammad Hamid Ansari authors a book titled 'By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life'

- The book is published by Rupa Publications.
- **Note: Mohammad Hamid Ansari** was the vice president of India and chairman of the Rajya Sabha for two consecutive terms from 2007 to 2017.

Hunter Biden's memoir titled 'Beautiful Things'

- Hunter Biden, son of President Joe Biden, plans to publish his memoir titled "Beautiful Things" on April 6 through Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster.
- The book focuses on the life of Hunter Biden's struggles with substance abuse.

Tamil translation of French novel 'Le mariage de plaisir' won the Romain Rolland Book Prize at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2021 in Kolkata

- The winners of the prize are translator Dr S A Vengada Soupraya Nayagar and publisher Amutharasan Paulraj of Thadagam Publishers for the Tamil translation of the book, authored by Tahar Ben Jelloun.
- **Note: Romain Rolland Book Prize**, started in 2017, aims at awarding the best translation of a French title into any Indian language, including English.

Dalai Lama's new book 'The Little Book of Encouragement'

- Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama shares quotes and words of wisdom to deal with the new realities of the panic-stricken world along with how to combat rising extremism, polarity and climate change besides his views on Tibet in his new book.
- "The Little Book of Encouragement", which has 130 quotes, is edited by Renuka Singh and published



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by Penguin Random House.

- **Note: Dalai Lama** is a title given by the Tibetan people to the foremost spiritual leader of the Gelug or "Yellow Hat" school of Tibetan Buddhism, the newest of the classical schools of Tibetan Buddhism. The 14th and current Dalai Lama is Tenzin Gyatso, who lives as a refugee in India.

The book titled "Modi India Calling - 2021" released

- A coffee table book filled with over hundreds of photographs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from his 107 overseas and bilateral visits was released on the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- The idea of this book was given by senior BJP leader Vijay Jolly. It was released by Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta.

Manipur Governor released book "Making of a General A Himalayan Echo"

- Manipur Governor Dr Najma Heptulla released a book titled "Making of a General-A Himalayan Echo" authored by (Retd) Lt General Konsam Himalaya Singh.

January 15, Indian Army Day

- On the occasion of the 73rd Army Day on January 15, Army chief MM Naravane lauded the "supreme sacrifice" of the bravehearts in the line of duty.
- Army Day is celebrated on 15 January every year in India, in recognition of Field Marshal Kodandera M. Cariappa taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Sir Francis Butcher, the last British Commander-in-Chief of India, on 15 January 1949.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant released a book 'Manohar Parrikar- Off the Record'

- The book has been written by senior journalist Shri Waman Subha Prabhu.
- The book is a collection of memories of Shri Waman Prabhu who happened to be with late Parrikar during the journey of his life. In this book the author endeavored to narrate the multi-faceted personality of late Mr. Manohar Parrikar who served as Chief Minister of Goa.

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu releases the book 'Oh Mizoram'

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book of English poems by Mizoram Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, titled. Pillai's poems highlight Mizoram's pristine natural beauty.
- He has written 125 books in Malayalam and English on a variety of topics including politics, social and legal issues and poetry.

"In Pursuit of Justice: An Autobiography" by Late Justice Rajindar Sachar

- Sachar's Autobiography was launched posthumously by his family in association with The Indian Society of International Law and The Indian Law Institute.
- **Note:** Late Rajindar Sachar, most remembered for the Sachar Committee report of 2006 which documented the social and economic condition of Muslims in India.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla released book titled 'The Shaurya Unbound' on the 19th anniversary of the Parliament attack

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has launched this book commemorating the valor of its brave soldiers, including Constable Kamlesh Kumari, who was martyred in the 2001 Parliament attack.

Neetu, DIG CRPF, and BM Dinakaran, DIG CRPF are the authors of this book.

Vice President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu releases a book named '40 years with Abdul Kalam-Untold Stories'



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- Book is based on the life of the Former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
- Dr Sivathanu Pillai is the author of this book. He received Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presented the first copy of his book “Pioneer of Humanity: Maharshi Arvind” to President Ram Nath Kovind

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

A Promised Land, a memoir by Barack Obama

- It was published on November 17, 2020. It is the first of a planned two volumes that Obama has written following his tenure as President of the United States from 2009 to 2017.
- **Note:** Barack Obama was the 44th president of the United States, elected in November 2008 and holding office for two terms. He is the recipient of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize.

Maharashtra Governor releases former minister Rajendra Darda's book

- Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari released the book "**Majhi Bhint**" authored by former Maharashtra Minister of Education Rajendra Darda at Raj Bhavan.
- The book is a compilation of Darda's selected Facebook posts pertaining to a range of issues written over the last four years.

A New Book on Gulzar "Boskiyana"

- This book has been published by Radhakrishna Prakashan.
- It portrays the life of Gulzar through his films, poetry, philosophies, lifestyle, likes and dislikes. The book is edited and compiled by Yashwant Vyas. 'Boskiyana' is the name of the house of Gulzar in Mumbai.

