

CURRENT AFFAIRS

August 2020



Summary and Multiple Choice Questions

Current Affairs – August 2020

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **August 2020**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

Audience

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

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Appointments

1. ICRA appointed N. Sivaraman as MD and Group CEO

Domestic Rating Agency ICRA has appointed N Sivaraman as its Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer. He has rich experience of leading and transforming businesses, firmly putting those businesses on the path of growth and profitability. Prior to the appointment, he has been with L&T for over 34 years.

ICRA Group plays a critical role in the Indian capital market with its analytical views, independent rating opinions and data and analytics.



2. Hardik Satishchandra Shah appointed as new Private Secretary to PM Modi

Hardik Satishchandra Shah, a 2010 batch IAS officer was appointed as Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Prior to this appointment, he was serving as Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Therefore he has been appointed on co-terminus basis.

Hardik Satishchandra Shah has experience of handling post of Private Secretary to Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar.



3. Sashidhar Jagdishan to be new CEO of HDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the next Chief Executive Officer of HDFC Bank for three years. He will take over from Aditya Puri. Mr. Puri will retire by October 2020.

Jagdishan currently holds the position of Additional Director and Head of Finance, HR. He was appointed as Chief Financial Officer in 2008, and was replaced by Srinivasan Vaidyanathan in 2019. Jagdishan joined the bank in 1996 as a Manager in the finance function.



4. Government extended SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi's term for another 18 months

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved an extension of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Ajay Tyagi's term of appointment by 18 months. His current tenure was due to end on August 31, 2020.

Mr. Tyagi is an IAS Officer of the 1984-batch Himachal Pradesh cadre. He had earlier been granted a six-month extension ahead of the expiry of his three-year tenure on March 1, 2020. Tyagi took over as SEBI chief in 2017.



5. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi took oath as Chairman of UPSC

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi took oath as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Joshi will have tenure till April 4, 2022. Prof. Joshi joined the Commission as a member in the year 2015. Prior to joining the UPSC, he was the chairman of the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission and the Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission.



Prof. Joshi served as Director of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration. During his career, Dr. Joshi taught more than 28 years at post-graduation level and held many important positions in various policy making, academic and administrative bodies.

6. Girish Chandra Murmu appointed as new CAG of India

President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Girish Chandra Murmu as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Murmu was the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He will succeed Rajiv Mehrishi.

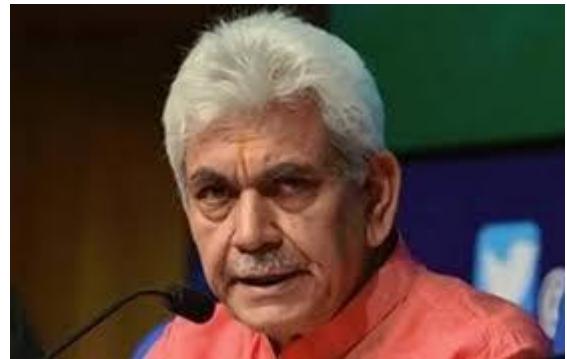
Murmu is a 1985-batch IAS officer and was the first Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He has served as Expenditure Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. He also served as Principal Secretary to Narendra Modi during his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister.



7. Former Union Minister Manoj Sinha to be new L-G of Jammu & Kashmir

Former Union Minister Manoj Sinha has been appointed as Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He replaced Girish Chandra Murmu who resigned to join as CAG of India.

Mr. Sinha was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time in 1996 and repeated the term in 1999. He was elected for the third time to the Lok Sabha in 2014. He was former Minister of State for Railways and later held an independent charge of Ministry of Communication.



8. Hardayal Prasad appointed as new MD & CEO of PNB Housing Finance

PNB Housing Finance announced the appointment of the former SBI Card head, Hardayal Prasad as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Hardayal Prasad will replace Neeraj Vyas the current interim M.D. and C.E.O. of the company. Hardayal Prasad has worked with SBI cards. He has held multiple leadership positions at State Bank of India.

PNB Housing Finance Ltd is one of the top housing finance companies in India offering home loan, fixed deposits, and loan against property at attractive interest.



9. Pramod Bhasin appointed as new Chairman of ICRIER

Pramod Bhasin has been appointed as a new Chairman of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Bhasin will replace Isher Judge Ahluwalia who resigned as Chairman.

Prior to the appointment, he was Vice-Chair of the board of governors at ICRIER. He was the President & CEO of GE Capital in India from 1994 to 2005, and GE Capital Asia from 1998 to 2001. He founded Genpact in 1996 (as a subsidiary of GE Capital, India) and built it from start into a Global business.



10. Soma Mondal selected as next Chairman of SAIL

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has selected Soma Mondal as the next Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). She is currently serving as the Director (Commercial) of SAIL. If approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), she will be the first woman chairperson of SAIL.

Soma Mondal will replace Anil Chaudhary who is due to retire at the end of 2020. She has also served as the Director (Commercial), NALCO, Bhubaneswar.



11. Rakesh Asthana appointed DG of Border Security Force

The government has appointed Rakesh Asthana as the new Director General of Border Security Force, BSF. He is an IPS Officer of 1984 batch of Gujarat cadre. He is presently the Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, BCAS. He will continue to hold the additional charge of DG, Narcotics Control Bureau.

The government has also appointed 1986-batch IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, V. S. K. Kaumudi as Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Home Ministry. Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer Md Jawed Akhtar has been appointed the DG, Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guard.



12. Kaushik Khona appointed as new CEO of GoAir Airlines

GoAir Airlines appointed former CEO and Wadia Group veteran Kaushik Khona as its new Chief Executive Officer. He will replace Vinay Dube. Kaushik Khona has varied experience of working with Dunlop tyre group, Shipping Venture, a financial and business restructuring for a German - India joint venture, MTalati & Talati LLP, Wadia Group, etc.

GoAir is a Mumbai based Indian Airline, owned by the Indian business conglomerate

Wadia Group. GoAir operates to a network of 38 destinations – 27 domestic and 11 international to Thailand (Bangkok and Phuket), Muscat, Abu Dhabi and Dubai, Kuwait City, Singapore and Male.



13. GP Garg took charge as SEBI's new Executive Director

The Securities and Exchange Board of India appointed GP Garg as executive director (ED). Prior to this appointment, he was Chief General Manager in SEBI. He was closely associated with SEBI's initiatives on Financial Literacy and Investor Education in the country.

GP Garg played key role in establishment of National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) including setting up of the new state of the artcampus at Patalganga. The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the regulator of the securities and commodity market in India owned by the Government of India.



14. Rajiv Kumar appointed as new Election Commissioner

Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as new election commissioner. He will replace Ashok Lavasa, who resigned to join Asian Development Bank. A 1984-batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, Rajiv Kumar has over three decades of experience in public policy and administration across various sectors.

Rajiv Kumar played a major role in merging 10 public sector banks into four. During his two-and-a-half year stint as financial services secretary, he took several policy decisions to promote responsive and responsible banking. He is known to have initiated and implemented the 59-minute loan scheme for the MSME sector.



15. Satya Pal Malik appointed as Governor of Meghalaya

President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Satya Pal Malik as the Governor of Meghalaya. He will replace Tathagata Roy who completed his five-year tenure on the post. Mr. Malik was serving as Governor of Goa.

Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Governor of Maharashtra, has been given additional role as Governor of Goa. Malik was the governor of Jammu and Kashmir from August 2018 to October 2019. It was during his tenure that the decision to abrogate Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was taken in August 2019.



16. Satpal Singh Satti appointed as Chairman of 6th State Finance Commission of Himachal Pradesh

Mr. Satpal Singh Satti has been appointed the Chairman of 6th State Finance Commission of Himachal Pradesh. The newly-constituted commission will review the financial position of the panchayats and municipalities and devolution of resources to these institutions.

Mr. Satti will attain the status of a Cabinet Minister. The commission will make its report available by December 31, 2021 covering a period of five years from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027.



17. Ashwani Bhatia appointed as Managing Director of SBI

The Union Government has appointed Ashwani Bhatia as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI). He will replace P K Gupta on his superannuation. Bhatia is currently working as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at SBI Mutual Fund.

Mr. Bhatia has also been associated with SBI Capital Markets, as President and Chief Operating Officer and Whole Time Director. He has been associated with SBI for over 33 years.



18. DRDO chief G Satheesh Reddy got two-year extension

Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy, Head of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has been given a two-year extension as the Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman DRDO beyond his tenure of August 26, 2020. He was appointed to the post in August 2018 for two years.

Dr G. Satheesh Reddy is well known for his significant contributions towards indigenous design, development, deployment of diversified Missiles & Strategic Systems, Guided Weapons, Avionics technologies and for sustained efforts in advancement of Aerospace technologies & Industries in India.



19. Vinay Tonse appointed as MD and CEO of SBI Funds Management

Vinay M Tonse has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Funds Management. He replaced Ashwani Bhatia who has rejoined parent SBI as its Managing Director. Tonse has been with SBI for more than 32 years.

Tonse has headed the operations at SBI Osaka branch in Japan as CEO for four years. He has also worked as an officer with the bank's Singapore office. SBI Funds Management is a joint venture between State Bank of India (SBI) and European asset manager Amundi.

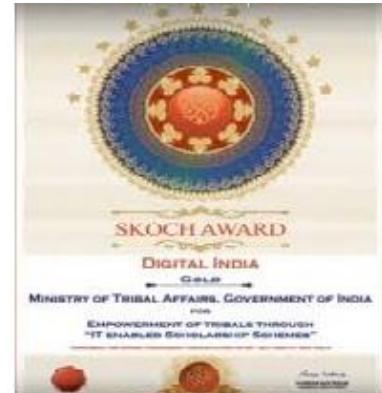


Awards

1. Ministry of Tribal Affairs received SKOCH Gold Award

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has received SKOCH Gold Award for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project of Scholarship Division of the Ministry. The 66th SKOCH 2020 Competition was entitled "INDIA RESPONDS TO COVID THROUGH DIGITAL GOVERNANCE" and MoTA chose to participate in DIGITAL INDIA & E-GOVERNANCE - 2020 Competition.

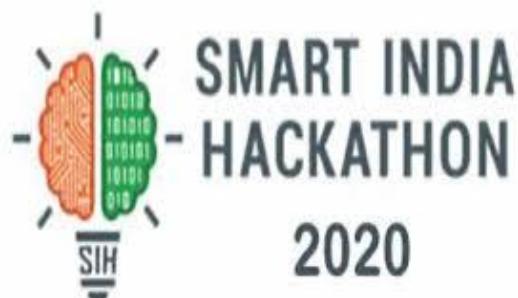
The project is implemented by IIPA. It would help in understanding the aspirations of tribal youth and help in realizing their cherished dream to develop as entrepreneurs, researchers and flag-bearers of schemes of Government of India meant for welfare for STs.



2. DIAT won first prize in Smart India Hackathon-2020

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) Pune, an autonomous organization under the Department of Defence Research & Development, DRDO, won 1st prize in Smart India Hackathon (SIH)-2020.

The DIAT student team "Age of Ultron" which comprised of six members under the guidance of Dr. Sunita Dhavale, won the 1st Prize of Rs 1 Lakh for solving problem statement MS331 in the category of software posed by the Madhya Pradesh Government. The team provided the solution titled "DRISHTI" for the face, expression and gesture recognition using Artificial Intelligence.



3. 121 Police personnel awarded Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation for 2020

The Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation for 2020 has been awarded to 121 Police personnel. The medal was constituted in 2018 with the objective to promote high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognize such Excellence in Investigation by investigating officers.

Among the awardees, 15 are from CBI, 10 each are from MP and Maharashtra Police, 8 are from UP Police and 7 each are from Kerala and West Bengal Police. The remaining are from the other States and Union Territories. These include 21 women police officers.



4. President approved 84 gallantry awards for defence personnel

President Ram Nath Kovind approved 84 gallantry awards for defence personnel that includes 1 Kirti Chakra, 9 Shaurya Chakras, 5 Bar to Sena Medals, 60 Sena Medals, 4 Nao Sena Medals and 5 Vayu Sena Medals.

Head constable Abdul Rashid Kalas of J&K Police (JKP) has been posthumously awarded the Kirti Chakra, India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award. President Kovind has also approved 19 Mention-in-Despatches to the Army personnel for their significant contributions in different military operations which include eight posthumous for 'Operation Meghdoot' and 'Operation Rakshak'.



5. 926 Police personnel awarded Medals for their conspicuous gallant action on Independence Day

Police Medals for Gallantry have been awarded to 215 police personnel for their conspicuous gallant action. President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service have been awarded to 80 police personnel and Police Medal for Meritorious Service to 631 police personnel.

Among the personnel receiving Gallantry Awards, 55 are from CRPF, 81 are from J & K police, 23 are from Uttar Pradesh, 16 from Delhi Police, 14 from Maharashtra and 12 are from Jharkhand and the remaining from the other States and UTs and Central Armed Police Forces.



6. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award 2020 announced

The Union Government announced the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award. It is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years. Apart from a medal and a citation, the awardee will receive cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh.



The list of awardees

Name of the Awardees	Discipline
Rohit Sharma	Cricket
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Para-Athletics
Manika Batra	Table Tennis
Vinesh Phogat	Wrestling
Rani Rampal	Hockey

7. Arjuna Awards 2020 announced

The Union Government announced the Arjuna Awards 2020. The Award is given for consistent outstanding performance for four years. Apart from a medal and a citation, the awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh.

The list of awardees:



Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
Atanu Das	Archery	Deepak	Kabaddi
Dutee Chand	Athletics	Kale Sarika Sudhakar	Kho Kho
Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy	Badminton	Dattu Baban Bhokanal	Rowing
Chirag C Shetty	Badminton	Manu Bhaker	Shooting
Vishesh Bhriguanshi	Basketball	Saurabh Chaudhary	Shooting
Subedar Manish Kaushik	Boxing	Madhurika Suhas Patkar	Table Tennis
Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing	Divij Sharan	Tennis
Ishant Sharma	Cricket	Shiva Keshavan	Winter Sports
Deepti Sharma	Cricket	Divya Kakran	Wrestling
Sawant Ajay Anant	Equestrian	Rahul Aware	Wrestling
Sandesh Jhingan	Football	Suyash Narayan Jadhav	Para Swimming
Aditi Ashok	Golf	Sandeep	Para Athletics
Akashdeep Singh	Hockey	Manish Narwal	Para Shooting
Deepika	Hockey		

8. Dronacharya Awards 2020 Announced

The Union Government announced the Dronacharya Awards 2020. The Award is given for coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious International sports events.

The list of awardees:



Name of the Coach (Life-Time Category)	Discipline	Name of the Coach (Regular Category)	Discipline
Dharmendra Tiwary	Archery	Jude Felix Sebastian	Hockey
Purushotham Rai	Athletics	Yogesh Malviya	Mallakhamb
Shiv Singh	Boxing	Jaspal Rana	Shooting
Romesh Pathania	Hockey	Kuldeep Kumar Handoo	Wushu
Krishan Kumar Hooda	Kabaddi	Gaurav Khanna	Para Badminton
Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar	Para Powerlifting		

Naresh Kumar	Tennis
Om Parkash Dahiya	Wrestling

9. Dhyan Chand Award 2020 announced

The Union Government announced the Dhyan Chand Award 2020. The Award is given for life time contribution to sports development. Apart from a medal and a citation, the awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh.



The list of winners:

Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
Shri Kuldip Singh Bhullar	Athletics	Shri Manpreet Singh	Kabaddi
Ms. Jincy Philips	Athletics	Shri J. Ranjith Kumar	Para Athletics
Shri Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe	Badminton	Shri Satyaprakash Tiwari	Para Badminton
Ms. Trupti Murgunde	Badminton	Shri Manjeet Singh	Rowing
Ms. N. Usha	Boxing	Late Shri Sachin Nag	Swimming
Shri Lakha Singh	Boxing	Shri Nandan P Bal	Tennis
Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu	Football	Shri Netarpal Hooda	Wrestling
Shri Ajit Singh	Hockey		

10. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2020 announced

The Union Government announced the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2020. It is given to the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development and carries Trophies and Certificates.



The awardees are:

Category	Entity
Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent	1. Lakshya Institute 2. Army Sports Institute
Encouragement to sports through CSR	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd.
Employment of sportspersons and sports welfare measures	Air Force Sports Control Board
Sports for Development	International Institute of Sports Management (IISM)

11. Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award announced

The government has announced the winners of Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award. These awards are given to recognize the achievements of persons in the fields of adventure. They will receive statuettes, certificates and award money of Rs 5 lakh each.

The list of awardees:



Name of the Sportsperson	Category
Ms. Anita Devi	Land Adventure
Col. Sarfraz Singh	Land Adventure
Shri Taka Tamut	Land Adventure
Shri Narender Singh	Land Adventure
Shri Keval Hiren Kakka	Land Adventure
Shri Satendra Singh	Water Adventure
Shri Gajanand Yadava	Air Adventure
Late Shri Magan Bissa	Life Time Achievement

12. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Puruskar 2020 announced

The Union Government announced the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Puruskar 2020. It is given to the overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments and carries award money of Rs. 15 lakh and certificate. Panjab University, Chandigarh won the award for 2020.

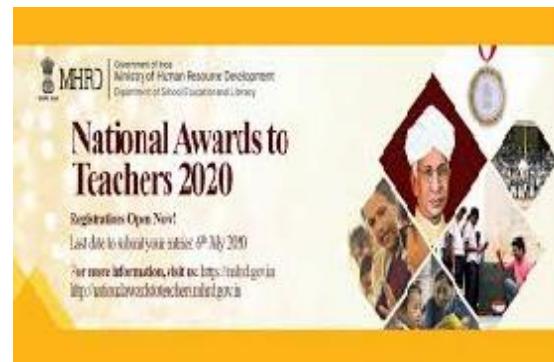


The National Sports Awards 2020 were considered by the Selection Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) Mukundakam Sharma (former Judge of Supreme Court of India) and other members.

13. National Teachers Award 2020

Union Education Ministry has released the list of 47 teachers from across the country to be conferred with the National Teachers Award 2020. One of the notable names was of a government school teacher from Ladakh. Head Teacher of Middle School Taknak Sakti in Kharu block of Leh - Ladakh, Sonam Gyaltsan, has been selected for the prestigious National award.

Mr. Sonam Gyaltsan made all efforts to build the confidence among the villagers about government schools, facilitate the students at the school and improve the results. Sonam Gyaltsan also utilised ITBPs Civil Action Program to take his students to Bharat Darshan.



14. 2020 Leadership Awards from USISPF

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum has announced to award the 2020 Leadership Awards to Anand Mahindra, Chairman of Mahindra Group and Shantanu Narayen, Chairman and CEO of Adobe. The duo are awarded for their remarkable ambition in strengthening the US-India bilateral economic partnership.

US-India Strategic Partnership Forum is a non-profit organization. It aims at strengthening the bilateral and strategic partnership between U.S. and India through policy advocacy. US remains India's top trading partner in 2019-20 with USD 88.75 billion bilateral trade.



15. Army Chief conferred Chief of Army Staff Unit Appreciation to 51 SAG of National Security Guards

Army Chief General Manoj Naravane, conferred the Chief of Army Staff Unit Appreciation to 51 Special Action Group of the National Security Guards in recognition of the Group's outstanding achievements in combating terrorism.

The group draws 100% of its manpower from the Indian Army and has established itself as an elite Counter Terrorist Force earning many Gallantry Awards including three Ashok Chakras. Since its raising in December 1984, 51 Special Action Group has carved a niche for itself among the most renowned counter terrorist outfits of the world.



16. NLCIL bagged "Swachhta Hi Seva award" for transforming Neyveli Township

The Government of India Navratna, NLC India Limited (NLCIL) bagged the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' (cleanliness is service) 2019 award for transforming the entire Neyveli into a plastic-free, clean and green campus.

NLCIL is a Navratna Government of India Enterprise that operates four opencast lignite mines of a total capacity of 30.6 million. NLCIL implemented the Swachhta Hi Seva programme in two phases — the first phase from September 11 to November 2, 2019 and the second phase from October 3 to 27, 2019.



17. VA Tech Wabag won Global Water Award

VA TECH WABAG LIMITED ('WABAG'), a leading pure-play water technology Indian Multinational, won the prestigious Global Water Award. WABAG received two prestigious global laurels at the Global Water Summit 2019 held at London. 'Madinat Salman WWTP' received the Distinction Award under "Wastewater Project of the Year" while 'IOCL Paradip ETP' received the Highly Commended Award under "Industrial Water Project of the Year".