Sonu Sood's Autobiography titled 'I Am No Messiah' to release in December

- Titled *I Am No Messiah*, it will be published by Penguin Random House and written with journalist and author Meena K Iyer.
- **About the Book:** Sonu Sood will narrate stories of the miseries and atrocities that were faced by the people during the lockdown which in return made him more dedicated to helping them. In the autobiography, the actor will also share his experience of how his perception towards life changed after he encountered people amid the lockdown.

Anupam Kher's new book "Your Best Day Is Today!"

- Kher shared his experiences during the coronavirus-induced countrywide lockdown in this book.
- **Note:** Kher's previous two books are "Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly" published last year and another is "The Best Thing About You is You!", which released in 2011.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the book titled “Thavaasmi: Life and Skills through the lens of Ramayana”

- The author of this book is Shri Rallabandi Srirama Chakradhar and co-author is Smt. Amara Sarada Deepthi. The book is in four volumes.



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- It presents the story of Ramayana as a dialogue between a father and daughter with a number of exercises making it an interesting learning experience.

A book titled 'Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy' by Tamal Bandyopadhyay

- It will be released on November 09, 2020. This book reveals the inside story behind a spate of banking scandals and provides an understanding of the challenges and economic potential of India.

A book titled 'Night of the Restless Spirits' authored by Sarbpreet Singh

- The book is based on the Sikh massacre of 1984 and published by Penguin Publication.

Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister, launched a book written by Dr Krishna Saksena-"A bouquet of flowers".

- The book has been designed to allow the readers to travel their own journey and arrive at their own very personal realization and be inspired by it.

Madhya Pradesh Budget (2021-22) Highlights

The Finance Minister of Madhya Pradesh Mr Jagdish Devda had presented the Budget for Madhya Pradesh for the financial year 2021-22. The 2021-22 budget amount is **Rs 2.41 lakh crore** with no extra tax burden. The central government will provide special aid of Rs. 19,353 crore to the Madhya Pradesh government.

It is the first paperless Budget in the history of Madhya Pradesh.

Constitutional Provision of Budget for State

- As per **Article 202** of the Constitution of India, the Governor of a State shall cause to be laid before the House or Houses of the Legislature of the State a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State for a financial year.
- This estimated statement of receipt and expenditure for a financial year named in the Constitution as the “**Annual Financial Statement**” is usually referred to as “Budget”.

Key Terms Used in Budget

Revenue which includes:

- **Revenue Receipt**
- **Revenue Expenditure**

Revenue Receipt:

- The receipts received which can't be recovered by the government.
- It comprises income amassed by the Govt. through taxes and non-tax sources like dividends on investments and interest.

Revenue Expenditure:

- These are the expenditure incurred by the state government for purposes other than for the creation of physical or financial assets.
- It includes those expenditures incurred for the usual functioning of the government departments, grants given to state government includes borrowings from the Reserve Bank of India and commercial banks and other financial institutions.
- It also consists of loans received from foreign governments and world organization and repayment of loans granted by the Union government.

Capital which includes

- **Capital Receipt**
- **Capital Expenditure**

Capital Receipt: These are the receipts which generate liability or decrease the financial assets of the



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government.

Capital Expenditure

- It is the spending incurred by the government which results in the formation of physical or financial possessions of the Union government or decrease in financial liabilities of the Union Government.
- It will contain expenditure on procuring land, equipment, infrastructure, expenditure in shares.
- It also includes mortgages by the Union government to Public Sector Undertakings, state and union territories government and interest payments on the debt of the Union Government etc.

Direct Tax: These are the taxes which are imposed directly on individuals and companies. It comprises

- Income tax
- Corporation tax

Indirect Tax: These are the taxes that are imposed on goods and services. It comprises taxes like

- Service tax
- Excise taxes
- Customs duties

Fiscal Policy: Fiscal policy is the means by which a government adjusts its expenditure levels and tax rates to watch and influence a country's economy.

Revenue Deficit: It is the extra expenditure of the government over revenue receipts.

Fiscal Deficit: It is the difference between the total expenditure of the government and its total receipts, which is not including the borrowing.

Primary Deficit: Primary deficit refers to the difference between the present year's fiscal deficit and interest payment on previous borrowings.

Non-Tax Revenue: These are the government revenue not generated from taxes.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

- It is the price value of all finished goods and services made within a country during a specific period.
- It provides a snapshot of a country, used to estimate the size of an economy and growth rate.

Highlights of the Budget:

Gross State Domestic Product

- The fiscal deficit for FY22 is estimated at Rs 217123.17 crore.
- It is 4.50% of the estimated Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

Expenditure



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- The total expenditure will be Rs 180672.31 crore in which Rs. 172970.95 crore as revenue expenditure while Rs 40666.76 crore is capital expenditure.