Established in 2006 by Global Water Intelligence, the awards recognise the most important achievements in the international water industry.



Bills and Acts

1. Education Minister notified Council of Architecture Regulations, 2020

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020 in New Delhi. The regulation, to be effective from 1st November 2020 will replace Architecture Regulations, 1983.

Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020

Features are:

- Candidates will get a chance to exit the architecture programme post three years.
- Choice Based Credit System will be introduced along with training experience in the eighth and ninth semester of the course.
- To offer a "multi-disciplinary approach" and introduction of national and international exchange programmes.
- To focus on filling the gap between academics and the industry.



Books & Authors

1. Book titled "Swachh Bharat Kranti" published

The Hindi translation of the book "The Swachh Bharat Revolution" titled as "Swachh Bharat Kranti" was launched. It was translated by Mr. Parameswaran Iyer, Secretary of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

The Swachh Bharat Kranti expresses the journey of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) through 35 essays by a diverse range of stakeholders and contributors to the SBM.

The essays are arranged in four key sections which are the four key pillars of SBM's success: Political Leadership, Public Financing, Partnerships and People's Participation.



2. Book titled "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata" released

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar released a book titled "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata". It is a compilation of articles, views and life journey of Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary. The book is published by Bihar Assembly Secretariat.

The book is compiled and edited by senior journalist Arvind Sharma while its preface has been written by another senior journalist Vinod Bandhu. The book has also talked about various other important activities of assembly.



3. Book authored by Nirupama Yadav titled "Vishesh: Code To Win" launched

A book titled "Vishesh: Code To Win" based on the inspirational story of Vishesh Bhriguanshi, India's youngest basketball team captain. It is written by sportswoman-turned-author Nirupama Yadav.

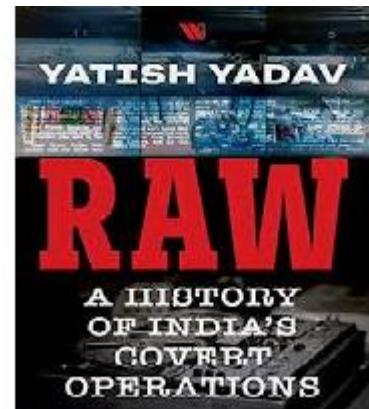
The book narrates the mindset of a basketball player in a cricket-dominated nation and brings to light his strenuous journey of becoming the captain against all odds. Bhriguanshi was the first Indian to be signed by Australia's National Basketball League (NBL).



4. Book titled 'RAW: A History of India's Covert Operations' released

A book titled 'RAW: A History of India's Covert Operations' was launched. It has been authored by Yatish Yadav and published by Westland. The book is the first comprehensive account of Indian spy networks and their intelligence gathering, and their role in securing and advancing Indian interests.

The book gives a peep into the heroic covert operations carried by India's external spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). It also highlights the unknown aspects of the life of the operatives of RAW.



5. Book chronicling 3rd year in office of Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released

A book chronicling the third year in office of Indian Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu titled 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing' was released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The book covers events relating to the Vice President's foreign visits, his interactions with the world leaders and his addresses to the Indian diaspora in different countries. The book also provides a glimpse of his interactions with farmers, scientists, doctors, youth, administrators, industry leaders and artists, among others.



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

The book titled 'Amazing Ayodhya' has been authored by Neena Rai. The book not only describes ideal figures of Rama and Sita but also provides authentic information about the city Ayodhya to understand history, scriptures and Hindu civilisation.

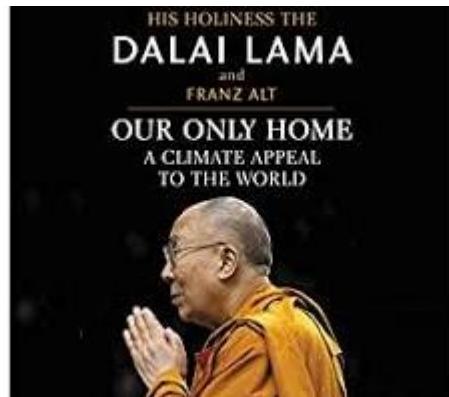
The book answers various queries of readers such as 'how big was Ayodhya?', 'How was it shaped like?', 'What were the houses like?', 'Who established Ayodhya?', 'What kind of animals lived there?', etc.



7. Dalai Lama to release new book on climate change, 'Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World'

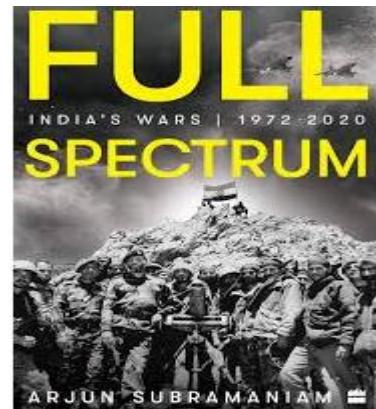
Nobel peace laureate and Tibet's spiritual leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama is expected to release a new book on climate change entitled 'Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World', with German environmental journalist Franz Alt. The book is scheduled to release in November 2020.

In his latest book, His Holiness the Dalai Lama calls on political decision-makers to finally fight against deadlock and ignorance on the issue of climate change and to stand up for a different, more climate-friendly world and for the younger generation to assert their right to regain its future.



8. Book titled "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020" by Arjun Subramaniam released

Retired Air Vice Marshal, Arjun Subramaniam's authored book titled "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020" was released. The book details about a sweeping account of war and conflict in contemporary India over the past five decades. It describes various operation that the armed forces have participated in such as insurgencies in the north-east, terrorism and proxy wars in Jammu and Kashmir, separatist violence in Punjab and the IPKF intervention in Sri Lanka.

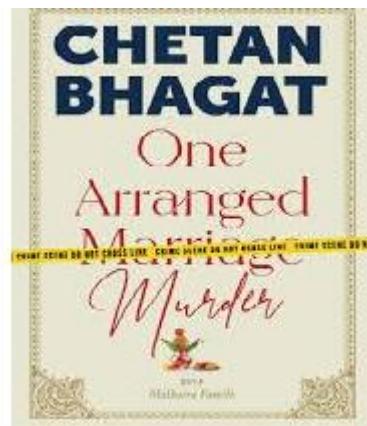


Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam (Retd) retired from the Indian Air Force after 36 years in uniform. He is an experienced fighter pilot with command, staff and instructional experience.

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

A book titled 'One Arranged Murder' authored by Chetan Bhagat will be released globally on September 28, 2020. The book has come up with a murder mystery that portrays story of an arranged married couple and friends running an investigation agency. It is published by Westland Publications Ltd. It is the author's 9th novel and 11th book overall.

Chetan Bhagat was ranked 82nd on the 2017 Forbes India Celebrity 100 list. He featured on Time magazine's list of World's 100 Most Influential People of 2010 in the Artists category.



10. Book titled “Gastric Cancer” released by Jitendra Singh

Union Minister, Jitendra Singh has released a book on cancer named “Gastric Cancer” edited by Dr. Ashok K. Vaid. It was released during the 3-day virtual conference on Oncology. The book published by Springer Healthcare Education, presents important leading-edge research on stomach cancer. Stomach cancer (also called “gastric cancer”) is the growth of cancer cells in the lining and wall of the stomach.

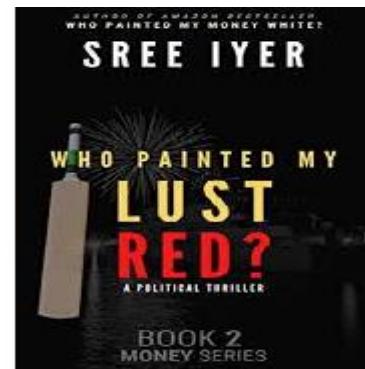
Ashok K. Vaid is a famous Oncologist and was awarded Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding work in the field of medicine.



11. A book titled “Who painted my lust red?” by Sree Iyer

A book titled “Who painted my lust red?” has been authored by Sree Iyer. This is the second book in this series of Sree Iyer’s Money Trilogy series. This is a story about Stree Shakti – nothing can stand before its might and power.

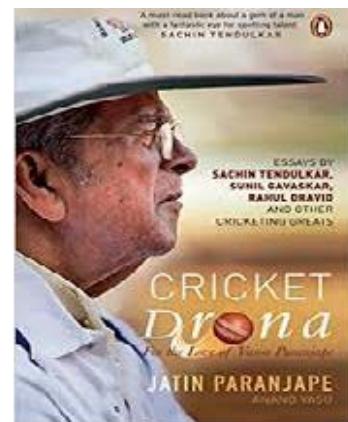
An outstanding author, Sree Iyer has 37 patents in the areas of Hardware, Software, Encryption and Systems. NDTV Frauds is the first book written by him.



12. Book on renowned coach Vasoo Paranjape released

A book titled “Cricket Drona” based on the life of one of India’s most respected cricket coaches, Vasoo Paranjape, was released. The book is published by Penguin. It is co-authored by Paranjape’s son, former India player and current national selector Jatin along with cricket journalist Anand Vasu.

The book has essays written by Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sunil Gavaskar. He was also the coach of a BCCI organised junior camp back in 1987-88 which featured none other than Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Vinod Kambli to name a few.



13. Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld won International Booker Prize 2020

Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld won the 2020 International Booker prize for debut novel *The Discomfort of Evening*. The book is about a story of childhood grief, caught between shame and salvation. It is studded with images of wild, violent beauty: a world of language unlike any other, thereby attracting readers with Michele Hutchison's translation.

Rijneveld is the first Dutch author to win the prize and only the third Dutch author to be nominated. He was awarded with the C. Buddingh' Prize for best Dutch-language poetry 'Kalfsvlies' in 2015.



14. Army Chief released book on National Security

Army Chief General MM Naravane released a book titled as "National Security Challenges: Young Scholars' Perspective" penned by university students, ranging from the undergraduate level to doctoral candidates. It is published by the Army think-tank Centre for Land Warfare Studies. The book contains various themes concerning national security.

The book is a tribute to Field Marshal Manekshaw, the great grand strategist of 1971 Indo-Pakistan War that resulted in the liberation of Bangladesh. His military career spanned four decades and five wars, beginning with service in the British Indian Army in World War II.



Committees

1. Sijo George appointed to Centre's committee on STIP 2020

Sijo Kuruvilla George was appointed to the Central Government's committee on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2020 (STIP 2020). He is a founding CEO of Startup Village and founder of Re-think Foundation.

STIP 2020 Town Hall Meet, the Track-I public & expert consultation process for the formulation of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) 2020 was launched by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Professor K VijayRaghavan and Secretary, DST Professor Ashutosh Sharma.



2. Government announced selection committee for National Sports Awards 2020

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has constituted a Selection Committee for selecting awardees for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Dronacharya Awards, Arjuna Awards, Dhyan Chand Awards, Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar Award and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy for the year 2020.

Retired Justice of Supreme Court Justice Mukundakam Sharma is the Chairperson of the Committee. Other eminent members are - Virender Sehwag (cricket), Sardar Singh (hockey) and Deepa Malik (Para-athletics).



3. RBI sets up committee headed by K V Kamath

The Reserve Bank of India announced to set up an expert committee headed by veteran banker K V Kamath. It will make recommendations on various parameters to be factored into each resolution plan for corporate loans after RBI announced a one-time restructuring of loans that are facing stress due to the COVID-19 crisis.



The committee will make recommendations to it on the required financial parameters, along with the sector specific benchmark ranges for such parameters, to be factored into each resolution plan. It shall also undertake a process validation of resolution plans for accounts above a specified threshold.

4. Expert committee on COVID-19 vaccine administration

An expert committee under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog member Dr VK Paul met to consider the logistics and ethical aspects of procuring and administering the COVID-19 vaccine. The Committee on vaccine administration will engage with all the stakeholders including state governments and vaccine manufacturers.



The committee would chalk out strategies on the aspects of prioritisation of the vaccine administration once it is developed, rollout and cold chain logistics and training of the people who would be administering it.

5. Niti Aayog panel recommended linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates

A Niti Aayog task force headed by Niti Aayog Member (Agriculture) Ramesh Chand, has submitted its report "Sugarcane and Sugar Industry". In its report, the panel has recommended linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates to keep the industry in sound financial health.

Other key recommendations:

- one-time increase in minimum sugar price to Rs 33 per kilo to help sugar mills cover the cost of production.
- Introduce Revenue Sharing Formula (RSF) with a Price Stabilisation Fund to protect farmers from receiving prices below the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)



6. Centre constituted National Council for Transgender Persons

The Centre has constituted a National Council for Transgender Persons through a notification. The Social Justice and Empowerment Minister will be the ex-officio Chairperson and Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment will be ex-officio Vice-Chairperson.



The National Council will advise the Centre on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons. It will monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons.

Deaths

1. Samajwadi Party leader Amar Singh passed away

Samajwadi Party leader Amar Singh passed away at the age of 64 years. He was former General Secretary of the Samajwadi Party. Amar Singh was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first time from Uttar Pradesh in 1996 and got re-elected in 2003.

In 2016, Amar Singh got elected to the Rajya Sabha as an Independent candidate from Uttar Pradesh. Amar Singh played a small role in movie Hamara Dil Aapke Paas Hai.



2. Former Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui passed away

Former Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui passed away at the age of 97 years. He was the first directly-elected president of Taiwan in 1996. He is regarded as the "father of Taiwan's democracy".

Lee served as president of Taiwan from 1988 to 2000. He was credited with ending autocratic rule in favour of pluralism and democracy. Mr. Lee joined the Nationalist Party, known as the Kuomintang or KMT in 1971.



3. Theatre maestro Ebrahim Alkazi passed away

Theatre maestro Ebrahim Alkazi passed away at the age of 94 years. He was the first director of National School of Drama (NSD) and considered as the father of modern Indian theatre.

Alkazi was recipient of the Padma Vibhushan (2010), Padma Bhushan (1991) and Padma Shri (1966). His Royal Academy of Dramatics Art (RADA) pass-out staged more than 50 plays during his distinguished career and won the BBC Broadcasting Award in 1950.



4. Nobel Peace Prize winner John Hume passed away

The Nobel Peace Prize winner and prominent Northern Ireland politician John Hume passed away at the age of 83 years. He was a founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in 1970.

Mr Hume played a major role in the peace talks, which led to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Hume was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998, along with David Trimble, for his role in ending the conflict in Northern Ireland.



5. Former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Ram Pradhan passed away

Former governor of Arunachal Pradesh RD Pradhan passed away at the age of 92 years. He was an IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre and also served as Union Home Secretary. He played a major role in the signing of the Assam Accord and the Mizo Accord.

Pradhan lead a two-man panel to investigate the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Pradhan served as India's Resident Representative to UNCTAD and GATT. Mr Pradhan was awarded the Padma Bhushan on Republic Day, 1987.



6. Renowned lyricist & poet Rahat Indori passed away

Noted Urdu poet and lyricist Rahat Indori passed away in Indore at the age of 70 years. With a 50-year career in poetry, Mr Rahat Indori was known for the lyrics of hit films like Munnabhai MBBS, Kareeb, Ghatak and Ishq. His real name was Rahat Qureshi.

Indori was also a former professor of Urdu language and a painter. Prior to this he was a pedagogist of Urdu literature at Devi Ahilya University, Indore.



7. Former Indian cricketer Chetan Chauhan passed away

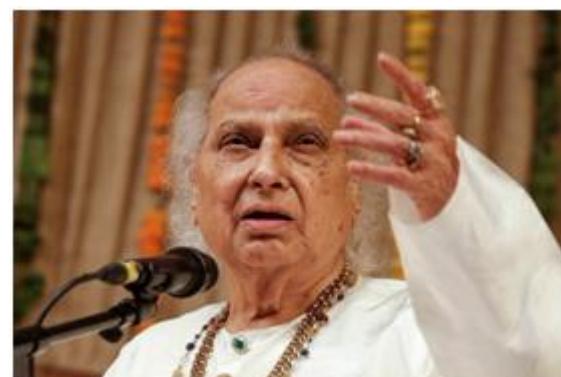
Former Indian cricketer Chetan Chauhan passed away at the age of 73 years. Chauhan was also Minister of Sainik Welfare, Home Guards, PRD and Civil Security in the UP Cabinet. He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1981. Chauhan was twice elected to the Lok Sabha from Amroha in Uttar Pradesh, in 1991 and 1998.



Chauhan played 40 Tests scoring 2084 runs with 16 half-centuries and two wickets. With Sunil Gavaskar, Chauhan formed a potent opening partnership for India with the duo scoring over 3000 runs, including 12 century stands.

8. Legendary Indian classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj passed away

Legendary Indian classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj passed away today at the age of 90 years. The musical career of Pandit Jasraj spanned over eight decades. He belonged to the Mewati gharana.



Pandit Jasraj has also lent vocals to Oscar winning movie 'Life of Pi'. He was honoured with Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 1990 and Padma Vibhushan in 2000. He was given the Sangeet Natak Academy award in 1987.

9. British Tennis legend Angela Buxton passed away

British tennis legend and Wimbledon champion Angela Buxton passed away at the age of 85 years. She was one of the game's leading doubles players in the 1950s having won the French Open and Wimbledon in 1956.



Angela partnered with the American Althea Gibson, the first African American Slam champion. Buxton was inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1981, having won the Women's Singles gold medal at the 1953 Maccabiah Games. She was inducted into the Black Tennis Hall of Fame in 2015.

10. Former Congo President Pascal Lissouba passed away

Former President of the Republic of Congo, Pascal Lissouba passed away. He was the first democratically elected President of the Republic of the Congo and served as the president from 1992 to 1997. He won his country's first multi-party presidential elections in 1992.



The high court of Justice in the Republic of Congo sentenced Pascal Lissouba in absentia to 30 years forced labour for treason and corruption in 2001. He worked as Professor at the University of Brazzaville and at University of Paris. He worked for UNESCO in Paris and Nairobi. He was honored with a doctoral degree in Biology.

11. Writer Gail Sheehy passed away

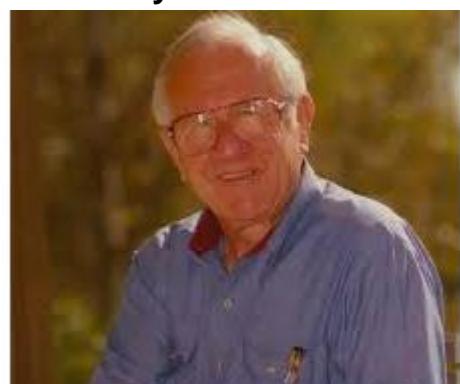
Journalist, commentator and pop sociologist Gail Sheehy passed away at the age of 83 years. Her best-selling book "Passages: Predictable Crises of Adult Life" stayed on the New York Times best-seller list for three years.

Sheehy was seven-time recipient of New York Newswomen's Club Front Page Award for Distinguished Journalism. She received the 2011 American Society on Aging Leadership Award. Her honours included the National Magazine Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and a citation from the American Psychological Association.



12. Computer Pioneer Arnold Spielberg passed away

Arnold Meyer Spielberg, a Pioneered computer designer & an innovative engineer passed away. His work was essential to the rise of personal computers in the 1970s and '80s. He designed the GE-225 mainframe computer in the late 1950s and developed the programming language BASIC which was essential for personal computers in the 1970s and 80s.



Spielberg was known for developing the GE-200 series of computers. He began building radios at the age of 9 years.

13. 'Black Panther' star Chadwick Boseman passed away

'Black Panther' star Chadwick Boseman passed away at the age of 43 years. He will be most remembered for the role of King T'Challa in Black Panther. Black Panther was the first superhero film to get a nomination for best picture at the Oscars.

Boseman came to prominence playing real-life figures - baseball great Jackie Robinson in 2013's 42, and soul singer James Brown in 2014's Get on Up. He made his acting debut in the TV series "All My Children" in 2003.



14. Former President Pranab Mukherjee passed away

Former President Pranab Mukherjee passed away at the age of 84 years. He served as 13th President of India from 2012 to 2017. He also served as Union Minister of Finance, Defence, External Affairs and Commerce.

Mr Mukherjee was also Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission. He was elected to Rajya Sabha five times and twice to Lok Sabha. He served as Leader of both houses of Parliament. In January 2019, Mukherjee was also named for the country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna.



1. India not to participate in Kavkaz 2020 exercise in Russia

India has withdrawn its participation in the multilateral military "Russian Kavkaz 2020" strategic command-post exercise to be held in Astrakhan, Russia. Eighteen other countries including China, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey will participate in the exercise. The Kavkaz 2020 is also referred to as Caucasus-2020.

The exercise is aimed at assessing the ability of the armed forces to ensure military security in Russia's southwest, where serious terrorist threats persist and preparing for the strategic command-staff drills.



2. DAC approved procurement proposals worth over Rs. 8,722 crore

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement proposals worth over Rs. 8,722 crore including 106 Basic Trainer Aircraft for Indian Air Force. It will help strengthen the Armed Forces by relying on indigenous capability. The major procurement approvals are:

- Basic Trainer Aircraft (HTT-40) from HAL to address the basic training requirements of the Indian Air Force
- An upgraded version of Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM) from BHEL to improve the fire power of Indian Navy
- 25 mm Armour Piercing Fin Stabilized Discarding Sabot (APFSDS) ammunition for Indian Army
- AK 203 and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle upgrades



3. Government launched Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation. The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence.



The NIIO is a three-tiered organisation. Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC) will bring together the twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and provide apex level directives. A working group under the N-TAC will implement the projects. A Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has

also been created for induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame.

4. Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sarthak' launched

An Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard was launched and rechristened as Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarthak'. OPV Sarthak is the 4th in the series of five OPVs. It has been designed & built indigenously by M/s Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

The Ship is fitted with state-of-the-art Navigation and Communication equipment, sensor and machinery. It can attain a maximum speed of 26 knots, with an endurance of 6000 Nautical Miles.



5. AFK Pune hands over first consignment of 40 mm UBGL ammunition to BSF

The Khadki Ammunition Factory in Pune has sent the first consignment of 40 mm UBGL ammunition to the Border Security Force. It is fired from a launcher fitted under the barrel of 5.56 mm Rifle (INSAS).

The trigger system of the launcher is fitted to the rifle in such a way that the soldier can fire both the rifle bullet and the grenade from the same posture. The launcher can fire the grenade up to a range of 400 metres. The 40 mm UBGL is one of the 101 items on the import embargo list of defence systems.



6. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched SRIJAN portal

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched a portal SRIJAN which is a one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items for indigenization. The portal, srijandefence.gov.in, gives 'opportunities for Make in India' in Defence.

The DPSUs, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and headquarters of the armed forces (SHQs) can display on SRIJAN those items that are being imported currently so that the Indian industry can design, develop and manufacture them domestically as per its capability.



7. MoUs signed by defence public sector undertakings for indigenisation of defence manufacturing

An MoU on development of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones was signed between BEML Limited and IIT Kanpur. The Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) signed an MOU for "indigenous overhauling of main motor of SSK Class Submarines" with Medha Servo Drives Private Limited.

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) issued an EOI for indigenisation of 46 items having a total value of Rs 100 crores. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) issued an EOI for indigenisation of five items having a total value of Rs 31 crore. Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) issued an EOI for indigenisation of 11 items having a total value of Rs 15 crore.



8. India successfully test fired multi-barrel Pinaka Rockets

India successfully test fired multi-barrel Pinaka Rockets as part of the final developmental trials at Pokhran, Rajasthan. The rockets are fully manufactured by the private sector company "Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL)", thus becoming the first munition of its kind made by the private sector in India to be test-fired.

Pinaka rockets have been manufactured on the lines of the transfer of technology (ToT) agreement between Defence Research and



Development Organisation (DRDO) and private sector, five years ago.

9. Indian Coast Guard launched interceptor boat 'ICGS C-454'

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched a newly-built "Interceptor Boat 'ICGS C-454'" in Surat. It was built by Larsen and Toubro. The 27-meter-long boat has a maximum speed of 45 nautical miles or 83 kilometers per hour.

Until now, L&T handed over 51 out of 54 interceptor boats ordered by the Indian Coast Guard. The ships are intended for patrol and rescue operations in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The interceptor boats are designed by the L&T Marine & Ship Design Division.



10. IAF launched Mobile Application 'MY IAF'

The Indian Air Force has launched a mobile application 'MY IAF' as a part of Digital India initiative. The application is developed in association with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). It provides career related information and details for those desirous of joining the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The user friendly format of the app serves as a single digital platform interfacing the users with the details of selection procedure, training curriculum, pay and perks, etc., for both officers and airmen in the IAF.



Economic

1. Index of Eight Core Industries for June 2020 declined by 15%

The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released Index of Eight Core Industries for June 2020.

Highlights are:

- Growth rate of Index of 8 Core Industries for June 2020 declined by 15.0 %. Its cumulative growth during April to June, 2020-21 was -24.6%.
- Final growth rate of Index of Eight Core Industries for March'2020 is revised at -8.6%.
- 8 core industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).



2. FPIs remain net buyers for 2nd consecutive month in July

Foreign portfolio investors remained net buyers for the second consecutive month in July by pumping in Rs 3,301 crore in Indian markets. According to the depositories data, a net sum of Rs 7,563 crore rupees was invested in equities while Rs 4,262 crore were withdrawn by FPIs in July.

FPIs had put in a net Rs 24,053 crore in Indian markets in the month of June 2020. The investment was majorly motivated due to a surge in markets, which provided FPIs good profit-booking opportunity as well as with rising hopes of a coronavirus vaccine.



3. GST collections stand at Rs 87,422 crore in July

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of July 2020 is 87422 crore rupees of which CGST is 16147crore, SGST is 21418 crore and IGST is 42592 crore rupees. It also includes 20324 crore collected on import of goods and Cess is 7265 crore rupees.

The total revenue earned by Central Government and the State Governments after regular settlement in the month of July is 39467crore rupees for CGST and 40256crore for the SGST.



4. Apple becomes world's most valuable company

Apple Inc. became the world's most valuable company after its share price jumped 10% in the wake of better-than-expected earnings and touched a record market capitalization of \$1.817 trillion.

Apple surpassed Saudi Arabia's national oil company which is valued at \$1.76 trillion. Apple's share price has gone up by 44% this year and it posted a 11% year-over-year growth in the third quarter earnings. Aramco's stock is down 6.4% since the end of December.



5. Government imposed import restrictions on colour TV sets

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) announced that the government has imposed restrictions on colour TV imports. This move is aimed at promoting local manufacturing and also to cut shipments coming in from China.

The restrictions have been imposed on TV sets with screen sizes starting from 36cm (14 inches approx) up to 105cm (41 inches approx) and bigger including on liquid crystal display television set of screen size below 63cm (24 inches approx).



6. Byju's acquired WhiteHat Jr in \$300mn deal

India's largest online learning firm, Byju's, has acquired WhiteHat Jr in a all-cash deal for \$300 million. WhiteHat Jr helps kids aged 6 to 14 years build commercial-ready games, animations and apps online using the fundamentals of coding, all taught online.



WhiteHat Jr is growing 100% month-on-month in India as well as the US. Byju's has added 15 million new students on its platform and earned Rs 500 crore in revenue in July 2020.

7. India's forex reserves surge by USD 3.623 billion to reach a new all-time high

India's foreign exchange reserves have surged by USD 3.623 billion to reach a new all-time high of USD 538.191 billion in the week ended 7th August 2020. Foreign currency assets, a major part of the overall reserves, rose by USD 1.464 billion to USD 492.293 billion.

Gold reserves went up by USD 2.160 billion to end at USD 39.785 billion. India's special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund rose by USD 6 million to reach USD 1.481 billion, while the country's reserve position, however declined by USD 7 million to USD 4.632 billion.



8. Government released Rs 6,195 cr to 14 states as 5th EMI under 15th Finance Commission recommendation

Government has released Rs 6195 crore to 14 states as the 5th equated monthly instalment of the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. The Finance Commission provides a mechanism for the Centre to compensate for any revenue loss incurred by states, which is referred to as post devolution revenue deficit grant.

These States are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttrakhand, West Bengal and Sikkim.



9. Industrial production declined by 16.6 % in June

Industrial production declined by 16.6% in June, mainly due to lower output of manufacturing, mining and power generation. According to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data, manufacturing sector production registered a decline of 17.1%, while the output of mining fell 19.8% and power fell 10%.

However, on a monthly basis, the Index of Industrial Production has shown improvement. The index, which was 53.6 in April, improved to 89.5 in May and 107.8 in June.



10. Retail inflation rose to 6.93% in July

Retail inflation rose to 6.93% in July, mainly on account of higher prices of food items. The food inflation, according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data, increased to 9.62% in July.

The retail inflation in June was 6.23% while the food inflation stood at 8.72%.

The government has mandated the central bank to restrict the inflation at 4% (plus, minus two per cent). The central bank mainly factors in retail inflation while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy.



11. CCI approved joint venture between HAMCL and HL

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved proposed combination filed jointly by Keihin Corporation, Nissin Kogyo Co., Ltd., Showa Corporation and Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. The proposed combination pertains to Keihin Corporation ("KC"), Nissin Kogyo Co., Ltd. ("NKCL"), Showa Corporation ("SC") and Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. ("HIAMS") forming a Joint Venture between Honda Motor Co. Limited ("HAMCL") and Hitachi Limited ("HL").



Competition Commission of India

HAMCL is primarily engaged in the business of automobiles and two-wheeled motor vehicles. HIAMS is engaged in the manufacture, marketing, sale and service of automotive components.

12. Wipro acquired Brazilian IT firm IVIA Servios

Wipro has successfully acquired Brazilian IT firm IVIA Servicos de Informatica Ltda for \$22.4 million (about Rs 169 crore). IVIA provides IT solutions including system development, maintenance, consulting and project management services to clients in Brazil.

The acquisition will help Wipro set up delivery centres in the northeast of Brazil. IVIA had reported net revenue of \$13.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2019. Wipro had signed the agreement with IVIA in July 2020.



13. Wholesale price-based inflation stands at -0.58% in July

The wholesale price-based inflation stood at -0.58% in July, remaining in the negative zone for the fourth straight month even as vegetables and other food items turned costlier. WPI inflation in June was minus 1.81%, while for the month of May it was 3.37% in negative territory and April it was -1.57%.

Inflation in food articles was at a four-month high level of 4.08% in July, mainly due to sharp rise in vegetable prices. Inflation in vegetables stood at 8.20%, against minus 9.21% in June. Retail inflation was 6.93% in July.



14. India's Foreign Trade: July 2020

India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-July 2020-21 are estimated to be USD 141.82 billion, exhibiting a negative growth of 21.99% over the same period last year. Overall imports in April-July 2020-21 are estimated to be USD 127.76 billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-)40.66% over the same period last year.

Merchandise April-July 2020-21	Services April-July 2020-21* [Estimated]	Overall Trade = Merchandise+Services April-July 2020-21* [Estimated]
Exports USD 74.96 billion (-30.21%)	Exports USD 66.86 billion (-10.11%)	Exports USD 141.82 billion (-21.99%)
Imports USD 88.91 billion (-46.70%)	Imports USD 38.85 billion (-19.86%)	Imports USD 127.76 billion (-40.66%)
Trade Deficit USD 13.95 billion	Net of Services USD 28.01 billion	Trade surplus USD 14.06 billion

Merchandise: Total exports was USD 74.96 billion down 30.21% while total imports was USD 88.91 billion down 46.70%. The trade deficit was USD 13.95 billion.
Services: Total exports was USD 66.86 billion down 10.11% while total imports was USD 38.85 billion down by 19.86%. The net of services was USD 28.01 billion.
Overall Trade: Total exports was USD 141.82 billion down by 21.99% while total imports was USD 127.76 billion down 40.66%. The trade surplus was USD 14.06 billion.

15. Exports of agricultural commodities during March to June increased by 23.24%

Exports of agricultural commodities during March to June 2020 have increased by 23.24% compared to corresponding period in 2019. The exports of Agri commodities during March to June were Rs 25,552.7 Crore against an export of Rs 20734.8 Crores during the same period in 2019.

The agricultural exports as a percentage of India's agricultural GDP has increased from 9.4% in 2017-18 to 9.9% in 2018-19. While the agricultural imports as a percentage of India's agricultural GDP has declined from 5.7% to 4.9%.



16. Retail inflation for farm, rural workers drops to 6.58%, 6.53% in July

Retail inflation, based on the CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers) and CPI-RL (Consumer Price Index-Rural Labourers), for farm and rural workers decreased to 6.58% and 6.53% respectively in July 2020. It was 7.16% and 7%, respectively in June.

Inflation based on food index of CPI-AL and CPI-RL was recorded at 7.83% and 7.89%, respectively in July 2020. The all-India consumer price index numbers for agricultural labourers and rural labourers (base:1986-87=100) for the month of July 2020 increased by 3 and 4 points to stand at 1,021 and 1,028 points, respectively.



17. CCI approved proposed acquisition of C&S Electric Limited by Siemens Limited

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved proposed acquisition of C&S Electric Limited by Siemens Limited. The proposed combination envisages acquisition of 100% of the share capital of C&S Electric Limited (C&S) by Siemens Limited (Siemens India).

Siemens India focuses on the areas of power generation and distribution, intelligent infrastructure for buildings and distributed energy systems, and automation and digitalization in the process and manufacturing industries. C&S manufactures a range of electrical switchgear, power protection and electrical distribution products.



a range of electrical switchgear, power protection and electrical distribution products.

18. Flipkart signed MoU with IIT Patna for academic collaboration

Flipkart has announced an MoU with IIT Patna to strengthen Flipkart's academic collaboration. The MoU will help create industry focused applied research in the areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML).

As a part of this MoU, IIT Patna will undertake a number of programs such as joint research activities, writing research papers, organizing seminars, internship/mentorship opportunities to name a few.



19. Reliance acquired majority stake in Netmeds

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) has acquired a majority equity stake in 'Netmeds' for a cash consideration of approximately ₹620 crore. RRVL has acquired 60% holding in the equity share capital of Vitalic Health Pvt. Ltd. and 100% direct equity ownership of its subsidiaries, viz: Tresara Health Private Ltd, Netmeds Market Place Ltd and Dadha Pharma Distribution Pvt Ltd.



Netmeds, one of the subsidiaries of Vitalic, runs an online pharmacy platform. The investment will improve RRVL's ability to provide affordable health care products and services.

20. Businesses with annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh are GST exempt

The Ministry of Finance announced that businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh are GST exempt. Initially, this limit was Rs 20 lakh. Additionally those with a turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and pay only 1% tax.

While the housing sector has been placed at the 5% tax rate, GST on affordable housing has been reduced to 1%. The numbers of assessee covered by GST now exceeds 1.24 crore.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

21. RBI projected India's growth rate at (-) 4.5 % for 2020-21

The Reserve Bank has projected India's growth rate at (-) 4.5% in its annual report for 2020-21. RBI projected global growth rate between (-) 6.0% and (-) 7.6%. It is estimated that inflation will remain elevated in the current quarter, but likely to ease in the second half of the fiscal.

The report highlighted that government consumption spending has provided a measure of relief, with the central government's revenue expenditure, having risen by 33.7% in the first quarter. The decline in economic activity reached its trough in April-June quarter of 2020-21. It adds that the growth is likely to turn positive from January-March quarter 2020-21.



22. CCI approved acquisition of PharmEasy by Lightstone Fund

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved a stake acquisition by Lightstone Fund in 91Streets Media Technologies, which runs online drug delivery service PharmEasy. Lightstone Fund is an investment unit of private equity firm LGT Lightstone.



CCI also approved Lightstone's stake acquisition in five companies. This includes Ascent Health and Wellness Solutions, API Holdings, Aahaan Commercials and Lokprakash Vidhya. The Lightstone Group, founded by David Lichtenstein, is a diversified privately held real estate company, headquartered in New York.

23. Index of Eight Core Industries July 2020

The output of eight core sectors of the Indian industry – coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity stood at 119.90 in July, 2020 which declined by 9.6% compared to the index of July, 2019. Its cumulative growth during April to July 2020-21 was -20.5%. Final growth rate of Index of Eight Core Industries for April'2020 is revised at -37.9%.

The data on production of eight core industries of India is published monthly by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The current base year for the index of the series is 2011-12=100. These eight industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of the items included in the Index of Industrial Production.



24. Reliance Industries to buy Big Bazaar

Reliance Industries announced the acquisition of the retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing businesses of Kishore Biyani's Future Group for Rs 24,713 crore through the company's subsidiary Reliance Retail Ventures.

Post the deal Reliance Retail Ventures (RRVL) will hold 13.14% stake in Future Enterprises Ltd and will take over debt of ₹12,500 crore. As part of the deal, the Retail & Wholesale Undertaking is being transferred to Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited (RRFLL). The Logistics & Warehousing Undertaking is being transferred to RRVL.



25. Estimates of GDP for Q1 2020-21

The National Statistical Office (NSO) has released the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the first quarter (April-June) Q1 of 2020-21.

- GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q1 of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 26.90 lakh crore, as against Rs 35.35 lakh crore in Q1 of 2019-20, showing a contraction of 23.9% as compared to 5.2% growth in Q1 2019-20.
- Quarterly GVA at Basic Price at Constant (2011-12) Prices for Q1 of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 25.53 lakh crore, as against Rs 33.08 lakh crore in Q1 of 2019-20, showing a contraction of 22.8%.
- GDP at Current Prices in the year Q1 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 38.08 lakh crore, as against Rs 49.18 lakh crore in Q1 2019-20, showing a contraction of 22.6% as compared to 8.1% growth in Q1 2019-20.
- GVA at Basic Price at Current Prices in Q1 2020-21, is estimated at Rs 35.66 lakh crore, as against Rs 44.89 lakh crore in Q1 2019-20, showing a contraction of 20.6%.



Environment

1. Polar bears to become extinct by 2100

Scientists have predicted extinction of few polar bears by 2100 due to climate change and global warming. The bears' habitat of sea ice is predicted to decline to such an extent that the animals will be food deprived. Climate change has affected badly to the Arctic, the habitat of polar bears. Climate change has been continually melting sea ice in the Arctic.

Polar bears rely on sea ice to hunt, and when the ice is absent, they will be forced onto land where they cannot find food. As Arctic sea ice declines in response to warming temperatures, polar bears will starve.



2. India's first snow leopard conservation centre to come up in Uttarakhand

India's first Snow Leopard Conservation Centre will be opened in Uttarkashi forest division in Uttarakhand. It will be built by Uttarakhand forest department in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It will be built under a six-year long project, SECURE Himalayas.

The SECURE Himalayas Project started in 2017 and aims to secure livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems. It also looks into conservation of snow leopards and other endangered species and their habitats, found in Himalayas.



3. Centre to launch projects for Lion & Dolphin conservation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to launch Project Lion and Project Dolphin for the biodiversity conservation of these species on the lines of and to replicate the successes of Project Tiger launched in 1973. Project Dolphin will focus on both river and sea dolphins. The Project Lion will be implemented for the Asiatic lions.

The Gangetic dolphin is categorized as endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List. Asiatic lions are confined to Gir National Park and its surrounding environs in Gujarat's Saurashtra.



Finance

1. SIDBI launched MSME Saksham portal in partnership with TransUnion CIBIL

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched an online knowledge portal, MSMESaksham, for MSME enterprises in partnership with TransUnion CIBIL. The portal will guide MSMEs seeking seamless and quick access to finance and will also support them in managing their credit obligations.

The portal will have a consolidated list of all the schemes launched by the Centre and state governments for MSMEs. Small businesses would also be able to check their CIBIL score, CIBIL rank, loan eligibility and apply for a loan on online lending marketplace PSBLoansin59minutes from MSME Saksham.



2. Kotak Mahindra Bank launched 'Kona Kona Umeed' Campaign

Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched a two-month long campaign called 'Kona Kona Umeed'. As a part of the campaign, the bank will provide a range of offers and deals on its products including loans, savings accounts, current accounts, corporate salary accounts as well as Kotak debit cards, credit cards and digital payments.

Kotak Mahindra Bank has tied up with over 100 brands to provide exclusive deals to its customers in various categories such as shopping, essentials, personal care etc.



3. SEBI to set up virtual museum of securities market

The Securities and Exchange Board of India is planning to set up a virtual museum of the securities market to highlight achievements and milestones in the Indian capital market. It will be a visual online organized collection of the history of the Indian securities market.

The museum would provide the best-in-class engagement with the latest technology, dispensing the knowledge and content of the securities market in India. The proposed museum would be a unique resource for knowledge of the Indian securities market.