Total receipts

- The revenue receipts are estimated at Rs 164677.45 crore
- Rs 51276.80 crore by way of capital receipts.
- Rs. 64913.99 crore for government's own tax revenue
- Rs 52246.68 crore would be the state's share in central taxes.
- Rs. 49463.61 crore from receipts into Public debt.

New Scheme / Policy in Budget 2021-2022

- **Aatmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh**
 - This scheme is equivalent of Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme.
 - Under this scheme, the state government will emphasize upon physical infrastructure, Health and Education, Economy and Employment, Good Governance.
- **Mission Jan Gan**
 - To ease the public services facilities for common citizens, citizen welfare.
- **Public Services Management**
 - Ekatva Programme- Single Citizen database will be prepared.
 - MP Government Diary App has been started, to promote the paperless government.
 - Parichay Portal- All citizen services will be provided through this portal.

Sector-wise expenditure


Agriculture and allied activities

- **Agriculture and Allied Activities (in 2021-22):** Total budget allocation of Rs. 35,353 crore.
- Till now Madhya Pradesh has won Krishi Karman Award for 7 times for better production of Wheat and Pulses.
- Kisan Kalyan Yojana will start under which every registered farmer will get Rs. 4 thousand annually.
- Rs. 1000 crore has been allocated for loans on 0% interest rate.
- Rs. 2000 crore has been allocated for the Mukhyamantri Fasal Uparjan Sahayta Yojana.
- One district-one product scheme will be promoted across the state, along with other facilities like cold storage, market linkage will also be developed.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, the income of fishermen will be doubled.

Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion

- Under Make in India, the production of industries will be increased by 25 percent.
- For Mukhyamantri Swarojgar (byaj paridan) Yojana, the budget allocation will be Rs. 112 crore.
- The government is aiming to Start User Business in Thirty Days under Ease of Doing Business Rankings.

Tourism



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- The Diamond Museum will be established in Panna district.
- It is proposed to construct a Ropeway in Jatashankar, Chhatarpur.

Water and Electricity Facilities

- Rs. 6,128 crore for Grameen Jal Jeevan Mission by which 33 lakh domestic water connections will be installed throughout the state.
- It is proposed to start Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) in the year 2021-22.
- Total availability of electricity (by 2020)- 21,361 megawatt.
- Budget allocation for electricity department- Rs. 5,728 crore.
- The solar parks of combined capacity of 4500 megawatt will be established in Neemuch, Shajapur, Agar, Chhatarpur, Morena.
- World's largest floating solar power plant will be developed in Omkareshwar, its capacity will be 600 megawatt.
- For the new and renewable energy department, total budget allocation will be Rs. 44,152 crore.

Education

- Mission Bodhi- The government will focus upon overall development of the children for which various facilities like arts, music, sports etc will be provided.
- The Madhya Pradesh government will initiate CM Rise scheme under which 9200 self-contained schools will be established. For this the budget allocation will be Rs. 1500 crore.
- Rs. 26 crore has been allocated for Strengthening Teaching Learning and Results For States (STARS) scheme.
- All rural schools will be 100% electrified in the upcoming three years.
- Rs. 40,958 crore has been allocated for the education sector and its various schemes.

Public Health and Family Welfare

- Mission Niramay will be started by the government, under which quality medical facilities will be provided.
- Hub and Spoke Model will be adopted which provide telemedicine services.
- 23 new government medical colleges will be established.
- 3 medical universities will be established in Bhopal, Indore and Rewa.
- Total budget allocation- Rs. 15622 crore

Welfare of SC, ST and others

- The government will promote schemes like Kanya Saksharta Yojana, Adivasi Balika Vigyan Yojana, Vidhyarhi Kalyan Yojana, Vidhyarthi Kalyan Yojana etc among the SC students.
- The Gurukulam residential schools will be upgraded to CBSE affiliated schools.
- Madhya Pradesh is already providing various scholarships like Post-Matric Scholarship, Higher Studies Scholarship etc.

Sports and Youth Welfare

- Madhya Pradesh is going to host the Khelo Youth Games in 2022.



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- Total 18 sports academies are running in the state.

Nutrition

- Under the Poshan Matka Scheme, 178 ton food items like cereals, pulses, fruits will be provided to lactating mothers, girl children etc.

Economy and Employment

- Mission Earth- generate employment opportunities for the youth, speedy growth of the economy.
- For encouraging self-employment, the consumer items will be linked with the Vindhyavalley brand.

Rural and Urban Development

- Around 72 percent of the total population resides in rural areas.
- In 2021-22, a total of 5200 kms rural roads will be constructed.
- Mission Nagarodaya- budget allocation of Rs. 600 crore.
- Rs. 262 crore has been allocated for the Bhopal and Indore Metro Rail Projects.