4. IBBI amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2020. The IBC 2016 enables a corporate person to initiate voluntary liquidation process if it has no debt or it will be able to pay its debts fully from the proceeds of the assets.

The amendment made to the Regulations provides that the corporate person may replace the liquidator by appointing another insolvency professional as liquidator by a resolution of members or partners, or contributories, as the case may be.



5. IBBI amends Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India, Liquidation Process, Third Amendment, Regulations, 2020

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, Liquidation Process, Third Amendment, Regulations, 2020. The Regulations require the committee of creditors to fix the fee payable to the liquidator.

The amendment made to the Regulations clarifies that where a liquidator realises any amount, but does not distribute the same, he shall be entitled to a fee corresponding to the amount realised by him.



6. RBI announced loan restructuring window for corporates

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a loan restructuring window for corporates following demands from bankers and industry. The restructuring of loans will help the industry tide over the impact of Covid 19. RBI also raised the Loan to value ratio against gold to 90% from current 75% to mitigate Covid 19 impact on households.



Only those companies and individuals whose loans accounts are in default for not more than 30 days as on March 1, 2020, are eligible for one-time restructuring. For corporate borrowers, banks can invoke a resolution plan till December 31, 2020 and implement it till June 30, 2021. Such loan accounts should continue to be standard till the date of invocation.

7. National Bank of Bahrain selects Infosys Finacle

National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced to adopt the Finacle Cash Management Suite of Infosys Finacle to digitally transform its transaction banking business. NBB is a leading provider of retail and commercial banking services in Bahrain.

NBB will be implementing the Finacle Liquidity Management Platform, and upgrading its existing Finacle Corporate Online Banking platform to a full-fledged Digital Engagement Suite - with the latest versions of the Finacle Corporate Online and Mobile Banking solutions, along with the Finacle Digital Engagement Hub.



8. Axis Bank unveiled AXAA – an AI powered conversational banking IVR

Axis Bank has launched Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA', an Artificial Intelligence powered conversational voice BOT. AXAA will assist customers to traverse through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system and address their queries and requests, without the need for any human intervention in most cases.

AXAA is a next-gen multilingual voice BOT that can converse in English, Hindi and Hinglish. A BOT is basically computer software, programmed and designed to interact with humans.



9. RBI's second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement of FY 2020-21

The Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India released the second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement of FY 2020-21. The MPC has decided to keep the benchmark interest rate unchanged with the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 4%.

The MPC also projected that India's GDP is likely to contract by 4.5% in CY2020, which could lead to GDP contraction for FY2021. The MPC has maintained the monetary policy stance as accommodative. Variable Stands at:

- Repo 4.00%
- Reverse Repo 3.35%
- CRR 3.00%
- MSF 4.25%
- SLR 18.00%



10. RBI announced 'positive pay' feature to control cheque frauds

The Reserve Bank of India has announced the introduction of "positive pay" practice for all cheques of value Rs 50,000 and above to control cheque frauds. Under the 'positive pay' system, a customer who issues the cheque clicks a picture of the cheque before handing it over to the beneficiary and uploads the same on the bank's mobile application.

The limit of Rs 50,000 covers approximately 20% of transactions by volume and 80% by value. ICICI Bank already offers such facility since 2016 for all cheques irrespective of the amount.



11. Airtel Payments Bank partnered with Bharti AXA to offer 'shop insurance'

Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer 'shop insurance' for its retailers and merchants through its 'Smart Plan Shop Package' policy. The policy will offer financial protection in case of damage to assets inside the shop caused due to fire and allied perils and burglary among others.



The sum of insurance under the plan would be flexible, starting from Rs 2 lakh up to a maximum of Rs 25 lakh. In case of an accident leading to permanent disability, partial disability, or loss of life, the plan ensures financial protection for the family.

12. RBI to set up innovation hub

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will set up an innovation hub to encourage start-ups and companies address the challenges of financial inclusion and efficient banking transactions. The hub aims to bring solutions to the financial sector by tapping into areas such as cybersecurity, data analytics, delivery platforms, and payment services.



The innovation hub will act as a centre for ideation and incubation of new capabilities. It will help achieve deepening of financial inclusion, efficient banking services, ensuring business continuity in times of emergency and strengthening consumer protection.

13. RBI Board approved transfer of Rs 57,128 cr as surplus to central government

The RBI Board has approved the transfer of 57,128 crore rupees as surplus or dividend to the central government for the accounting year 2019-20. The decision was taken at the 584th meeting of the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India chaired by Governor Shaktikanta Das.

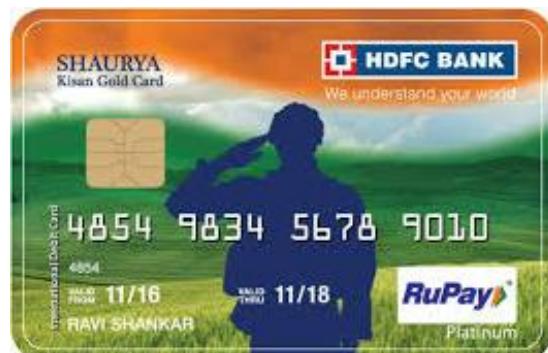
As per Section 47 of the RBI Act, profits of the RBI are to be transferred to the government, after making various contingency provisions, public policy mandate of the RBI, including financial stability considerations. RBI has also decided to maintain a Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.5%.



14. HDFC Bank launched “Shaurya KGC Card” to members of armed forces

HDFC Bank Ltd launched first of its kind product named as “Shaurya KGC Card”, for over 45 lakh Indian armed forces personnel. The Shaurya KGC Card will provide armed forces personnel with finance for agricultural requirements like production of crop, post-harvest maintenance and consumption needs.

The product is based on the Kisan Credit Card guidelines by the government. It will provide life cover of Rs 10 lakh as against Rs 2 lakh for an average card. It offers funding to purchase farm machinery, irrigation equipment or construct storage structures etc.



15. MCX launched India's first bullion index named “Bulldex”

Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) launched India's first bullion index named “Bulldex”. Bulldex is sixth product in bullion complex with 1-kg gold, 100-gm goldmini, 8-gm gold guinea and 1-gm gold peta, while the Options on Futures on 1-kg gold is already in place. The mock trading exercise was tested in July.



Bulldex will be cash-settled futures contract with market lot size of 50. The Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) is India's first listed commodity derivatives exchange that facilitates online trading.

16. Fino Payments Bank launched Jan BachatKhata

Fino Payments Bank has launched Jan BachatKhata (JBK) that brings neo-banking experience to consumers. It is an Aadhaar Authentication based digital savings account. Neo banking means a bank without any branches.

Under the Jan BachatKhata, customers can transact at a Fino branch or merchant point with fingerprint and OTP combination, while at non-Fino points they need Aadhaar authentication. The account is primarily targeted at low-income households and beneficiaries of government's direct benefit transfer.



17. NPCI sets up NIPL for international market operations

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched its international arm - NPCI International Payments Ltd. With this, NPCI aims to expand real-time payment system Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and card payment network RuPay in other countries. The primary focus of NIPL would be internationalization of RuPay and UPI.



UPI and RuPay have already marked its presence in Singapore and UAE. NIPL will be headed by Ritesh Shukla as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The National Payments Corporation of India is the apex organization to conduct operations related to retail payments and settlement systems in India.

18. RBI released NSFE 2020-25

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-25. It is a strategic plan for the coming five years. The five Cs, outlined by the strategy paper, are: Content, Capacity, Community, Communication and Collaboration.



The NSFE also aims at integrating financial education dissemination as part of various on-going programmes. The National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) has prepared the revised NSFE (2020-2025). The first NSFE was launched in 2013.

19. HSBC India launched 'Green Deposit Programme'

HSBC India launched a 'Green Deposit Programme' for corporate clients. The fixed tenure deposit will go towards financing eligible businesses and projects that promote the transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient and sustainable economy. The bank will finance green initiatives such as renewable energy, clean transportation, pollution prevention and others.

The 'Green Deposit' is available in INR as 'Term Deposit'. The bank will provide customers with a quarterly report containing portfolio-level information regarding the use of the deposited funds.



20. ICICI Lombard to buy Bharti AXA General Insurance

ICICI Lombard General Insurance has entered into a definitive agreement to purchase Bharti AXA General Insurance, promoted by Bharti Enterprises. The consolidated entity will have a market share of 8.7% in the non-life business, making it the third-largest non-life insurer in the general insurance business.

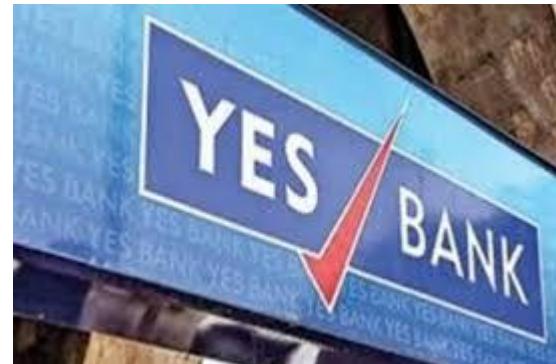


Bharti AXA has a market value of Rs. 2,800 crore. ICICI Lombard is valued at around Rs. 59,000 crore. The two entities have merged in a Rs 2,600 crore, all-stock transaction.



21. YES Bank to sell its mutual fund business

Yes Bank has signed an agreement for the sale of 100 per cent stake in two of its subsidiaries, YES Asset Management Limited (YES AMC) and YES Trustee Limited (YTL), to GPL Finance for an undisclosed amount. YES AMC is the asset management company of YES Mutual Fund and YTL is the trustee of YES Mutual Fund.



White Oak Investment Management Private Limited owns 99% of GPL Finance. Prashant Khemka owns 99.99% of White Oak Investment Management Private Limited.

22. Axis Bank launched hiring initiative named 'Gig-a-Opportunities'

Axis Bank launched GIG-A Opportunities, a platform for alternate work models that encourage greater flexibility, diversity and inclusivity. GIG-A-Opportunities is a new platform for alternate work models to attract the finest talent, with a promise of growth with flexibility, diversity and inclusivity.



Axis Bank's 'GIG-A-Opportunities' will open up large prospects in digital banking, technology, risk modeling, virtual sales, audit and credit policy. It will attract talent through 100% virtual roles and flexible, project based short term contracts.

23. NABARD unveiled debt and credit guarantee product

In a bid to ensure unhindered flow of credit to the last mile in rural areas hit by COVID-19 pandemic, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has introduced a dedicated debt and credit guarantee product titled "Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Program to NBFC-MFIs". The initiative will enhance access to sustainable finance for microenterprises and low-income households.



NABARD has collaborated with Vivriti Capital, a technology-led credit platform, as the structurer for the facility. The program is expected to cover over 1 million households across 28 states and 650 districts.

24. ICICI Bank announced usage of satellite data to assess creditworthiness of farmers

ICICI Bank announced the usage of satellite data imagery from Earth observation satellites to assess credit worthiness of its customers belonging to the farm sector. It is first such bank to use satellite data. The Bank has been using satellite data for the past few months in over 500 villages in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.



This use of innovative technology helps farmers with existing credit to enhance their eligibility, while new-to-credit farmers can now get better access to credit and provides quick analysis of the land without the need of the customer or a bank official having to visit the land.

25. HDFC Bank and Adobe partnered to enhance digital customer experiences

HDFC Bank announced a strategic partnership with Adobe to enhance the digital experience journey of its customers. It will enable HDFC Bank to deliver personalised digital experiences to existing as well as new customers, at anytime and anywhere. HDFC Bank's customers can now apply for loans digitally from home, open an account digitally and manage investments.

Adobe Experience Manager (AEM) Forms will allow HDFC Bank to provide personalised online experiences to its existing and new customers. The rich data will enable the bank to deliver focussed campaigns and communication to customer through email, mobile, off-line channels and more.



Important Days

1. International Day of Friendship observed on August 2

Friendship Day is observed on first Sunday of August every year. This year, it was observed on August 2nd. It was first proposed in 1958 in Paraguay as the "International Friendship Day". The International Day of Friendship is an initiative that follows on the proposal made by UNESCO defining the Culture of Peace as a set of values, attitudes and behaviors' that reject violence.

The UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between people, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities proclaimed the International Day of Friendship in 2011.



2. World Sanskrit Day

The World Sanskrit Day is observed every year on Shraavana Poornima, full moon day in the month of Shraavana in the Hindu calendar. This year it was celebrated on August 3rd. The day is also known as Vishvasamskritadinam.

The day is focused around the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit that incorporates lectures about the language and is aimed to promote its revival and maintenance. The Sanskrit language has the largest vocabulary of about 102 arab 78 crores 50 lakh words. It is also the second official language of Uttarakhand.



3. World Breastfeeding Week 2020

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every year from 1 to 7 August to encourage breastfeeding and improve the health of babies around the world. The theme for World Breastfeeding Week 2020 is "Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet".

The annual week is organized by WABA, WHO and UNICEF since 1991. WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding starting within one hour after birth until a baby is 6 months old. Nutritious complementary foods should then be added while continuing to breastfeed for up to 2 years or beyond.



WABA | WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2020

4. 6th National Handloom Day 2020

The National Handloom Day is observed annually on 7th August to honour the handloom weavers in the country and also Carter an impetus to India's handloom industry. 2020 was the 6th edition of the National Handloom Day after it was instituted in 2015.

The celebration of the day seeks to highlight the contribution of handloom to the socio-economic development of the country and promote handlooms to increase income of weavers and also enhance their pride.



5. World Elephant Day 2020

World Elephant Day is observed on 12 August every year to raise awareness about the protection and preservation of elephants in the wild. World Elephant Day is an opportunity for everyone to get together to find ways to reduce conflict between humans and elephants.

World Elephant Day was created in 2011 by two Canadian filmmakers - Patricia Sims and Thailand's Elephant Reintroduction Foundation and first celebrated on August 12, 2012. The initiative was greatly supported by film star and Star Trek legend William Shatner.



6. World Biofuel Day 2020

World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th August to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and to highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the Biofuel sector. A webinar on the occasion was organized with the theme "Biofuels towards Atmanirbhar Bharat".

This day also honors the research experiments by Sir Rudolf Diesel who ran an engine with peanut oil in the year 1893. His research experiment had predicted that vegetable oil is going to replace fossil fuels in the next century to fuel different mechanical engines.



7. World Tribal Day 2020

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples or World Tribal Day is observed on August 9th every year since 1994. The day is aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of the world's indigenous population. The date recognizes the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982.

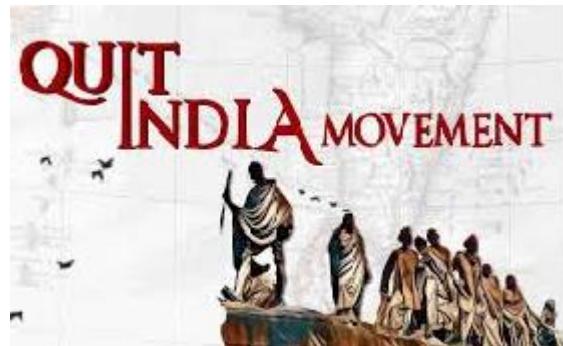
The theme of 2020 was 'COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience. It discussed the innovative ways indigenous peoples continue demonstrating resilience and strength in the face of the pandemic, while confronting grave threats to their survival.



8. India observed 78th anniversary of Quit India movement

The 78th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of freedom struggle of our country, is being observed on 8 August 2020.

On this date in 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai. After the failure of Cripps Mission, Gandhiji gave the call to Do or Die in his Quit India speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

9. International Youth Day 2020

The United Nations' (UN) International Youth Day is celebrated annually on August 12. The day recognizes the contribution of the world's youth in enhancing global society. The day gives an opportunity to celebrate and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal and equitable engagement.



The theme for International Youth Day 2020 is "Youth Engagement for Global Action". It seeks to highlight the ways in which the engagement of young people at the local, national and global levels is enriching national and multilateral institutions and processes.

10. Hiroshima Day 2020

The Hiroshima Day is observed every year on August 6 to promote "peace politics". The day is a reminder of the bombing attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States during World War II in 1945.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the bomb killings. The 'Little boy' nuclear bomb dropped at Hiroshima led to the destruction of almost all the city. The annual event is organised by the Galway Alliance Against War in Eyre Square.



11. 74th Independence Day observed

India celebrated the 74th Independence Day this year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from Red Fort. It was his seventh consecutive Independence Day speech. He focused on the themes of "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)", "Vocal for local" and "Make in India to Make for World".

PM announced a Health ID under the National Digital Health Mission (NDH) for every Indian citizen. In the next 1,000 days, villages across the country will have optical fibre connections available.



12. World Humanitarian Day 2020

The World Humanitarian Day is observed every year on 19th August to pay tribute to workers who risk their lives in humanitarian services and gather support for people affected by crises around the world. This year is the 11th edition of World Humanitarian Day.

On 19 August 2003, a terrorist attack hit the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad. Five years later, the General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 19 August as World Humanitarian Day.



13. Sadbhavana Diwas celebrated

The birth anniversary of late Rajiv Gandhi is celebrated every year on 20th August as Sadbhavana Diwas or Communal Harmony Day. This day is observed to encourage the national integration, peace, affection and communal harmony among the Indian people of all religions.

2020 marked the 76th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of the country at the age of 40 years. A Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) suicide bomber assassinated him in May 1991.



A Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) suicide bomber assassinated him in May 1991.

14. Akshay Urja Day 2020

The Akshay Urja Day is celebrated every year in India since 2004 to raise awareness campaign about the developments of renewable energy in India. The Indian Ministry for New & Renewable Energy Sources initiated Akshay Urja Day (Diwas) in 2004. The day commemorates the birthday of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

According to the WWF, the whole world could get all the power it needs from renewable resources by 2050, ending our reliance on fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources.



15. International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

The third International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was observed on 21st August. The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 to honor the victims and survivors of terrorism.

The day was proclaimed to honour and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The day also focuses on the resilience of victims and their families.



16. World Senior Citizen Day 2020

The World Senior Citizen's Day is celebrated on 21 August each year. The day aims to raise awareness of the condition of older people and to support them throughout the aging process. It is also a day to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of older people to society.

The day was first proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 14, 1990, while the first celebration was marked on October 1, 1991. The World Senior Citizen's Day was officially founded by the former President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan.

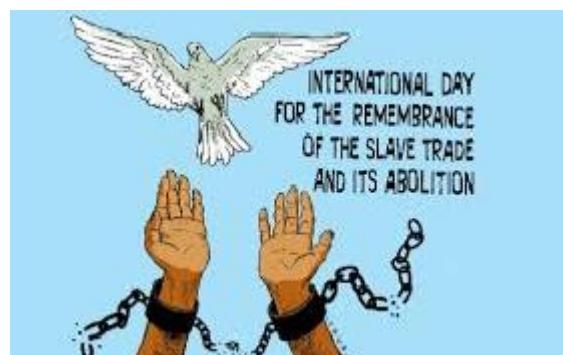


human rights and enables sustainable

17. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, is an international day celebrated August 23 of each year, the day designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade. The theme of 2020 was "Confronting Slavery's Legacy of Racism Together".

The 2020 theme underscores the reality that lasting effects of the transatlantic slave trade, including racism, continue to divide societies across the globe and hamper our advancement towards a world that respects



development for all.

human rights and enables sustainable

18. World Water Week 2020: 24-28 August

The 2020 format of the World Water Week was observed from 24-28 August. It was the 30th edition of World Water Week and organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). The theme this year was "Water and Climate Change: Accelerating Action".

The Stockholm Water Prize 2020, under the patronage of H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, was awarded to Dr John Cherry for the discoveries which revolutionized the understanding of the vulnerability of groundwater.



19. Women's Equality Day 2020

The 100th anniversary of the Women's Equality Day was observed on 26th August in the United States. The day commemorates the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex.

American women in the early 19th century, couldn't inherit property and earned half a man's wages in any available job. This led to a demand for requisite political rights and representation for women.



20. National Sports Day 2020

August 29th was observed as the National Sports Day. The Day is celebrated to mark the birthday of legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand, the hockey player who won gold medals in Olympics for India in the years 1928, 1932 and 1936. He scored over 400 goals in his career, from 1926 to 1948.

The most noted memorials for him is the Major Dhyan Chand Award, the highest award for lifetime achievement in sports and games in India, and the National Sports Day celebrations on his birthday.



International

1. Hamed Bakayoko appointed as Prime Minister of Ivory Coast

Hamed Bakayoko has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Ivory Coast. He was serving as the defence minister of the country and acting as interim prime minister since the sudden death of Amadou Gon Coulibaly.

Bakayoko had earlier served as the interior minister and also been mayor of Abobo. President Alassane Ouattara signed a decree of his appointment as the new Prime Minister. Bakayoko was a founding member of the Rally of the Republicans (RDR) party in 1994.



2. Mohamed Irfaan Ali appointed as new President of Guyana

Mohamed Irfaan Ali has been appointed as the new President of Guyana. He defeated the current President David Granger. Ali was the presidential candidate of the People's Progressive Party/Civic. Ali is the first Muslim president of a country in South America.

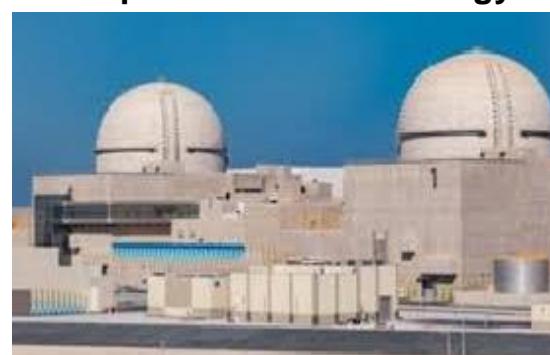
Guyana has been in news recently after the US oil giant Exxon made one of the world's biggest discoveries of oil in deep waters off Guyana's coast. The discovery could put Guyana among the world's top oil producers and is expected to massively boost its economy.



3. UAE becomes first country in Arab World to produce nuclear energy

UAE became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy after the Barakah Nuclear Plant's 1st Unit got operational. The new plant is part of the UAE's graph to become less reliant on oil and gas.

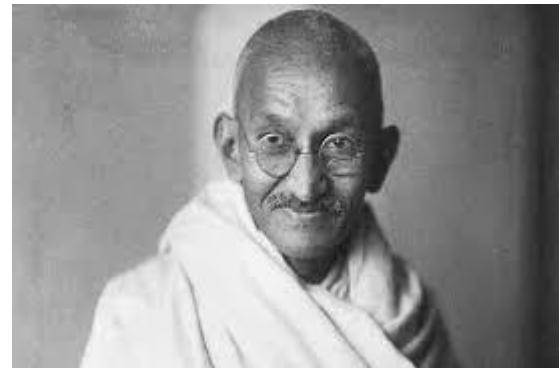
The Barakah plant is situated in the Al Dhafrah region of Abu Dhabi. It is powered by South Korean technology and is expected to produce 5.6 gigawatts of electricity and supply up to 25% of the UAE's electricity needs.



4. UK to issue coin in honour of Mahatma Gandhi

Britain is set to become the first country outside India to mint coins with Mahatma Gandhi's image. The coin will be issued to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The plan to mint the coin in honour of Mahatma Gandhi was released at the GG2 Power list event in London. Four Gandhi statues have been installed in a public place in the UK over the years - Tavistock Square, London (1968), Belgrave Road, Leicester (2009), Parliament Square, London (2015) and Cardiff Bay, Cardiff (2017).



5. Envoy to India Philip Barton promoted as UK Foreign Office Minister

British High Commissioner to India Sir Philip Barton has been promoted as a minister in the newly formed Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. He was appointed as Permanent Under-Secretary of the new ministry.

The new Ministry was formed as a new "super department" after merging the UK's Department for International Development (DfID) with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Barton joined the FCO in the 1980s and has held roles such as Director General.



6. India extends US\$18 million Line of Credit to Maldives

India has extended Line of Credit worth US\$18 million to the Government of Maldives for the expansion of fishing facilities at Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company (MIFCO). The project envisages investment in fish collection and storage facilities and the setting up of a tuna cooked plant and fishmeal plant.

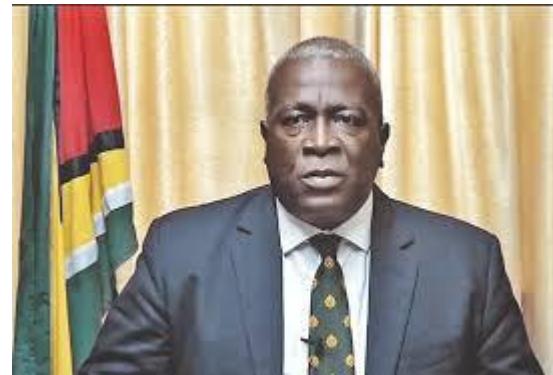


The Line of Credit is part of the US\$800 million line of credit offered by India with repayment tenor of 20 years and a 5-year moratorium. This project will benefit the Maldives in accessing new markets, increasing fish collection and storage capacity.

7. Mark Phillips sworn in as Prime Minister of Guyana

Former Chief-of-Staff of the Guyana Defence Force Brigadier (retired) Mark Phillips has been sworn in as Prime Minister of Guyana by President Mohamed Irfaan Ali. Former President Bharrat Jagdeo has been sworn in as Vice President.

Anil Nandlall, who previously served as Attorney General, has returned to that position while Gail Teixeira has taken up the post as Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance. President Irfaan Ali was recently sworn in as the new president after his party Peoples Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) won the March 2 elections.



Peoples Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C)

8. India contributes USD 15.46 mn to India-UN Development Partnership Fund

India has contributed USD 15.46 million to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund. The tranche of USD 15.46 million includes USD 6 million to the overall fund, in which all the developing countries are eligible for partnership, and USD 9.46 million dedicated to the Commonwealth countries.

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is managed by the UNOSSC and implemented under the leadership of partner developing countries leveraging the strengths of United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes.



9. US Senate approved Bill to ban TikTok on government devices

The United States Senate approved a bill to ban Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok on government devices. Lawmakers voted 336-71 to pass the proposal, offered by Representative Ken Buck. Once signed by the President, it will be a law.

The bill prohibits federal employees from downloading or using TikTok - and all other apps developed by its Beijing-based parent company, ByteDance - on any device issued by the US government or Government Corporation.



10. Beirut explosion and ammonium nitrate

On 4 August 2020, two explosions occurred at the port of the city of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. It caused more than 220 deaths and 7,000 injuries including US\$10–15 billion in property damage. The cause of the explosion was about 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate.

Ammonium nitrate is a crystal-like white solid which is made in large industrial quantities. Its biggest use is as a source of nitrogen for fertiliser, but it is also used to create explosives for mining. Its chemical formula is NH₄NO₃.



11. Mahinda Rajapaksa took oath as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for fourth time

Mahinda Rajapaksa took oath as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for the fourth time. He had served as country's President from 2006 to 2015 and his party has got landslide victory at general elections.

Mr. Rajapaksa is appreciated for ending the decade long LTTE war in 2009 during his Presidency. He had lost the 2015 Presidential elections and has made a strong political comeback. He contested the election from Kurunegala and topped the preferential votes from the district by clinching a record 527,364 votes.



12. Mauritius declared a “state of environmental emergency”

The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius has declared a “state of environmental emergency” after a Japanese-owned ship that ran aground offshore days ago began spilling 4,000 tons of fuel and cracks have appeared in its hull. Mauritius asked France to help as Mauritius has no skills and expertise to refloat stranded ships.

The French island of Reunion is the closest neighbor to Mauritius. Around 400 sea booms were deployed in an effort to contain the spill. The incident of risk of drowning of thousands of species is being considered as one of the most terrible ecological crises that Mauritius has ever seen.



13. Bangladesh to get largest ever dollar 3.1 billion loan package from Japan

Japan has signed its largest ever loan package worth dollar 3.1 billion for Bangladesh. The loan under its Official Development Assistance (ODA) will be given for seven projects of Bangladesh under concessional terms.

The loan carries an interest rate of 0.65% with a repayment period of 30 years including initial 10 years as grace period. Japan has been the single largest bilateral donor for Bangladesh since 2012. The total amount of its aid as Yen Loan has reached USD 22 billion (commitment base).



14. Indian-origin senator Kamala Harris named US Vice-Presidential candidate for Democrats

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. If elected, Kamala Harris would be the first woman to be the Vice-President of the United States. She would also be the first ever Indian-American and African Vice President of the country.



15. Russia launched first vaccine against coronavirus

Russia has developed the first vaccine against the coronavirus. Russia's first coronavirus vaccine is developed jointly by Gamaleya Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology and the Russian Defence Ministry.

The vaccine has been named "Sputnik V" after the Soviet satellite on 11 August. WHO has however not included the Russian vaccine candidate in its list of six potential vaccines after Gamaleya Institute did not release safety data of the trial phases.



16. EU to give 1.65 million euro to flood hit people in South Asia

The European Union announced to provide 1.65 million euro in humanitarian aid in response to severe flooding that has affected South Asia-most notably Bangladesh, India and Nepal. The funding comes on top of the 1.8 million euro announced earlier this year to support families affected by a series of disasters, including Cyclone Amphan that ravaged India and Bangladesh in May.

According to the EU's European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the total EU support to victims of disasters in the region would now stand at 3.45 million euro.



17. Walter Roger Martos Ruiz appointed as new PM of Peru

Walter Roger Martos Ruiz has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Peru by President Martín Vizcarra. He replaced Pedro Cateriano. He previously served as Minister of Defense from October 2019 to August 2020.

Mr. Ruiz is a former major-general of the Peruvian Army. He served in a variety of leading military positions throughout his career. He was Chief of General Staff of the Army and Chair of Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces.



18. Mohamed Ould Bilal named new PM of Mauritania

Mauritania President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani names Mohamed Ould Bilal as the new Prime Minister of the country. Outgoing PM Ismail Ould Cheikh Sidiya and his entire government resigned amid an investigation into alleged high-level corruption.

Before his appointment, Bilal served as a political adviser and headed several state agencies. Mauritania has been rocked by alleged corruption in the government of former President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz. Abdel Aziz came to power in a 2008 coup.



19. Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko won his 6th term

President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus won his sixth consecutive term. He won more than 80% of the votes. His main opposition challenger, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, got only 9.9%.

Lukashenko is referred to as "Europe's last dictator". He has served as president of Belarus since the establishment of the office in 1994. He served in the Soviet Border Troops and in the Soviet Army. He was the only deputy of the Belarusian parliament to vote against the 1991 dissolution of the Soviet Union.



20. Israel successfully conducted Arrow-2 interception test

Israel and the United States completed a successful test of the advanced Arrow 2 air defense system. It successfully intercepted a simulated long-range missile high over the Mediterranean Sea. The platform was tested by the Defense Ministry's Missile Defense Organization, the Israeli Air Force, IAI, and the US Missile Defense Agency.

The Arrow or Hetz is a family of anti-ballistic missiles. The Arrow system — made up of the Arrow, Arrow 2 and Arrow 3 interceptor missiles — represents the longest range of Israel's air defense network.



21. Isreal and UAE sign major diplomatic agreement

On 13 August, Israel and the UAE signed an agreement mediated by U.S. President Donald Trump. Under the peace deal, Israel and the UAE will establish full diplomatic relations, with the UAE becoming the third Arab state to recognise Israel. As part of the deal, Israel agreed to suspend plans for the annexation of the Jordan Valley.

The agreement is named "Abraham Agreement". Jordan and Egypt are the other two Arab nations to have signed such pact with Isreal.



22. 4th Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group held

The 4th Session of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group comprising of Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa and India was held virtually and was chaired by Russia. The common points emerged during the discussions include need for real time information sharing among the member states and need to curb increased drug trafficking through maritime routes.



Misuse of darknet and other advanced technologies for drug trafficking was one of the key focal areas of the meeting. BRICS is an informal group of states comprising the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa.

23. United Kingdom launched £3 Million Innovation Challenge Fund in India

The United Kingdom government launched a £3 million Innovation Challenge Fund in India to support scientists in academia and industry for research and development (R&D) and of most acute global challenges of COVID-19 and the threat to environment. The UK and India have a strong history of research and innovation.

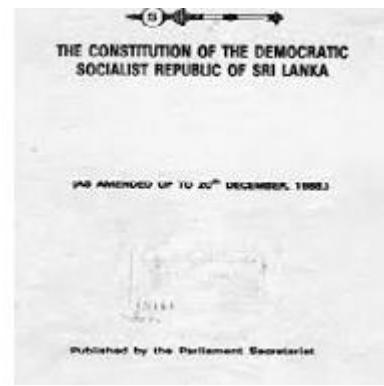


With this fund, at least 12 grants up to £250,000 are expected to be awarded to tech innovators. All such scientists and tech innovators with connections to the AI-Data cluster in Karnataka and the future mobility cluster in Maharashtra are invited to submit research and development plans for tackling COVID-19.

24. Sri Lankan government granted approval to abolish 19th amendment to constitution

Sri Lankan government has granted approval to abolish the 19th amendment to the constitution and replace it with the 20th amendment. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa had made the abolition of 19th amendment as the main election plank during the presidential and parliamentary elections.

The amendment brought by previous government had put a two-term limit on Presidency and curtailed the executive powers of President and transferred it to parliament and independent commissions.



25. MEA organized 6th Round Table of AINTT

The Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Foreign Ministry of Thailand organized the 6th Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT). The theme of the two day Round Table which was conducted through video conferencing was 'ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era'.



The ASEAN-India Round Table comprising think tanks, policy makers, scholars, media and business representatives was established at the 7th ASEAN-India Summit in Thailand in 2009 to provide policy inputs to Governments on future direction of cooperation.

26. Luis Rodolfo Abinader sworn in as new President of Dominican Republic

Luis Rodolfo Abinader has been sworn in as the new President of Dominican Republic. Abinader won 52.51% of votes in the presidential elections compared to 36.07% for his main opponent Gonzalo Castillo.

The ruling Dominican Liberation Party lost power after 16 years. He succeeds Danilo Medina of Liberation Party. Abinader is the first Dominican president born after the Trujillo dictatorship. Abinader had also unsuccessfully run for the presidential elections in 2016.



27. 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament held virtually

The 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament was held virtually. It was jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva and the Parliament of Austria under the theme - "Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism".

The World Conference of Speakers of Parliament are held every five years in conjunction with the United Nations. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla participated in the inaugural ceremony of the conference.



28. India, Japan and Australia to launch Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)

India, Japan and Australia are planning to launch a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI). It aims to reduce the dependency on China. The initiative which was first proposed by Japan is expected to be launched by November 2020.

The objective of SCRI is to attract foreign direct investment to turn the Indo-Pacific into an 'economic powerhouse'. It also aims to build a mutually complementary relationship between the partner countries.



29. Myanmar Government and armed groups signed agreement for National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)

The government of Myanmar and ten armed ethnic groups signed a framework agreement for the implementation of the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The agreement was signed at Nay Pyi Taw at the end of the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong.

The peace accord called Union Peace Accord III contains 15 provisions to implement the NCA. These include troop deployment, protocol to deal with skirmishes between government troops and the armed groups among others.



30. Saudi Arabia's state oil company Aramco suspended \$10 bn China oil refinery project

Saudi Arabia's state oil company Aramco has suspended a deal to build a 10 billion dollar refining and petrochemicals complex in China. Aramco decided to stop investing in the facility in China's Northeastern province of Liaoning due to uncertain market outlook.

The oil-price crash and Corona's impact on energy demand have changed the calculations for energy companies' projects around the world. Aramco plans deep cuts to its capital spending as it tries to maintain a 75 billion dollar dividend. The joint venture was signed when Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was in Beijing in February last year.



31. US FDA authorized to use blood plasma for Covid-19 treatment

U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for investigational convalescent plasma for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized patients. The EUA authorizes the distribution of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in the U.S. India fares poorly in applying for trademarks as well, having made up for just 0.7% of global filings in 2019.

COVID-19 convalescent plasma is Passive immunisation using the plasma of recovered COVID-19 donors for the treatment of severe COVID-19 cases. COVID-19 convalescent plasma will be effective in lessening the severity or shortening the length of COVID-19 illness in some hospitalized patients.



32. World Health Organization declared Africa free of polio

The World Health Organization has declared Africa free of polio. A commission led by Prof. Rose Gana Fomban Leke, has certified that no cases had occurred on the continent for the past four years, the threshold for eradication of poliovirus.

Poliovirus now joins smallpox in the list of viruses that have been wiped out in Africa. Only two countries worldwide continue to see wild poliovirus transmission: Pakistan and Afghanistan.



33. 17th meeting of India-Vietnam Joint Commission held virtually

The 17th meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held virtually. The two nations discussed the future trajectory of the wide-ranging engagement, agreed to add new momentum to the economic and defence engagement between the two countries and to explore closer cooperation in emerging areas such as civil nuclear energy, space, marine sciences and new technologies.



Two MoUs were signed on the margins of the Joint Commission Meeting. Both sides agreed to coordinate closely at multilateral forums where both India and Vietnam will serve concurrently as non-permanent members in 2021.

Miscellaneous

1. The 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting was held under the presidency of Russia. India will host the next meeting in 2021.
2. MobiKwik launches personal UPI payment link mpay.me. UPI link service allows users to send and receive money from any UPI payment app.
3. Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has developed 'Aashray', a medical bed isolation system to combat COVID-19 by preventing or minimising the spread of the virus.
4. Madhya Pradesh government launched "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" campaign to spread awareness, about wearing masks as prevention from Covid-19 infection.
5. India has withdrawn from the women's world team Squash championship scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15th to 20th December, citing lack of preparation, time and match-readiness of its players.
6. William English, co-creator of computer mouse, passed away at the age of 91 years.
7. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel, a new initiative by National Co-operative Development Corporation.
8. The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli (DNH) and Daman and Diu (DD) has launched a mobile app named E-Gyan Mitra for online education.
9. Former Maharashtra CM Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar passed away at the age of 89 years.
10. Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi dedicated a Railway Museum at Hubballi in Karnataka through video conferencing. This Rail Museum is first of its kind in North Karnataka and second in South Western Railway after the historic Rail Museum at Mysuru.
11. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will open the Silk Training cum Production Center in the tribal village of Chullyu in Arunachal Pradesh. This would be the first Silk Training cum Production Center in the state.
12. Odisha cadre IPS officer, P S Ranipse has been appointed as Inspector General (IG), in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
13. In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, a massive online Integrated Multidisciplinary Professional Advancement Course for Teachers (IMPACT) training programme commenced in Srinagar under Samagra Shiksha.
14. Former Congress leader and eight-time parliamentarian from Telangana, Nandi Yellaiah passed away.
15. Railways observed cleanliness week from 10th August to mark the Independence Day.
16. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has announced a special scheme to revive lapsed policies named 'Special Revival Campaign'.
17. Veteran sports journalist GK Menon passed away at the age of 93 years. He worked with the Indian Express and The Times of India.
18. As on 14.08.2020, the total kharif crops have been sown on 1015.58 lakh ha area against 935.70 lakh ha area during the corresponding period of last year, thus increase in area coverage by 8.54% compared to last year in the country.
19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the First World Solar Technology Summit to be organised by International Solar Alliance, ISA on a virtual platform on 8th of September.
20. The Union Territory of Puducherry has celebrated its 59th anniversary of the "De-Jure" day on 16th August.