Infrastructure

- It is proposed to construct 2441 kms road network across the state in upcoming years. This also includes 105 railway over bridges.
- Atal Progress-way and Narmada expressway will also be constructed.
- Rs. 7341 crore has been allotted for the Public Works Department.
- Budget allocation for Water Resources Department- Rs. 6,436 crore.
- Rs. 300 crore allocation for Narmada Basin Project Company Limited.
- Rs. 3,680 crore for Narmada Valley Development Department.

Women Empowerment

- Samman and Muskan Abhiyan- One Mahila Police Station will be established in every district.
- To recover the kidnapped girls under Muskan Abhiyan.

Law and Order

Single emergency number 112 has been started. The citizens can avail the services of police, ambulance and fire brigade



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Highlights of India's Union Budget 2021-22

The **2021-22 Union Budget** presented by the Union Finance Minister 'Nirmala Sitharaman' in Lok Sabha. This is the third **budget** being presented by **Finance Minister** Sitharaman.

What is the Union Budget?

- The **annual financial statement** of a government, the Union budget gives details about the revenue and expenditure of the Centre in the past and estimated spending and projections for the coming year.
- The Union Budget of India also referred to as the **Annual Financial Statement** in **Article 112** of the Constitution of India.

Highlights of India's Union Budget 2021-22

- The budget gave significant emphasis on healthcare and infra sectors. Besides, a host of substantial announcements were made on the divestment front, including the coming IPO of Life Insurance Corporation.
- Sitharaman announced a total spend of around **Rs 2 lakh crore** on healthcare with **Rs 35,000 crore** on Covid-19 vaccine development.

Capital expenditure:

- FY22 capital expenditure provided is up **34.5%** (vs FY21 BE) at **Rs 5.54 lakh crore**.
- **Rs 44,000 crore** under **capital expenditure** will be given to the **Department of Economic Affairs** in FY22.
- FY21 capital expenditure is seen at **Rs 4.39 lakh crore**.

Fiscal deficit:

- FM **Sitharaman** pegged **FY21 fiscal deficit** at **9.5%** of GDP, with FY22 fiscal deficit target at **6.8%** of GDP and hope to get to **back to fiscal consolidation path** by **FY26**.
- Fiscal deficit will reach below **4.5%** by FY26.
- FY22 gross expenditure seen at **Rs 34.83 lakh crore**.

Faceless resolution:

- The Budget proposes setting up a faceless dispute resolution committee for individual taxpayers, making Income Tax Appellate Tribunal faceless, and constituting the dispute resolution committee for small taxpayers.

Atmanirbhar Bharat:

- The FM outlined **six pillars** of proposals to strengthen the vision of **Atmanirbharta**, namely
 - health and wellbeing
 - capital and infrastructure
 - inclusive development
 - reinvigorating human capital



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- innovation and R&D
- minimum government and maximum governance

Shot in the arm for healthcare:

- The areas of focus will be preventive and curative healthcare as well as well being.
- The allocation is likely to be around Rs 2,23,846 crore, a 137% percentage rise from the previous budget.
- **Rs 35,000 cr** has been budgeted for **COVID-19 vaccination** expenditure in FY22.

Divestment target:

- The Govt sees FY22 fiscal deficit at **6.8%**,
- Govt aims to get **Rs 1.75 lakh crore** through divestments in 2021-22.
- In FY21, it planned to raise Rs 2.1 lakh crore through divestments, falling short.

Big borrowing:

- Govt will borrow **Rs 80,000 crore** in the remaining two months to meet FY21 expenditure
- It is projected to borrow about **Rs 12 lakh crore** in FY22.

A bank for roads:

- The Govt is set to introduce a **Development Financial Institution (DFI)**.
- **Rs 20,000 crore** will be provided to capitalise the new DFI, with an aim to have a lending portfolio of **Rs 5 lakh crore** in 3 years.
- **National Monetisation Pipeline** for brownfield projects will be launched, the FM announced with NHA and PGCIL having sponsored one InvIT each.
- She also added that vehicles will **undergo fitness tests** after **20 years** for PVs, 15 years for CVs, announcing a voluntary vehicle scrapping policy.

LIC IPO:

- The **Govt** will bring the long-awaited **LIC IPO** in FY22.
- It plans to complete the divestments of **BPCL, CONCOR** and **SCI** in 2021-22

Banking and companies:

- The Govt plans to allot **Rs 20,000 crore** for bank recapitalisation of **PSBs**.
- Govt. plans to privatise **2 PSU banks** and one **general insurance company** in FY22.
- The FM also proposed to revise definition under **Companies Act, 2013** for small companies by increasing their threshold for capitalisation.

Minimum Wages:

- **Minimum wages** will now apply to all categories of workers and women will be allowed to work in all categories with adequate protection.



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Projects galore:

- Projects for building **8,500 km of highways** will be awarded by March 2022.
- The finance minister also said poll-bound West Bengal will see highway projects worth **Rs 25,000 crore**.