21. Punjab National Bank has launched a campaign named 'DIGITAL APNAYEN' to encourage customers to use digital banking channels.
22. The 13th Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting on Trade, Economic and Technical Co-operation was held to review the continuing growth of broad based cooperation between the two countries.
23. On the 2nd death anniversary of the former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that the Gwalior-Chambal Expressway will be named Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chambal Progressway.
24. Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to provide government jobs on the basis of marks obtained in exams conducted by the newly-formed National Recruitment Agency (NRA).
25. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched a Mobile App to provide user friendly digital interface for the functionaries of ULBs to source loan applications of street vendors under Prime Minister Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.
26. Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) has launched LVB DigiGo, a digital initiative to enable the opening of savings account instantly.
27. India Post released five commemorative postage stamps: The Historic City of Ahmedabad, Churches and Convents of Goa, Group of Monuments at Pattadakal, Khajuraho Group of Monuments and Qutub Minar, on the occasion of 74th Independence Day.
28. Keith Rowley has been sworn in as Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term.
29. Dakar Francisco Asue was reappointed as Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea.
30. Former Cricketer, Administrator and Pitch Curator, Gopalaswamy Iyenger Kasturirangan passed away.
31. Google has launched a separate app for job seekers in India called the Kormo Jobs app. It will help people find entry-level jobs.
32. The name of Religare Health Insurance Company Ltd. has been changed to Care Health Insurance Ltd.
33. Maharashtra has announced that all serving and retired soldiers of the state will be exempted from the Gram Panchayat property tax.
34. The Union Home Ministry has approved the renaming of Manduadih railway station in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi district as 'Banaras'.
35. According to a joint report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), at least 41 lakh youth in India lost jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
36. A pair of gold-plated spectacles believed to have been worn by Mahatma Gandhi and presented as a gift in the 1900s have broken all records for a United Kingdom auction house by selling for Rs. 2.55 crore or 2,60,000 pounds.
37. In Madhya Pradesh, a unique campaign 'Ek Sankalp - Bujurgo ke naam' i.e. 'a commitment for elders' is being run by the Chhatarpur Police in the midst of corona infection in the state.
38. US Republican Party re-nominates Donald Trump and Mike Pence as Presidential, Vice Presidential candidates. The Republican National Convention (RNC) has formally re-nominated President Donald Trump as the party's Presidential candidate for the November 3 election.
39. World-record sprinter and eight-time Olympic gold medalist Usain Bolt has tested positive for the coronavirus and is self-isolating at his home in Jamaica.
40. The India Pavilion at the Army-2020 International Military and Technical Forum was inaugurated by Secretary (Defence Production) Raj Kumar and Indian

Ambassador DB Venkatesh Verma outside Moscow, the Indian Embassy in Russia.

41. Tata Group is launching a new app named "Super App" purported to bring together the country's disparate sales sector to offer a range of consumer goods.
42. SBI General Insurance has launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product called 'Shagun – Gift an Insurance', which is a unique gift of Personal Accident policy. The unique feature of this policy is that it can be gifted to anyone, which means it is not necessary for the policy buyer to be related to the insured.
43. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Mobile Training App to assist in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets.
44. Axis Bank launched a new savings account called the Axis Liberty Savings Account to cater the youth up to 35 years of age.
45. India and Singapore signed Implementing Arrangement on Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief.
46. Delhi Government launched the Fitness Campaign "Healthy Body, Healthy Mind" fitness campaign, for the students who are confined in their homes because of the lockdown imposed on Schools and colleges due to COVID-19 pandemic.
47. India is planning to host BRICS Games 2021, which will be aligned with the Khelo India Games scheduled for 2021.
48. The government plans to develop three Bamboo Clusters in Jammu, Katra and Samba areas for making of Bamboo basketry, Agarbatti and Bamboo Charcol.
49. The government launched the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi, PM SVANidhi online dashboard through video conferencing.
50. India has co-sponsored a Security Council resolution that calls for full, effective and meaningful participation of women personnel in peacekeeping operations.
51. The 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in Goa, from November 20th to 28th.

1. Government formulated draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020

The Union Ministry of Defence has formulated a draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP-2020). The policy aims to provide impetus to self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme.

The objectives of the policy are as follows:

- Achieve a turnover of Rs. 1,75,000 Crore including an export of Rs. 35,000 Crore in the Aerospace and Defence goods and services by the year 2025.
- Emphasis on reducing dependence on imports and taking forward the Make in India initiatives through domestic designs.
- Developing a dynamic, robust and competitive Defence industry, including Aerospace and Naval Shipbuilding industry to cater to the needs of Armed forces.

Ministry of Defence (India)



2. MoD signed tripartite MoU with IIT Kanpur and Dept of ARPG

The Ministry of Defence signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK).

The MoU envisages IIT Kanpur to develop Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) Techniques to conduct exploratory and predictive analysis of Public Grievances received on the web based Centralised Public Grievances Redress & Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) pertaining to the MoD. The DARPG will provide the data dump on the Public Grievances pertaining to MoD to IIT Kanpur to facilitate their analysis.



Ministry of Defence
Government of India

3. Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched 'Vidyaarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21'

Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched 'Vidyaarthi Vigyan Manthan, 2020-21'. This initiative is a national programme for popularising science among school students of Class 6th to 11th. It was designed to identify the bright minds with a scientific aptitude among the student community.

Vidyaarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM) is an initiative of Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) and Vigyan Prasar. VIBHA is a national movement for the propagation and popularisation of Science & Technology among students and masses.



4. Union Minister for MSME Nitin Gadkari approved Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission

Union Minister for MSME Nitin Gadkari has approved Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission (KAAM). It is a unique employment generation program proposed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to make India Aatmanirbhar in Agarbatti production.

The programme aims to create jobs for unemployed and migrant workers across the country, while increasing domestic Agarbatti production substantially. KVIC will provide 25% subsidy on the cost of the machines used for making Agarbatti.



5. KVIC launched Gift Box of handcrafted silk masks

Union Minister for MSME Nitin Gadkari launched the Gift Box, developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). The gift box consists of four handcrafted silk masks in different colors and prints.

The Silk Masks have three pleats and come with adjustable ear loops and attractive beads. It has two inner layers of 100% Khadi cotton fabric and one top layer of Silk fabric. The silk mask gift boxes are priced at just Rs. 500 per box.



6. National Digital Conference on “Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat”

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized the National Digital Conference on ‘Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat’ in partnership with the Department for Promotion of Investment and Internal Trade (DPIIT). More than a thousand relevant stakeholders participated in the one-day virtual conference.

The participants discussed on issues pertaining to improve the business environment of India. The conference provided a forum to enhance the regulatory reform of the government in various indicators of doing business.



7. India's first Kisan Special Parcel Train flagged off

Indian railways began the Kisan Rail service to transport perishables at affordable cost. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar flagged off the First Kisan Rail train from Maharashtra's Devlali station to Danapur in Bihar. As per this initiative, the Kisan Rail will run through public-private-partnership mode to provide a seamless supply chain of perishable goods.

Apart from carrying fruits and vegetables like capsicum, onion, chillies, banana and grapes; the Indian Railways' first ever multi commodity trains will have frozen containers to ensure a cold supply chain even for fish, meat and milk.



8. Serum Institute of India partners with Gavi to accelerate manufacture of Covid19 vaccines

Serum Institute of India has entered into a new landmark partnership with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to accelerate the manufacturing and delivery of up to 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines for India and low- and middle-income countries.

The collaboration will provide upfront capital to SII to help them increase manufacturing capacity now so that, once a vaccine gains regulatory approval and WHO prequalification, doses can be produced at scale for distribution to India and LMIC as part of the Gavi COVAX AMC mechanism as early as the first half of 2021.



9. NHAI signed MoU with IIT Delhi

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi to set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Use of Artificial Intelligence in Data Driven decision making and Advance Data Management System for Highways.

Under the partnership, IIT Delhi will work with NHAI on developing advance analytics based on AI and ML, prepare simulation models, enhance data storage and retrieval capacities to further strengthen NHAI's capabilities in data-driven decision making.



10. Education Minister laid the foundation stone of IIM-Dhaura Kuan

Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Dhaura Kuan in Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh. The campus is spread in a 210-acre land.

The government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 531.75 Crore out of which Rs. 392.51 Crore is for construction works. IIM Sirmaur was operationalised by IIM Lucknow from August 2015, as the mentor Institution through its temporary campus at Paonta Sahib, Sirmaur.



11. NIDM organised webinar series on “Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Risk Reduction”

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in collaboration with India Meteorological Department organised a webinar series on “Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Risk Reduction”. The webinar series included four webinars focusing on Thunderstorms and Lightning, Cloudburst and Floods, Cyclones and Storm Surges and Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events.



The webinar series exhorted on enhancing human capacity in terms of better understanding of Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Risk and effective collaborative actions, by implementing Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, for reducing the risk and enhancing the resilience of affected communities and surroundings.

12. Indian Railways introduced OHE Inspection app

India Railways has introduced “OHE Inspection” application for real time capturing of OHE (Overhead Equipment) defects as well as sends alerts. It will help prevent delays in running time of passenger trains and improve customer experience.



The OHE Inspection app includes GPS based tracking of patrol man, real time capturing of OHE defects and provision of taking photographs. It has been launched across the country. Indian Railways recorded 100% punctuality of trains, for the first time in its history on 1st July, 2020.

13. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated first ever optical fibre cable for Andaman, Nicobar Islands

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 2,300 km submarine optical fibre cable network between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The project is Union government's commitment for Ease of living. Andaman and Nicobar is an important centre for India's Economic-Strategic Co-operation.

The cable project will be provided over 2,313 kms under-sea between Chennai and Portblair at the cost of rupees 1,224 crores. This will boost digital services like tele-education, tele-health, e-governance services and tourism on the island.



14. Prime Minister Modi launched Rs. one lakh crore worth agriculture infrastructure fund

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched one lakh crore rupees agriculture infrastructure fund to boost post-harvest management and marketing of agricultural produce. The scheme will provide better warehousing and cold storage facilities for farmers and create job opportunities in food processing industries.

Under the infrastructure scheme banks and financial institutions will provide Rs. one lakh crore in loans to co-operative societies, farmer producer companies, self-help groups, entrepreneurs, startups and infrastructure providers. The objective is to provide medium to long-term debt financing for setting up of post-harvest infrastructure and community assets for marketing of farm produce.



15. PM Modi launched platform for 'Transparent Taxation-Honoring the Honest'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the platform for "Transparent Taxation-Honoring the Honest". The "Transparent Taxation - Honoring The Honest" platform will initiate major tax reforms aimed at bringing transparency in income tax systems and empowering taxpayers.

The major initiatives are as follows:

- Introduction of Document Identification Number (DIN) wherein, every communication of the department would carry a computer generated unique document identification number.



- Prefilling of income tax returns to make compliance more convenient for individual taxpayers.

16. Jal Shakti Minister launched Swachh Bharat Mission Academy

Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the Swachh Bharat Mission Academy. It is an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) based free mobile online training course with modules on the Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus programme. The ODF Plus is an extension of the ODF programme under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

The SBM Academy will be crucial in achieving goals underlined in Phase - 2 of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). It was launched as part of the 'Gandagi Mukt Bharat' campaign.



as part of the 'Gandagi Mukt Bharat' campaign.

17. Katra-Delhi express road corridor by 2023

The government has announced that the work on the first-of-its-kind Katra (Jammu and Kashmir)-Delhi Express Road Corridor has started and is expected to be ready by 2023. Once functional, travel time from Katra to Delhi will get reduced to around six and half hours, and from Jammu to Delhi to just about six hours.

The project is estimated to cost over Rs. 35,000 crores. The corridor will pass through Jammu and Kathua in J&K, and Jalandhar, Amritsar, Kapurthala and Ludhiana in Punjab.



18. Government of India launched National Portal “SURAKHSYA” on Human Elephant conflict

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched National Portal on Human Elephant conflict called “SURAKHSYA”. The beta version of the portal on Human-Elephant Conflict is for the collection of real-time information.

The portal will also help to set data collection protocols, data visualisation tools and data transmission pipelines. The Minister also released a booklet on “Best practices of Human-Elephant Conflict Management in India”. The portal and the booklet were launched on the occasion of World Elephant Day celebrated on August 12 every year.



19. India to fund Greater Male Connectivity Project in Maldives

India will fund the implementation of Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) through a 400 million dollar Line of Credit and 100 million dollar grant. The 6.7 kilometre bridge project will connect Male with three neighbouring islands -- Villingili, Gulhifahu and Thilafushi.

The two countries also plan to start a regular cargo ferry service between India and Maldives to boost trade and commerce. India is also starting an air travel bubble with Maldives.



20. Atal Innovation Mission and Dell Technologies launch Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Dell Technologies launched Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs). SEP 2.0 will allow student innovators to work closely with Dell volunteers.

The students will receive mentor support; prototyping and testing support; end-user feedback; intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas, processes, and products; manufacturing support; as well as the launch support of the product in the market.



21. Reliance Foundation tied up with W-GDP and USAID

Reliance Foundation has partnered with US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) to bridge the gender digital divide in India. The W-GDP WomenConnect Challenge will be launched across India in the fall of 2020.

The W-GDP Women's Connect Challenge (WCC) supports private sector-led approaches that seek to close the gender digital divide, expand business opportunities, and empower women. W-GDP seeks to reach 50 million women in the developing world by 2025.



22. CII organized “India@75 Summit – Mission 2022”

The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) organised the “India@75 Summit – Mission 2022”. The summit was focused on ‘reinventing technology in India’ in its 75th year of independence in 2022 and seeks to bring together stakeholders such as industry and government to work on a vision.

CII took India@75 as a grassroots initiative and converted it into a vision for our country shared by people from all geographies and all walks of life.



23. Prime Minister announced health IDs for all under National Digital Health Mission

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of National Digital Health Mission under which, every Indian will get a unique health ID. Every test, every disease, medicines prescribed by doctors, reports and related information will be contained in this one health ID.

The Health ID is created by using a person's basic details and mobile number or Aadhaar number. The announcement was made by the Prime Minister during his Independence Day speech at the Red Fort.



24. Every village to have Optical Fibre Connections in next 1000 days

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that all 6 lakhs village in the country will be connected with optical fibre cable in the next 1000 days. Lakshadweep will be connected with submarine optical fiber cable. OFC connectivity to the villages will help the people with all the benefits of Digital India.

PM Modi had recently inaugurated the first-ever undersea optic fiber link between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar to ensure high-speed broadband connectivity for the Union Territory (UT) at par with services in the cities like Delhi and Chennai.



25. Union Sports Minister launched nation-wide initiative of Fit India Youth Clubs

Union Minister of Youth and Sports Kiren Rijiju launched a nation-wide initiative of Fit India Youth Clubs. It is a part of the Fit India Movement. This initiative brings together fitness and volunteerism in a unique way.

Under this initiative, 75 lakh volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme, along with Scouts and Guides, National Cadet Corps and other youth organisations will come together to register as Fit India Youth Clubs in every block in the country. Each member will motivate people from the community to take up fitness activities of 30 to 60 minutes daily.



from the community to take up fitness activities of 30 to 60 minutes daily.

26. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched 'Nasha-Mukt Bharat' campaign in J&K

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Directorate of Social Welfare launched 'Nasha-Mukt Bharat'- Drug free India campaign of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India with an aim to curb the menace of Drug Addiction in the society.

The campaign is being run in ten districts of J&K including Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar, Doda, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kargil, Shopian, Badgam and Bandipora. The objective of the campaign is to increase community participation and sensitisation of the people about Drug Abuse.



27. National Digital Health Mission rolled out on pilot mode in 6 UTs

The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address, has been rolled out on a pilot mode in six Union territories - Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

Under NDHM, every Indian will get a health ID that will ease access to medical services in the country. The government has given the responsibility to National Health Authority (NHA) to design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM in the country.



28. HRD ministry officially renamed as Ministry of Education

President Ram Nath Kovind, through a gazette notification, has given assent to the change in name of the Ministry of Human Resource Development as Ministry of Education. The name change was among the key recommendations of the draft new National Education Policy, NEP.

In 1985, the Ministry of Education was renamed as the HRD ministry when Rajiv Gandhi was prime minister. The Union Cabinet had approved the new education policy which will replace the existing National Policy on Education.



Ministry of Education
Government of India

29. Government launched Tribal Health & Nutrition Portal – ‘Swasthya’

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal ‘Swasthya’ and e-newsletter on health and nutrition ALEKH. ‘Swasthya’ is a first of its kind e-portal, providing all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population of India in a single platform.

The Ministry, in partnership with Facebook, has initiated the ‘Going Online as Leaders (GOAL)’ Programme. With this, it aims to mentor 5,000 Tribal Youth across India and enable them to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.



30. Prime Minister Modi announced “One Sun, One World, One Grid” initiative

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the “One Sun, One World, One Grid” (OSOWOG) initiative to offer trans-national electricity grid, for supplying solar power across the globe. It will connect 140 countries through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power. OSOWOG plan was first announced by Prime Minister Modi in 2018 during the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).



OSOWOG plan will be launched in three phases thereby, connecting the Indian grid with Middle East and South Asia in first phase, Africa in second phase and remaining global nations in third phase.

31. MPEDA launched Quality Control Lab in Porbandar

Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) inaugurated a Quality Control Laboratory in the coastal city of Porbandar, Gujarat, facilitating tests for seafood processors and exporters. It will help to confirm product safety as per international regulatory requirements.

MPEDA is a co-ordinating agency under the Union Ministry of Commerce for central and state-level establishments engaged in fishery production and allied activities. The set up is started with secure accreditation by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and the Export Inspection Council (EIC).



is started with secure accreditation by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and the Export Inspection Council (EIC).

32. Google partnered with Central Water Commission for flood forecasting initiative

Google in association with the Central Water Commission (CWC) launched flood forecasting initiative and sent numerous public alerts to people in impacted regions across the country. Any user in the affected region will receive alerts and can 'search' to enter a query on a flood-affected area. The user can see a visual overview of key information, including the rise or fall in the water level in the next day.



With this partnership, Central Water Commission becomes first governmental partner of Google to measure water levels on an hourly basis using around 1000 stream gauges across India. Central Water Commission is a premier Technical Organisation of India in the field of Water Resources.

33. NHAI developed mobile App 'Harit Path'

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed a mobile App, 'Harit Path', to facilitate creation of Green Highways across the country. The App will also be used to monitor location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements of each of the PSU's field units for every plant under the Highway plantation projects.

NHAI had also recently undertaken a nation-wide plantation drive, Harit Bharat Sankalp,



under which, it planted over 25 lakh plants in 25 days along the stretches of the National Highways across the country.

34. India, Israel signed cultural agreement to further boost people-to-people ties

India and Israel signed a cultural agreement that outlines a three-year programme of co-operation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations. It aims to promote greater people-to-people exchanges.

The major areas of cooperation identified to promote cultural ties include:

- Exchange of culture and art experts.
- Encourage co-operation in the protection of cultural heritage and archaeology with the help of Israel Antiquities Authority (IIA) and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- Organise literary fests and book fairs, while promoting the translation of famous works in each other's language.



35. Government sets up National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19

The Union Government has set up an National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19. The purpose of the group is to keep India in the forefront of any ongoing effort worldwide to innovate, prepare, produce and launch candidate vaccines to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, for India and for the world.

The Expert Group will help to connect Indian companies that are interested in any candidate vaccines, and facilitate the process of ensuring that the relevant testing data is made available to the regulatory agencies.



36. Union Cabinet approved setting up of National Recruitment Agency

The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) to conduct Common Eligibility Test (CET). The NRA will conduct a CET to screen and shortlist candidates for the Group B and C (non-technical) posts. The NRA will have representatives from the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance, SSC, RRB and IBPS.

The CET score of the candidate shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of declaration of the result. Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,517.57 crore for the National Recruitment Agency.



37. Cabinet decisions

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane payable by sugar mills for the sugar season 2020-21 at Rs. 285 per quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10%.

CCEA also approved one-time relaxation to Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation for extending loans to DISCOMs above limits of working capital cap of 25% of last year's revenues under Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana. One-time relaxation would help in providing liquidity to the power sector and ensure payments by State Governments to DISCOMs.



38. Cabinet approved proposal for leasing out Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram airports

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for leasing out airports at Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram through public-private partnership (PPP). Currently, these airports are owned and managed by the government-run Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Adani Enterprises had won the rights to run six airports -- Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati, through the PPP model after a competitive bidding process in February 2019.



39. Government launched Logo of Labour Bureau

The Labour Bureau, an attached office of Ministry of Labour and Employment, launched its official logo to visually communicate the vision and objectives of the Bureau. The logo represents that Labour Bureau is a data based organisation.

The logo also represents the three goals that Labour Bureau strives to achieve in producing quality data i.e. Accuracy, Validity and Reliability. The blue colour signifies the blue collar workers in rural and agriculture sectors.



The Labour Bureau is engaged in collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics on different facets of labour at All India level.

40. AIM partnered with India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog signed a virtual Statement of Intent (SoI) with Business Sweden on behalf of India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre to collaborate and promote the disruptive potential of Indian entrepreneurs and boost the vibrant start-up ecosystem across the country.

India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre is a collaboration between AIIMS Delhi, AIIMS Jodhpur and Business Sweden. The Innovation Centre aims to create an ecosystem of open innovation.



41. Ministry of Shipping signed MoU with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

The Ministry of Shipping has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The MoU aims to reap the benefit for vast employment opportunities in maritime sector and with a view to certify their skill sets.

The MSDE will co-operate in development of Course Curriculum, National Occupational Standards and Content for Cruise Tourism, Logistics, Fisheries, Ship building, Ship repair and Ship breaking, Dredging and Offshore supply chain. The Shipping Ministry will support the funding and implementation of skilling initiatives.



42. Jute Corporation of India and National Seeds Corporation signed MoU

The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) signed a MoU with National Seeds Corporation (NSC) to provide certified good quality seeds to jute farmers in the year 2021-22. As an outcome of the MoU, JCI will distribute 10,000 Quintals of certified jute seeds of JRO-204 variety in the 2021-22 crop year.

The three agencies in the field - the Jute Corporation of India (JCI), National Jute Board (NJB) and Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres (CRIJAF) are promoting modern agronomic practices for overall improvement of quantity and quality of jute under the jute project ICARE.



भारतीय पटसन निगम लिमिटेड
The Jute Corporation Of India Limited

43. ADB approves USD 1 billion loan for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$1 billion loan to support construction of the modern, high-speed Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System, a first of its kind in India. The 82-kilometer Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system (RRTS) network is the first of three priority rail corridors in the country's integrated transport network under the NCR Regional Plan 2021.



The Government of India will provide \$1.89 billion and cofinanciers are expected to provide \$1 billion of the total project cost of \$3.94 billion. The transit system project aims to help decongest Delhi-NCR.

44. Ministry of Tribal Affairs signed joint communication with Ministry of Rural Development

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has signed a joint communication with Ministry of Rural Development to promote sustainable livelihood opportunities among tribal women Self Help Groups (SHGs), under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

The Ministry of Rural Development will identify and map the tribal women SHG members including their individual livelihood assets. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for the welfare of tribals. The total Central budget under Schedule Tribe Component (STC) for welfare of tribals during FY 2020-21 is Rs. 51,000 crore.



Ministry of Tribal Affairs

45. Union Minister Arjun Munda e-launched “Trifood Project” of TRIFED

Union Minister Arjun Munda e-launched the tertiary processing centres of “Trifood Project” of TRIFED. TRIFOOD is being implemented by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with Ministry of Food Processing (MoFPI).

TRIFOOD aims to enhance the income of tribals through better utilisation of and value addition to the Minor Forest Produce (MFPs) collected by the tribal forest gatherers. To achieve this, as a start, two MFP processing units will be set up in Raigad, Maharashtra and Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.



46. Government launched Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge

The government has launched "Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge" to realise the ambition of self-reliance and a momentous stride towards "Atmanirbhar Bharat". It aims to invite innovators, startups and students to use two microprocessors namely "SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit)" to develop various technology products.

SHAKTI & VEGA microprocessors have been developed by IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) respectively. The Challenge ends in June 2021. The top 10 teams entering the finale will get the seed fund of total ₹2.30 crore and 12 months incubation support.



47. Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched interactive first-of-its-kind video game 'Corona Fighters'

Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched an interactive first-of-its-kind game on COVID-19, the Corona Fighters. The game presents a new and extremely creative way to teach people the right tools and behaviours to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

The game is available on www.thecoronafighters.in. It was designed to "influence the players" actions in the real world, reminding them to take the right precautions and escape infection. The minister also launched IEC's (information, education and communication) two promotional videos urging adherence to key COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviours.



48. ESIC to pay 50% of 3 months' average wages as Unemployment benefit

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) relaxed norms to pay 50% of average wages of three months as unemployment benefit, to cope with job loss between March 24 and December 31 this year, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is implementing the Atal Bimbit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna under which, unemployment benefit is paid to the workers covered under ESI scheme.

ESIC has relaxed the existing conditions and the amount of relief for workers who have lost



employment during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

49. MEA in partnership with Foreign Ministry of Thailand organise sixth Round Table of AINTT

The Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Foreign Ministry of Thailand has organized the sixth Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT). The theme of the two day Round Table, which was conducted through video conferencing was 'ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era'.

The ASEAN-India Round Table comprising think tanks, policy makers, scholars, media and business representatives was established at the seventh ASEAN-India Summit in Thailand in 2009 to provide policy inputs to Governments on future direction of co-operation.



50. Aarogya Setu introduced 'Open API Service'

Aarogya Setu App has been loaded with a new feature called 'Open API Service'. The Open API Service of Aarogya Setu, can be availed by organisations and business entities, who are registered in India, with more than 50 employees. They can use the Open API Service to query the Aarogya Setu Application in real-time and get the health status of their employees.

The Government of India launched 'Aarogya Setu' app to track the cases of COVID-19 and alert the citizens of the country to keep safe. It was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity).



51. IIMK inked MoU with Switzerland based HELP Logistics

Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Switzerland based HELP Logistics to engage in a collaborative partnership and provide consulting services and logistics training for the humanitarian community.

The MoU will be in force for a year. It will endeavor to carry out the activities that integrate efforts to shape supply chains that benefit humanity, amidst prevailing worldwide uncertainty as a result of natural as well as manmade turmoil.



52. Government extends validity of Motor Vehicle documents till 31st December

The Road Transport and Highways Ministry has decided to extend the validity of Motor Vehicle documents till the 31st of December. With this, the validity of Fitness, Permit, License, Registration or any other concerned documents may be treated to be valid till 31st of December.

The Ministry had earlier issued advisories on 30th March and 9th June regarding extension of validity of the documents related to Motor Vehicles Act and Central Motor Vehicle Rules. The decision was taken after considering the situation due to COVID-19 across the country.



सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

53. India and AIIB signed USD 500million loan agreement for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III

The Union Government, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation under the Maharashtra Government and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), signed a loan agreement for a USD 500 million Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III. This will improve the network capacity, service quality and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.

The Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III will benefit 22% of the female passengers from improved safety and the quality of the service. The project will cut the total journey time and help to avoid fatal accidents.



The project will cut the total journey time and help to avoid fatal accidents.

54. Union Minister Gadkari launched 45 highway projects worth over Rs. 11,000 crore

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stones and inaugurated as many as 45 highway projects in Madhya Pradesh. The length of the roads is 1361 km with a budget of Rs. 11,427 crore.

The Union Minister also announced Rs. 700 crore from Central Road Fund (CRF) for Madhya Pradesh to be utilised in the road sector. The better roads lead to savings in time and fuel and as well lower emission of pollutants. Further, these projects will decongest roads and the enroute towns contributing to improved road experience.



55. Union Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated “Tribes India Showroom”

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda, inaugurated ‘Tribes India Showroom’ in Indian Globe Chambers of LIC Western Zonal Office, Fort, Mumbai. The outlet is the third in the city of Mumbai; there are two existing outlets at Panvel and Juhu.

The TRIBES INDIA outlet is the 122nd Tribes India outlet across the country. This is the first stop to focus primarily on Van Dhan essentials and immunity boosters – essential products during this pandemic.



56. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan launched Online system of “Registration and Renewal” for Jewellers

The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan launched the online system of Registration and Renewal of Jewellers and online system of recognition and renewal of the Assaying and Hallmarking Centres. This was launched to bring about ease of doing business for both the jewellers and the entrepreneurs who have established Assaying and Hallmarking Centres.

The online system will ensure that the applications to start a new center or renew the existing license can be submitted online. It facilitates expeditious disposal of complaints regarding malpractices in the Hallmarking of jewellery items.



57. Tourism Ministry united with TAAI & FICCI's FLO to promote tourism

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Tourism and Culture signed MoU with the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with primary objective of women empowerment. The aim of signing this MoU is to skill and upskill women during these Covid times.

With this MoU, FLO & TAAI aims to look at the systematic planning, skill enhancement and policy integration in the tourism sector, to work towards our mission of creating sustainable livelihood for women's economic upliftment, empowering women to become self-sufficient and job creators from mere job seekers.



58. APEDA signed MoUs with AFC India Ltd and NCUI, Delhi

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed MoUs with AFC India Ltd. and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Delhi to utilise their expertise in the agri sector.

AFC, wholly-owned by NABARD and EXIM Bank, provides consulting and policy advisory and implementation support for agriculture, rural development and other strategic socio-economic sectors. NCUI objective is to educate, guide and assist people in their efforts to build up and expand the cooperative sector.



59. Ministry of Culture announced seven new circles of ASI

The Ministry of Culture announced seven new circles of Archaeological Survey of India. The new circles have been created in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Gujarat to facilitate and strengthen the process of preservation and registration of archaeological monuments along with registration of artefacts with self declaration.

Prior to this, there were 29 ASI circles across the country. Trichy (Tamil Nadu), Raiganj (West Bengal), Rajkot (Gujarat), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) and Meerut(Uttar Pradesh) have been announced as new circles.



प्रत्नकीर्तिमपावृणु

60. NHA released Draft Health Data Management Policy of National Digital Health Mission

The National Health Authority released the Draft Health Data Management Policy of the National Digital Health Mission. The Draft Health Data Management Policy is the maiden step in realising NDHM's guiding principle of "Security and Privacy by Design" for the protection of individuals' data privacy. It encompasses various aspects pertaining to health data like data privacy, consent management, data sharing and protection.



One of the main objectives of this draft policy is to provide adequate guidance and to set out a framework for the secure processing of personal and sensitive personal data of individuals, who are a part of the national digital health ecosystem.

61. NITI Aayog to virtually launch India component of NDC- TIA

NITI Aayog will virtually launch the India Component of the Nationally Determined Contributions - NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia -TIA. The event will inform the transport, energy and climate stakeholders in India about planned project activities for the upcoming year.

The NDC-TIA India Component will focus on establishing a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for decarbonising transport in India and providing technical support on Green House Gas emission reduction measures. It will also offer the opportunity to provide input about India's transport challenges and how they relate to CO2 reduction ambitions.



62. ADB signed \$200 million financing deal with Reliance for power plant in Bangladesh

The Asian Development Bank signed a \$200mn financing deal with the Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited (RBLPL) to build and operate a 718 megawatt combined-cycle gas-fired power plant in Bangladesh. This funding will ease ongoing energy shortages and drive further private sector investments in the country's power sector.

A combined-cycle power plant is a relatively more efficient way of producing electricity. It uses both a gas and a steam turbine together to produce up to 50 percent more electricity from the same fuel than a traditional simple-cycle plant.



63. Government approved 78 new routes under fourth round of Regional Connectivity Scheme -UDAN

Government has approved 78 new routes under the fourth round of Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik, UDAN to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country. North East Region, Hilly States and Islands have been given priority in the approval process for the new routes.

29 served, 8 unserved and 2 under-served airports have been included in the list for approved routes. Under UDAN 4, the operation of helicopter and seaplanes has also been incorporated.



64. Indian Railways set to meet all its energy needs of over 33 billion units by 2030

With the ambitious plan of achieving 100% electrification for Railways by the year 2023, Indian Railways energy consumption is set to become more than 33 billion units by 2030 from its current annual requirement of about 21 billion units.

Railways have developed a mega plan for installing solar plants of 20 Gigawatt capacity by utilizing its vacant land by 2030. The use of solar power will accelerate the mission to achieve conversion of Indian Railways to 'Net Zero Carbon Emission Railway'.



65. NeGD signed MoU with CSC E-Governance Services India Limited to make UMANG app available to citizens

The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has signed an MOU with Common Service Center (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited. The MoU aims to facilitate delivery of Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) services at CSCs, in an assisted mode.



This will make services on UMANG app available to citizens through the network of 3.75 lakh CSCs. The CSC operators Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) will enable citizens to avail e-Governance services of 140 Departments through the UMANG App.

66. NHAI developed a "Vendor Performance Evaluation System"

NHAI has developed a 'Vendor Performance Evaluation System' to establish a transparent and comprehensive 'Performance Rating' System for its Consultants, Contractors and Concessionaires. It will help track the performance of the vendors for various NHAI projects.

The vendors are required to conduct a self-assessment and upload the documents related to the project activities being executed by them, on the portal. NHAI will review the submissions and accordingly rate a vendor.



67. Piyush Goyal e-launched “National GIS-enabled Land Bank system”

Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal e-launched the National GIS-enabled Land Bank system (<https://iis.ncog.gov.in/parks>). The system is developed by integration of Industrial Information System (IIS) with State GIS Systems. This is a prototype only and will be developed further with inputs from states, to make it an effective mechanism of land identification and procurement.



IIS portal is a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas/clusters across the states. More than 3,300 industrial parks across 31 States/UTs covering about 4,75,000 hectare land have been mapped on the System. Information available includes forest, drainage; raw material heat maps (agricultural, horticulture, mineral layers); multiple layers of connectivity.

68. Central Government to fund 112 startups to promote Agri firms

The Central Government will spend 12 crore rupees for funding 112 startups to promote agri firms in the current financial year. The funds will be given to the start-ups selected by different knowledge partners and agribusiness incubators in the area of agro-processing, food technology and value addition.

The funds will be provided under the Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship Development Programme launched under the revamped Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. These start-ups were trained for two months at 29 agri-business incubation centres spread across the country.



69. Government launches contest “Chunauti” to promote startups in small towns

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched “Chunauti”- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of the country. The government has earmarked a budget of over Rs. 95 crore over a period of three years for this programme.

The programme aims at identifying around three hundred startups working in identified areas and providing them seed funds of upto Rs. 25 lakh and other facilities.



Persons in News

1. US imposed sanctions on Syrian President's eldest son

The US State Department has imposed sanctions on Syrian President Bashar Assad's eldest son, Hafez, keeping up pressure on the leader and his inner circle. The US Treasury Department also announced, it imposed sanctions on prominent Syrian businessman Wassim al-Qattan and nine entities for enriching the Syrian regime through construction of luxury real estate.

The Treasury sanctions are the result of legislation known as the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, named after the pseudonym of a Syrian policeman, who turned over photographs of thousands of victims of torture by the Assad Government.



2. Harmanpreet Kaur and Suresh Raina appointed as global brand ambassadors of WTF Sports

Indian Women's Cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Suresh Raina have been appointed as global brand ambassadors of fantasy sports gaming platform WTF Sports-India and Global. The company has appointed Raina as a strategic partner too.

The WTF Sports was founded in July 2020. The app features three major sports (fantasy cricket, fantasy football and fantasy basketball). A fantasy sport is a type of game, often played using the Internet, where participants assemble imaginary or virtual teams of real players of a professional sport.



3. Dwayne Johnson tops Forbes Highest Paid Actors list

Wrestler-turned-actor, Dwayne Johnson, has topped the Forbes list of the highest-paid actors of 2020 with \$87.5million of earnings. Ryan Reynolds was second in the list with \$71.5 million. Mark Wahlberg, Ben Affleck and Vin Diesel completed the top five list.

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar was sixth in the list with earnings of \$48.5 million. For the first time ever, the outcome has been greatly affected by Netflix. Netflix checks make up 25% of the \$545.5 million made by the group as a whole.



4. Harbhajan Singh roped in as new Brand Ambassador of eBikeGO

Amritsar based e-mobility start-up, eBikeGO appointed Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh as its brand ambassador. With this, eBikeGo not only aims to have an active presence across India but also to build a mass appeal for the adoption of electric mobility, as per Indian government's new Electric Vehicle (EV) policy.

Electric Vehicle (EV) policy will help in decreasing pollution and encourage usage of e-vehicles. Founded by Irfan Khan, eBikeGo is an electric bike rental startup that provides an economical and environment-friendly travelling option at the cost of Rs 80 per day.



5. Abhijeet Paul's 'Am I' won first prize in Online Patriotic Short Film Contest

A Short film titled 'Am I?' directed by Abhijeet Paul won the first prize and a cash award of Rs. 1 lakh in the Online Patriotic Short Film Contest organised by the Ministry Of Information and Broadcasting along with National Film Development Corporation, NFDC.

'Ab India Banega Bharat' directed by Debojo Sanjiv got the second prize and a cash award of Rs. 50 thousand and '10 Rupees' directed by Yuvraj Gokul got the third prize and a cash award of Rs. 25 thousand. Eight short films have got Special Mention Certificates.



6. Oakley appointed Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador in India

Performance sports eyewear brand Oakley appointed cricketer Rohit Sharma as its new brand ambassador in India for a period of two years. As a part of the partnership, Sharma will be sporting Oakley eyewear equipped with patented Prizm technology created specifically for sports lenses.

Oakley has been operating in India since 2009 and has over 2,000 retail stores across multi-brand outlets. Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and Milind Soman have endorsed the brand before.



7. Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash bagged Gold Medal in MCWC

Hyderabad's, Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonnalagadda bagged the first-ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations World Cup. He scored 167 points and won gold medal whereas, his Lebanese contender Mohammed El Mir scored 102 points and won the silver medal followed by UAE's Asmita Pal scored 100 points and won bronze medal. Mental Calculations World Cup (MCWC) was organised by Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO).



Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash created a new all-time record by beating the records of math maestros like Shakuntala Devi and Scott Flansburg.

Places in News

1. Chhattisgarh's Bijapur topped NITI Aayog's aspirational districts ranking

Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by government think-tank Niti Aayog for the February-June 2020 period. Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh) achieved the second position and third position respectively. The rankings were based on six developmental areas during February-June 2020.

NITI Aayog's aspirational districts ranking aims to transform districts, that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas and have emerged as pockets of under-development.



2. "Thenzawl Golf Resort" virtually inaugurated

Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (Independent charge) Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated the "Thenzawl Golf Resort" Project in Mizoram. It is the first golf course of Mizoram.

The project was approved under the "Integrated Development of New Eco Tourism" of Swadesh Darshan under Ministry of Tourism. It was constructed by Edufice Infraservices Private Limited of New Delhi at a cost of nearly Rs. 64.48 Crore. The total site area is 105 acres and the play area is 75 acres.



3. Indore won cleanest city in country award in Swachh Survekshan 2020

Indore emerged as the cleanest city of India for the fourth consecutive time, leaving behind 4,242 cities of the country. Bhopal has been selected as Best Self Sustainable Capital with inclusion in the top-10.

Surat in Gujarat and Navi Mumbai of Maharashtra grabbed the second and the third spot on the list. Among the small cities, Karad, Sasvad and Lonavala - all from Maharashtra, held the top three positions.



4. Death Valley records hottest temperature in a century

A thermometer at Death Valley's Furnace Creek in the Southern California desert has recorded 54.4 degrees Celsius temperature, making it the highest temperature in more than a century. The US National Weather Service was yet to verify the recorded temperature.

Death Valley's all-time record high, according to the World Meteorological Organization, is (56.7°C) taken on July 10, 1913 at Greenland Ranch. The current heatwave stretches from Arizona in the south-west, up the coast to Washington State in the north-west.



5. India's longest river ropeway inaugurated in Assam

The Assam government inaugurated a 1.8-km-long ropeway over the Brahmaputra, connecting Guwahati to North Guwahati to reduce travel time and promote tourism in the State by providing a breathtaking view of the mighty Brahmaputra. It is built at the cost of Rs. 56 crore.

The ropeway comprises of two cabins, each with a capacity of 30 passengers and one operator. It is one of the most advanced & longest river crossing Aerial Tramway systems in India.



6. Ahmedabad Railway Division launched first of its kind baggage sanitization & wrapping machine

Ahmedabad Railway Division has successfully introduced a unique concept of Baggage Sanitization and Wrapping at Ahmedabad Railway Station. It is a first of its kind across the Indian Railways. The machine has been set up on around 69 sq meters space.

The baggage sanitization and wrapping machine ensure 360 degree sanitization of the luggage by using ultra violet radiation. There are no harmful effects of UV rays on tiffins, food, vegetables or water kept in the baggage. This service will be voluntary for passengers for which they will have to pay charge upto 80 rupees depending upon the size and weight of the luggage.



7. NCPUL organised “World Urdu Conference” in New Delhi

The two days World Urdu Conference was organised by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) in New Delhi. Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' addressed the conference. A webinar was conducted to celebrate the quintessential spirit of Urdu, its inclusive ethos and creative character.

The National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language is an autonomous regulatory body responsible for the regulation of Urdu. NCPUL has become the biggest Urdu networking hub in the world.



8. Famous art of 'Etikoppaka' dolls of Visakhapatnam district finds a place in "Mann ki Baat"

The famous art of 'Etikoppaka' dolls of Visakhapatnam district found a mention in the "Mann ki Baat" programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Prime Minister made a special mention of the famous Etikoppaka dolls saying that the toys would be useful to unleash the creativity in children in the current Pandemic situation.



Etikoppaka is a small village on the banks of Varaha River in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh, India. In 2017, the traditional Etikoppaka toys acquired a Geographical Indications (GI) tag. Toys are made of soft wood and lacquer color.