Textile parks:

- India will set up **seven textile parks** over **three years** under the scheme of **mega-investment textile parks**.
- The parks to be set up over 1,000 acres of land with world-class infrastructure, and plug-and-play facilities, will be an addition to the Rs 10,683-crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for technical textiles and manmade fibres.

Agricultural Credit:

- The Budget set **agriculture credit** target of Rs 16.5 lakh crore for FY22, and will further increase provision to a rural infra development fund to Rs 40,000 crore (earlier Rs 30,000 crore).
- The govt is committed to the welfare of farmers, pointing at how 1.54 crore farmers benefited from MSP in paddy and wheat in FY21.
- Furthermore, underlined that Rs 75,060 crore was paid to farmers for wheat in FY21 versus Rs 62,802 crore in FY20.

Amendments:

- To consolidate provisions of the **Sebi Act, Depositories Act**, Securities Contracts Regulation Act, and the Government Securities Act.
- The government aims to amend the Insurance Act to allow **higher FDI**, increasing FDI limit in insurance to 74% from 49% and allowing foreign ownership.

Railways:

- An allocation of **Rs 1,10,055 crore** to be made. Of this, **Rs 1.07 lakh crore** is for capital expenditure for FY22.
- The **eastern and western** dedicated **freight corridors** will be commissioned by **June 2022**.
- Plans for east **coast corridor**, east-west corridor, **north-south** corridors.
- **100% electrification** of broad-gauge routes will be completed by December 2023.

Power Distribution:

- The government will enable **electricity connections portability** to consumers by introducing competition in the power distribution space and kickstart a Rs 3 lakh crore reforms scheme for state power distribution companies.

Ujjwala boost:

- Free cooking gas **LPG scheme**, Ujjwala will be extended to **one crore** more beneficiaries.



- **City gas distribution** network of providing CNG to automobiles and piped cooking gas to households will be expanded to 100 more districts.

One-Nation, One-Ration card:

- **69 crore beneficiaries** (86% beneficiaries) were covered under the One-Nation, One-Ration card implemented by 32 states and union territories.

MSME allocation

- The FM proposed doubling of **MSME allocation**, setting aside Rs 15,700 crore for medium and small enterprises in FY22.

One-person companies:

- The govt plans to allow incorporation of **one-person companies** with no restriction on paid-up capital and turnover.
- Non-resident Indians will also be allowed to incorporate one-person companies in India, the FM added.

Deep Ocean Mission

- India to launch **Deep Ocean Mission**, with an allocation of **Rs 4,000 crore** over the next four years.

First Digital Census:

- Finance Minister Sitharaman allocates Rs 3,726 crore for the forthcoming Census, calling it "the first digital census".

NRI Boost:

- Government to notify rules to eliminate the **double tax** for NRIs on foreign retirement funds

Tax Holiday extended:

- Govt to extend the eligibility of erstwhile tax sop on a home loan up to FY22.
- The FM also said that affordable housing projects can further avail tax holiday for one more year.
- The FM proposed extension of tax holiday for start-ups by one more year, a tax exemption for relocating funds to IFSC, and tax holiday for aircraft leasing business in Gift city.

Tax return filers almost doubled:

- Income tax return filers increased to **6.48 crore** in 2020 from **3.31 crore** in 2014.

Revised customs duty structure

- Propose to review more than 400 old exemptions to customs duty, and from October 1 will put in place a revised customs duty structure free of any distortion,



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- the FM said. Govt plans on reducing customs duty uniformly to 7.5% on products of non-alloy, alloy and stainless steel, exempting duty on steel scrap till March 2022.
- The FM added that to provide relief to copper recyclers, the govt will be reducing duty on copper scrap from 5% to 2.5%.

Lokpal finances

- A total of Rs 39.67 crore has been allocated to the Lokpal for the next fiscal.
- The provision is for the establishment and construction-related charged expenditure for the Lokpal.

No tax change

- The government has left direct taxes unchanged, but took steps indirect tax incentives to ease compliance for taxpayers.
- The FM proposed making it so that advance tax liability on dividend income shall arise only after payment of dividend.
- The Budget also looked at pre-filled tax forms with respect to details like salary income, tax payment and TDS.

Income tax rates 2021-22

1. 5% tax for income between Rs 2.5 and Rs 5 lakh
2. 10% tax for income between Rs 5 and Rs 7.5 lakh
3. 15% tax for income between 7.5 lakh and 10 lakh
4. 20% tax for income between 10 lakh and 12.5 lakh
5. 25% tax for income between 12.5 lakh and 15 lakh
6. 30% tax for income above 15 lakh

Note: No income tax for those with taxable income below Rs 2.5 lakh

Relief for seniors, small taxpayers

- No tax filing for seniors above 75 with only pension, interest income.
- A dispute resolution committee for small taxpayers is being planned.
- Anyone with a taxable income of up to Rs 50 lakh, disputed income of up to Rs 10 lakh eligible to approach a dispute resolution committee.



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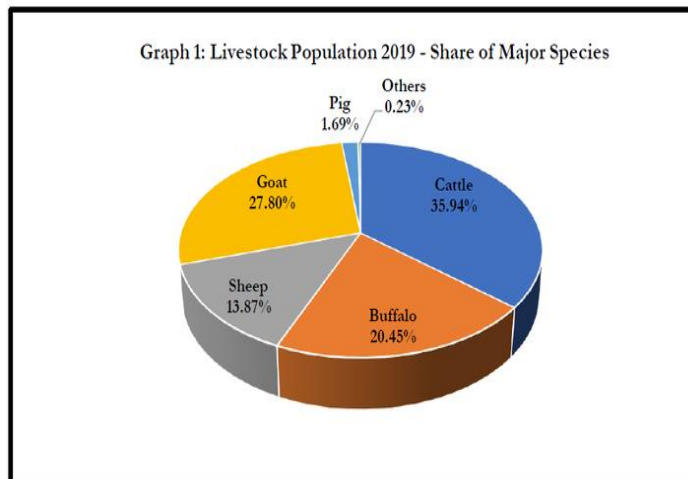
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20th Livestock Census

Various species of animals (sheep, goat, pig, horse, cattle, buffalo, donkey, camel, Mithun, yak, pony, mule, dog, rabbit and elephant)/poultry birds (duck, fowl and other poultry birds) possessed by the households, non-household enterprise and household enterprises were counted at that site.

- The total Livestock population is 53.6 Crore in the country showing an increase of 4.6% over Livestock Census during 2012.
- West Bengal observed the highest increase of 23%, followed by Telangana (22%).
- The increase is mainly driven by a sharp increase in crossbred cattle and higher female indigenous cattle population.
- Uttar Pradesh has a maximum decrease in cattle population.

Distribution of Livestock Population



By comparing to previous Livestock Census, the percentage share of goat and sheep and population has increased whereas the percentage share of Buffalo, Cattle and pig has marginally reduced.

Livestock Population (Top three State):

- Uttar Pradesh
- Rajasthan
- Madhya Pradesh

Poultry:

- The total poultry population has increased by 16.81% and the total poultry is 851.81 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Poultry Population:
 1. Tamil Nadu
 2. Andhra Pradesh
 3. Telangana

Cattle:

- The total Cattle Population in the Country is 19.2 Crore in 2019 and increased by 0.8 % over the previous livestock census.
- Around 36% of the total Livestock population is contributed by cattle.
- Top three state in Cattle Population:
 1. West Bengal



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2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Madhya Pradesh

Buffalo:

- The total Buffalo population in the country is 109.85 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Buffalo Population:
 1. Uttar Pradesh
 2. Rajasthan
 3. Gujarat

Sheep:

- The total Sheep population in the country is 74.26 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Sheep Population:
 1. Telangana
 2. Andhra Pradesh
 3. Karnataka

Goat:

- The total Goat Population in the country is 148.88 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Goat Population:
 1. Rajasthan
 2. West Bengal
 3. Uttar Pradesh

Pig:

- The total Pig Population in the country is 9.06 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Pig Population:
 1. Assam
 2. Jharkhand
 3. Meghalaya

Camel:

- The total Camel Population in the country is 0.25 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Camel Population:
 1. Rajasthan
 2. Gujarat
 3. Haryana

10th Edition of Agriculture Census

10th Edition of Agriculture Census Data for 2015-16 Released By Ministry of Agriculture. The Agriculture Census in India is conducted at 5 yearly intervals to collect data on structural aspects of operational holdings in the country. The Agriculture Census programme is carried out in 3 phases at five-yearly intervals with the cooperation of States/Union Territories. The first Agriculture Census in the country was conducted with from 1970-71. The current Agriculture Census was conducted in 2015-16 is 10th in the series.

Objectives

- It provides statistical data on land utilization, operational holdings, irrigation, the irrigated and unirrigated area under different crops, use of agricultural machinery and implements, agricultural credit, use of fertilizers, seeds etc.
- To provide data for formulating new agricultural development programmes and for evaluating their progress.
- To provide a basic structure of operational holdings of agriculture land for carrying out future agricultural surveys



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and for developing an integrated programme for current agricultural statistics.

Definitions

Operational Holding:

- All land which is used by person partly or wholly for agricultural production and is operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others without regard to the title, legal form, size or location.

Technical Unit:

- An area of land which is under the same management and has the same means of production such as machinery, labour force and animals.

Operated area:

- The operated area includes both uncultivated areas, cultivated and provided part of it is put to agricultural production during that period. Consider an operational holding of agriculture land consists of six survey numbers out of which one survey number is put to non-agricultural uses, the total area of the operational holding will be equal to the total geographical area of all the six survey numbers.

Operational holder:

- A person who perform agriculture activity and has the responsibility for the operation of the agricultural holding and who exercises the technical expertise and is responsible for its operation. The operational holder may be Individual/Joint/ Institutional.

Individual Operational holder: If the holding is being operated either by one person or by a group of persons who are the members of the same household, such holding will be considered as an individual holding.

Joint Operational holder: If two or more persons belonging to different households share jointly as partners in the technical and economic responsibility for the practice of an agricultural holding, such holding will be considered as joint holding.

Institutional Operational holder: Holdings such as government farms, farms of sugarcane factories, cooperative farms, lands managed by trusts would be treated as institutional holdings.

Size classes and Size groups of Holdings:

S.No.	Group	Group	Classes (in Ha.)
I	Marginal	1.	Below 0.5 ha
		2.	0.5<1.0 ha
II	Small	3.	1.0<2.0 ha
		4.	2.0<3.0 ha
III	Semi-Medium	5.	3.0<4.0 ha
		6.	4.0<5.0 ha
IV	Medium	7.	6.0<7.5 ha
		8.	7.5<10.0 ha
V	Large	9.	10.0<20.0 ha
		10.	and above

Highlights

- The highest number of operational holders belonged to Uttar Pradesh followed by Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka and in a total of **146.45 million operational holdings** in the country,
- Compared to the 1.15-hectare **average size of operational holding** in 2010-11 has declined to **1.08-hectare** in 2015-16.
- The **share of female operational holders** has increased from 12.79% in 2010-11 to **13.96%** in 2015-16



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- The **small and marginal holdings** taken together (0.00-2.00 hectare) constituted **86.08%** of the total holdings in 2015-16.
- As per the latest data, women participation in the farming sector with an overall increase of small and medium land holding farmers and tillers.
- Agricultural Census showed a decline of 1.53% of the total operated area to 157.14 million hectares as compared to 159.59 million ha in 2010-11 data & in terms of operated area participation of women increased from previous 10.36% to 11.57%
- By the number of people tilling the land, Uttar Pradesh topped the chart followed by Bihar and Maharashtra.
- According to Agricultural Census in terms of total operated area: Rajasthan comes first followed by Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.
- The total operational holdings aggregate to over 146 million hectares an increase of 5.33 per cent from 138 million in 2010-11.
- Goa has witnessed the sharpest fall and Manipur had the lowest in a number of operational holdings.
- In terms of the operated area, 14 states hold for 88.08% of operational holdings. They are West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Kerala.
- Comparing this to the farmers holding 10 hectares and more account for just 0.57% and had a share of 9.04 per cent in the operated area.
- Semi-medium and medium operational holdings (2-10 ha) in 2015-16 were 13.22 per cent, with 43.61 per cent of the operated area.
- The individual, joint and institutional operational holder have shown growth of 5.04%, 7.07% and 10.88%, respectively.
- The **average size of farm holding** was the **lowest in Kerala** at (0.18 hectare) and the **highest in Nagaland** at (5.06 hectares).

Indian State of Forest Report, 2019 (ISFR)

The forest survey of India released the India state of forest report for the year 2019. It publishes the India state of forest report biennially. Forest Survey of India is a premier national organization under the Union Ministry of Environment and monitoring of the forest resource of the country. 2019 report is the 16th edition of the India state of forest report. Forest Survey of India published the 1st report in 1987

Indian State of Forest Report, 2019 (ISFR): Terminologies; Key Findings; Points to note for Prelims

Terminologies related to Forest report

- **Forest Cover:** Forest Cover refers to all lands more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10% irrespective of ownership and legal status. It also includes orchards, bamboo, and palm.
- **Tree Cover:** Tree patches outside the recorded forest areas exclusive of forest cover and less than the minimum mappable area of one hectare.
- **Open Forest** includes lands with forest cover having a canopy density between 10 to 40%.
- **Dense Forest** includes lands with a forest cover having a canopy density of 40% and above.
- **Moderately dense Forest** includes all lands with forest cover having a canopy density between 40-70%



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- **Very Dense Forest** Includes lands with forest cover having a canopy density of 70% and above.
- **Growing Stock:** It is the sum (by number or volume) of all the trees growing/living in the forest or a specified part of it

Key Findings of the report

- The total forest cover in our country is 7,12,249 sq km.
- It is 21.67% of the geographical area of the country.
- The tree cover of India is approximately 95,027 Km
- It is 2.89% of the geographical area.
- The total Forest and Tree cover of India is 8,07,276 sq km.
- It is 24.56% of the geographical area of the country. In the last assessment, it was 39%.
- The current report shows an increase of 3,976sq km of forest cover, 1,212 sq km of tree cover, and 5,188 sq km of forest and tree cover.
- Very Dense Forests (VDF), which represents the lushest vegetation and has canopy density above 70%, increased by 1,120 sq km over the assessment of
- Forest cover within the Recorded Forest Area (RFA) / Green Wash (GW) has shown a slight decrease of 330 sq km (0.05%), but there is an increase of 4,306 sq km of forest cover outside the RFA/GW when compared with ISFR 2017.
- Forest cover in all the hill districts of India is 2,84,006sq km.
- It is 40.30% of the total geographical area of all these districts. Overall, there is an increase of 544 sq km (0.19%) in 140 hill districts of the country
- There is an increase in the bamboo area as compared to ISFR 2017
- Except for Assam and Tripura, all the states in the northeastern region shows a decrease in the forest area.
- In the tribal district, there is a decrease of 741 sq km of forest cover within the RFA/GW and an increase in 1922sq km outside.

POINT TO NOTE FOR PRELIMS

States where there is an increase in the forest area in descending order

1) Karnataka (1025 sq km) 2) Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km) 3) Kerala (823 sq km) 4) Jammu & Kashmir (371 sq km) 5) Himachal Pradesh (334 sq km)

States where there is a loss in the forest area in descending order

1) Manipur (499 sq km) 2) Arunachal Pradesh (276 sq km) 3) Mizoram (180 sq km).

States having forest cover area in descending order

1) Madhya Pradesh 2) Arunachal Pradesh 3) Chattisgarh 4) Orissa 5) Maharashtra

States having forest cover area as a percentage of the total geographical area in descending order

1) Mizoram (85.41%) 2) Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%) 3) Meghalaya (76.33%) 4) Manipur(75.46%) 5) Nagaland (75.31%).

Mangrove Cover:

- There has been a net increase of 54 sq km in the mangrove cover of the country as compared to the 2017 assessment.
- The mangrove cover in the country is 4,975 sq km, which is 0.15% of the country's total geographical area.
- West Bengal has 42.45% of India's mangrove cover, followed by Gujarat 23.66% and A&N Islands 12.39%.



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- About 40% of the world's Mangrove Cover is in South East Asia and South Asia. India has approximately 3% of the total Mangrove cover in South Asia.
- All the coastal states have mangroves cover.

Wetlands:

- Among the big States, Gujarat has the largest area of the wetlands within RFA in the country, followed by West.
- Among the smaller States/UTs, Puducherry, followed by Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands, have large areas of wetlands within.
- In India, 62,466 wetlands are covering 3.83% of the area within RFA/GW of the country, and nearly 8% of the total number of wetlands is within the RFA/GW.

Forest Fire

- In India, about 21.40% of forest cover of the country is highly prone to extreme fire.
- Most of the fire-prone forest areas are in the northeastern region and central part of the country
- **Most of the forest fires have occurred in open forests followed by moderately dense**

Carbon Stock

- India's total carbon stock was approximately 7,124.6 million. There is an increase of 42.6 million tons from 2017.
- India's NDC goal is to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3.0 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- The **Soil organic carbon contributes 56%** to the total forest carbon stock of India, which is the largest pool of carbon stocks in the forest.

Biodiversity

- Tropical wet evergreen and semi-evergreen forest of Western Ghats shows maximum Biodiversity.
- In terms of states, maximum biodiversity is in **Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka**, followed by northeastern states.
- In terms of species richness for trees, Karnataka is on the top
- In terms of species richness for shrubs, Arunachal Pradesh is on top
- In terms of species richness for herbs, Jammu Kashmir is on the top
- Combining all the three types of species richness, Arunachal Pradesh is in the first position, followed by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Bamboo Cover

- In India total bamboo bearing area is 1,60,037sq km.
- There is an increase of 3,229 sq km as compared to 2017 estimates.
- Madhya Pradesh has a maximum bamboo bearing area followed by Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, and Odisha.



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Dependence of fuelwood on forest

- Maharashtra has the highest dependence on fuelwood in the forest.
- In terms of fodder, small timber, and bamboo, dependence is highest in Madhya Pradesh.

List of Important GI Tags

- A **geographical indication (GI)** is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- Here is the list of important Geographical tags that have a high tendency to appear in the latest examination. So far, 363 products have been given GI Tags in India with Terracotta and black rice being the latest ones.

List of GI Tags	State
Kandhamal Haladi	Odisha
Kodaikanal Malai	Tamil Nadu
Poonthu-Pawndum	Mizoram
Ngotekherh	Mizoram
Hmaram(Handicraft)	Mizoram
Gulbarga Tur Dal	Karnataka
Khola Chilli	Goa
Idu Mishmi (Textile)	Arunachal Pradesh
Dindigul Locks	Tamil Nadu
Kandangi Saree	Tamil Nadu
Srivilliputtur Palkova	Tamil Nadu
Kaji Nemu	Assam
Palani Panchamirtham	Tamil Nadu
Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei	Mizoram
Palani Panchamirtham (a 'prasadam' or religious offering in temples)	Tamil Nadu
Tawlhlohpuan, (a fine quality fabric)	Mizoram
Mizo Puanchei (a shawl, is considered the most colourful textile)	Mizoram
'Odisha rasagola'	Odisha
Tirur betel vine	Kerala
Terracotta	Gorakhpur
Black Rice or Chak-Hao	Manipur



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