Regional

1. Andhra Pradesh government launched 'E-Raksha Bandhan'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched 'E-Raksha Bandhan' campaign. It is aimed at creating public awareness on cyber crimes against women and children. The programme is jointly developed by Andhra Pradesh Police and Crime Investigation Department.

The month-long campaign would be conducted through online sessions in the form of webinars, workshops, competition, covering different topics related to cybercrime. The Andhra Pradesh police have also launched a new cybercrime portal to facilitate victims/complainants to report cybercrime complaints online.



2. BSNL launched Bharat Air Fibre services in Maharashtra

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) launched 'Bharat Air Fibre' services at Akola in Maharashtra as a part of the government's digital India initiative. It will allow the residents of Akola and Washim districts to get wireless internet connections on demand.

The service will provide wireless connectivity in the range of 20kms from BSNL locations through local business partners. The Bharat Air Fibre Services also aims at giving a push to the PM Modi's call for a 'self-reliant India' or 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.



3. Rajasthan government started Indira Rasoi Yojana

Rajasthan state government has started the Indira Rasoi Yojana. The estimated budget of the scheme is Rs. 100 crore per year. Under the scheme, the poor would get quality nutritious food for just Rs. 8.

The scheme will benefit 4.87 crore people every year. A menu of 100 grams of pulses, 100 grams of vegetables, 250 grams of chapati and pickles has been set in the food. The beneficiary will get the information through SMS on the mobile as soon as he takes the coupon.



4. Chhattisgarh launched social security scheme for tendu leaves collectors

Chhattisgarh state government launched a social security scheme for tendu leaves collectors. The scheme has been named Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahak Samajik Suraksha Yojana in the memory of slain Congress leader Mahendra Karma.

Under the scheme, the government will give Rs. 2 lakh to the nominee or the heir in case of normal death of the head of the family of the registered tendu leaves collectors (if the age of the head of the family is not beyond 50 years).



5. First-of-its-kind COVID-19 mobile testing lab launched in Karnataka

The Karnataka Government launched a mobile COVID-19 lab, developed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). It is the first ICMR-approved mobile RT-PCR Covid-19 testing laboratory in India. 9,000 RT-PCR (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) tests can be performed in the lab per month.

MITR (Mobile Infection Testing and Reporting) lab by IISc has been handed over to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS). The lab can also be used for testing H1N1, HCV, TB, HPV and HIV among others.



6. Assam council of ministers approved Assam Non-Government Education Institutions Rules 2020

The council of ministers of Assam approved the Assam Non-Government Education Institutions (Regulation of Fees) Rules 2020 to regulate the fees structure of the private educational institutes. The council of ministers meeting also approved the Assam Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) scheme 2020.

The meeting decided to implement 'Uberization' scheme of Assam State Transport Corporation and create two new companies of State Disaster Response Force.



7. Gujarat announced Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana for current Kharif season

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana for the current Kharif season. Under this scheme, all farmers of the state will be covered for insurance of crops without paying any premium.

The state government will pay Rs.5,700 crore premium of crop insurance per season per year. Farmers who must have already paid the premium for the existing scheme will get it refund. Tribal farmers are also included in this scheme contrary to the previous in which they were excluded.



8. Maharashtra united with Google to start virtual classes

Maharashtra became first state to launch a project that intends to start virtual classes through G Suite for Education and Google Classroom. Maharashtra government has tied up with Google to provide online education to students in the state via Google Suite and Classroom applications.

The project will cover over 1.09 lakh government, private, aided, and unaided schools, and benefit over 22.03 million students. Teachers and students can interact through Google Meet to facilitate remote learning and digital education ecosystem.



9. Delhi government launched new “Electric Vehicle Policy”

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched 'Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy'. There is already the Centre's scheme on electric vehicles called 'Fame India Phase-2', under which the Union government also provides some incentives.

The highlights are as follows:

- It will waive registration fee and road tax, and provide incentive of up to Rs. 1.5 lakh for new cars.
- Provision of incentive of up to Rs.30,000 for two-wheelers, autos, e-rickshaws and freight vehicles and up to Rs.1.5 lakh for cars.
- It aims to constitute 25% electric vehicles by 2024 and reduce pollution levels.
- Setting up 200 charging stations within the radius of three kilometers.



10. Flipkart signed MoU with the Uttar Pradesh Government's ODOP scheme

Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace signed MoU with the One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. As part of this MoU, artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme will be brought into the ambit of the Flipkart Samarth initiative.

The One District One Product scheme was introduced to give a boost to the MSME sector while preserving and promoting the exquisite, indigenous legacy of art in Uttar Pradesh. Flipkart Samarth will enable them to break entry barriers by extending time-bound incubation support such as, free cataloguing, marketing, account management and warehousing support.



11. HP government launched Nutritional Immunity Boosting 'Him Haldi Dugh'

Himachal Pradesh state government launched Nutritional Immunity Boosting 'Him Haldi Dugh' (Turmeric Latte) manufactured by MILKFED. Him Haldi Dugh has been developed by the Bio Technology Department of Punjabi University Patiala and has been patented. This drink is a Detox drink which has anti-hangover, anti-oxidant, anti-inflammatory and immunity booster contents in it.



Under the National Diary Development Programme, MILKFED transferred Rs 2,000 each to the accounts of 835 milk producers as incentive amount. It also distributed 5 litre stainless steel buckets to 1,000 milk producers for collection and transportation of milk for marketing.

12. Assam government to roll out Arunodoi scheme in state

With an aim to provide financial assistance to around 17 lakh families, the Assam government is all set to roll out Arunodoi scheme in the state from 2nd of October. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 830 will be given to eligible families per month to buy essential food items. This will be the largest Direct Benefit Transfer scheme in Assam.

15 to 17 thousand families would be benefited per assembly constituency by this scheme. The Assam government will bear Rs. 210 crore per month for the Arunodoi scheme.



13. CM Pema Khandu launched Arunachal Pradesh Challenge Entrepreneurship Programme

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched the Arunachal Pradesh Challenge Entrepreneurship Programme on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day. The programme seeks to support and encourage local youths to become job creators than job seekers.

IIM Calcutta Innovation Park has been given the mandate to run the Programme as a knowledge partner. The Programme will be rolled out in four stages--Arunachal Pradesh Entrepreneurship Challenge, Pre-Incubation, Incubation, and Livelihood Accelerator.



14. Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio launched 'Yellow Chain' e-commerce platform

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launched the "Yellow Chain" e-commerce platform on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day celebrations. The platform is a single window e-commerce platform developed to promote local business and entrepreneurship in the State.

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.



15. Odisha emerged as number one investment destination in the country

Odisha has emerged as the number one investment destination in the country. During the last 6 months, the State has received an investment proposal worth Rs. 12,000 crore. Odisha accounted 18% of the total investments made in the country in the last six months.

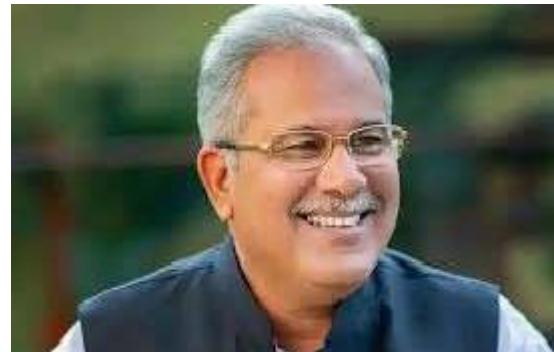
The agricultural growth rate in the State has clocked 7.61%, which is far ahead of the national average of 2.80%. Odisha has topped the nation for 4th consecutive time in building roads under PMGSY. Around 5,298.43kms of roads were built in the state in 2019-20.



16. Chhattisgarh state government launched “Padhai Tuhar Para” scheme

Chhattisgarh government launched a student centric scheme named as "Padhai Tuhar Para" on 15th August, Independence Day. Under this scheme, school students will be able to learn in their respective localities in view of the suspension of classes, due to the coronavirus outbreak and benefit around 2.2 million children.

It is an online education platform, where a Bluetooth-based programme called Bultu ke Bol will provide study materials to students



in remote areas with no access to the Internet.

17. Delhi Police signed a MoU with All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)

The Delhi Police has signed a MoU with the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) for extending ayurvedic mode of preventive and promotive health services in the residential colonies of Delhi Police. AIIA will provide the services through a mobile unit named 'Dhanwantari Rath' and Police Wellness Centres.

AIIA and Delhi Police had earlier joined hands for AYURAKSHA. It helped maintained the health of frontline COVID warriors like Delhi police personal, through Ayurveda immunity boosting measures.



in remote areas with no access to the Internet.

18. Arunachal Pradesh to provide tap water to all rural homes by 2023

Arunachal Pradesh State Government plans to provide 100% tap water connections to all the households in the State by 2023 under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Tough mountainous terrain and harsh climatic conditions are major challenges in Arunachal Pradesh to implement JJM.

The Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019 to provide functional household tap connections to every rural household of the country by 2024. The goal of the Mission is to assure availability of potable water at a service level of 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd) on a regular and long-term basis.



19. UP joined hands with Israel to resolve Bundelkhand water crisis

The state government of Uttar Pradesh has signed a 'plan of co-operation' with Israel to resolve water crisis in Bundelkhand region. The India – Israel – Bundelkhand Water Project comprises three key components including water conservation, water efficient transportation and advanced water practices for agriculture.

In the first phase, 25 villages in Babina block of Jhansi district had been selected. The agreement has been signed for two years and could be extended later.



20. Karnataka set to be the first state to implement National Education Policy 2020

Karnataka is set to be the first state to implement National Education Policy. The National Education Policy, 2020 aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives and provide comprehensive framework for both school and higher education across the country. The new policy would make high-quality education available to all students.

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July, 2020, replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986.



21. Gujarat topped in first ever Export Preparedness index 2020 released by NITI Aayog

Gujarat topped the first ever Export Preparedness index 2020 released by NITI Aayog. It is the first of its kind index on the lines of ease of doing business ranking, which has ranked all the states and Union Territories on various parameters of export preparedness and competitiveness.

The first ranking in export preparedness index is the reflections of policy decisions taken by Gujarat Government under the

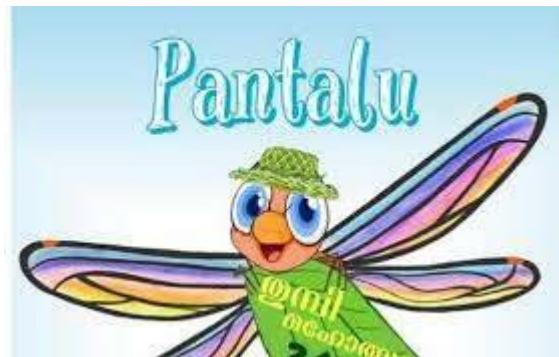


leadership of Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. Gujarat had also topped the ranking of the World Bank's ease of doing business earlier.

22. Kerala to organise first-ever dragonfly festival

WWF-India Kerala State Office united with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuram for the first-ever state Dragonfly Festival in Kerala named as Thumbimahotsavam 2020. 'Pantalu' is the official mascot of the festival.

Various webinars, training sessions, ecotourism activities, show of 'Dragonfly Backyard Watch' and session on spreading awareness on dragonflies will be organised by WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society and Indian Dragonfly Society in association with National Biodiversity Board, UN Environmental Programme, UN Development Programme and IUCN-CEC.



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23. E-auction portal rolled out to promote trading of 'Kashmir Saffron'

Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture department has created an e-auction portal to promote trading of GI-tagged 'Kashmir Saffron'. The Department, under the aegis of India International Kashmir Saffron Trading Centre (IIKSTC), has created the portal in collaboration with NSE-IT, with the sole motive to assure buyers to have access to quality 'Kashmir Saffron'.



The Saffron growers of Kashmir valley and buyers across India have been requested to register themselves as sellers and buyers for E- trading on www.saffroneauctionindia.com, so that, hassle free e-Trading between registered growers and buyers is ensured.

24. Arunachal Pradesh assembly passed resolution to bring state under Sixth Schedule

The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly passed a resolution to bring the state under the ambit of Sixth Schedule of the Constitution besides amending Article 371(H) by including provisions to safeguard tribes of the state. It is a historic resolution moved by the State Government.

The resolution which was moved by Legislative Affairs Minister Bamang Felix on behalf of the State Government was passed



by voice vote following a discussion in the house.

25. Uttar Pradesh government launched NRI unified portal

Uttar Pradesh state government launched an ambitious NRI unified portal. This portal would not only help in investment in the state, but also, provide an opportunity for those who want to go abroad. The portal would also prove helpful to overseas Indians and NRIs to get their problems with the local administration or the State Government resolved.

The website - nri.up.gov.in - will also provide a platform for NRIs who are keen to know about their roots or those seeking help from the UP Government related to their homes or families in the state.



26. Kerala to build India's first International Women Trade Centre

Kerala announced to set up India's first international women's trade centre (iWTC). It will enable women entrepreneurs to come forward and participate in international trade. With this initiative women entrepreneurs can start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.

iWTC will be built in association with United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 are a collection of 17 global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all".



27. Kerala government commissioned first marine ambulance

Kerala government commissioned first marine ambulance of the state named 'Pratheeeksha'. It has been built by the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and deployed at Vizhinjam. It was built at a cost of Rs 6.08 crore.

The marine ambulance will help save lives of fishermen during accidents at sea. It can provide critical care to five persons at a time and bed for ten others. The other two boats to be commissioned as marine ambulance are 'Prathyasha' and 'Karunya'.



Reports

1. 15th Finance Commission's HLEG on Agricultural Exports submitted report

The High Level Group (HLEG) on Agricultural Exports set up by the Fifteenth Finance Commission submitted its report to the Commission. The HLEG was set up to recommend measurable performance incentives for states to encourage agricultural exports and to promote crops to enable high import substitution.

The recommendations include demand driven approach and focus on 22 crop value chains, creation of state led export plan with participation from all stakeholders and that private sector players should play an anchor role in driving outcomes and execution of the agricultural export plan.



2. Third edition of the 'Elephants. Not commodities' report

The international animal welfare organisation, World Animal Protection, released the third edition of the report - "Elephants. Not commodities" on the occasion of World Elephant Day. As per the report, over 200 elephants in India are kept in "severely inadequate conditions".

According to the report, India is home to the second highest number of elephants used in tourism in Asia. 21 such venues house 509 elephants. The report covered venues across Thailand, India, Laos, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.



3. IIT Madras ranked number-one in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained its number-one position in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India for the second consecutive year. The premier institute has been ranked number-one in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements'.

The ranking was launched by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. 674 Institutions of National Importance, Central Universities and centrally funded technical institutions participated in the rankings this year, as compared to 496 last year.



4. India ranks first in number of organic farmers

India ranks first in the number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming. Sikkim became the first state to become fully organic.

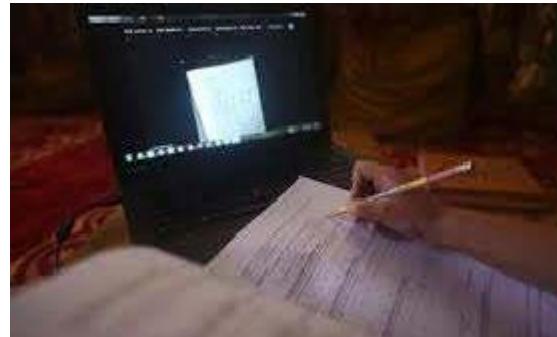


The Government initiated Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD) and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in 2015 to encourage chemical free farming. It also aims at assisting farmers to adopt organic farming and improve remunerations due to premium prices.

5. NCERT survey reports 27% students lack smartphones, laptops for online classes

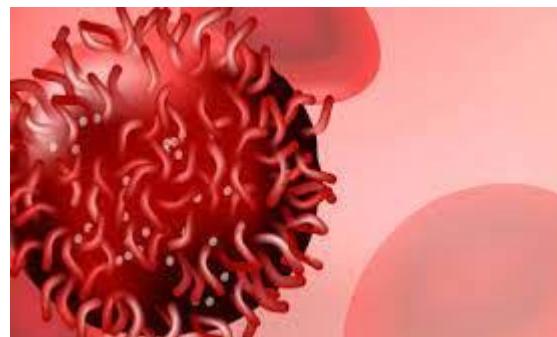
According to a survey by the NCERT, minimum 27% students do not have access to smartphones or laptops to attend online classes. 28% students and parents believe intermittent or lack of electricity is one of the major concerns hindering teaching-learning.

36% students used the textbooks and other books available with them. Laptops were the second most favoured option amongst teachers and principals. The majority of the participants pointed out that mathematics as a subject was difficult to learn through online.



6. ICMR released National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR), Bengaluru released National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020. According to the report, cancer cases in India are likely to increase by 12% to 15.6 lakhs by 2025.



The key findings of the report are as follows:

- Tobacco-related cancers are estimated to contribute 27.1% of the total cancer burden.
- Breast cancers are estimated to contribute 14.8% and cervical cancer 5.4%.
- Cancers of the gastrointestinal tract are estimated to contribute 19.7% of the total cancer burden.

7. India filed less than 1% of patents filed across the world in 2019

Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) unveiled that India filed less than 1% of the global patent applications with total filings of 2,053 in 2019. China topped with 58,990 applications, making up for as many as 22% of the global filings, followed by U.S.A. with 57,840 applications at second position. Japan with 52,660 applications at third position and Germany with 19,353 applications at fourth position.



WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and co-operation. It is one of the 15 specialised agencies of the United Nations.

8. Global tourism lost USD 320bn due to coronavirus

United Nation had surveyed that the tourism global industry has been devastated by the coronavirus pandemic, with USD 320 billion lost in exports in the first five months of the year 2020 and more than 120 million jobs are at risk. The international tourist arrivals decreased by more than half and earnings plummeted.



The tourism is the third-largest export sector of the global economy, behind fuels and chemicals, and in 2019 it accounted for 7 % of global trade.

9. NITI Aayog released Export Preparedness Index 2020

NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. EPI unveiled that most Indian states performed well on average across the sub-pillars of Exports Diversification, Transport Connectivity and Infrastructure. Overall, most of the Coastal States are the best performers. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu occupied the top three ranks.



EPI intends to identify challenges and opportunities; enhance the effectiveness of government policies and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework. Export Preparedness Index evaluates states' potentials and capacities.

10. Tamil Nadu women topped the list of MUDRA loan scheme

Ministry of Finance unveiled in its statistical data that Tamil Nadu state topped the list of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) in availing loans to women. West Bengal and Karnataka secured second and third position. Tamil Nadu state had provided Mudra loans of upto Rs. 58,227 crores to women as on 31st March, 2020 whereas, women of West Bengal availed Rs. 55,232 crores loan and women of Karnataka state availed Rs. 47,714 crores loan.



The Government of India launched Prime Minister Mudra Yojana in 2015. The loans are availed to activities allied to agriculture, services, trading, processing, manufacturing, etc.

Resignations & Retirements

1. Domestic all-rounder Rajat Bhatia announced retirement

Famous Indian domestic all-rounder and former Kolkata Knight Riders star Rajat Bhatia announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He played 112 First-class matches representing Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Uttarakhand. He scored 6482 runs at an average of 49.10 and took 137 wickets. He also played 119 List A games and 146 T20s.

Rajat won Ranji Trophy for Delhi in 2007-08 and the IPL in 2012 with KKR team. He represented various other teams of IPL such as Delhi Daredevils, Rajasthan Royals, Kolkata Knight Riders and Rising Pune Super-giants.



2. World Cup winner Benedikt Höwedes announced retirement

Benedikt Höwedes of Germany announced to retire from football. He was a defender in the German national football team that won the World Cup title in 2014. He played 44 games for his national team from 2011-17 and played for his team at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Höwedes was also one of three German players, who played every minute of all seven World Cup games, alongside goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and captain Philipp Lahm. He played for Schalke club from 2007-18. He moved to Russia with Lokomotiv in 2018. He captained Schalke for six seasons.



3. Former Real Madrid and Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas announced retirement

Former Real Madrid and Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas announced retirement at the age of 39 years. He was Spain's World Cup-winning captain in 2010. He also helped Spain win two successive European Championships in 2008 and 2012.

Casillas made 725 appearances for Real Madrid and won three Champions League titles and five La Liga crowns. Casillas was last playing for Spanish club Porto, which he joined in 2015. However, he has not played since suffering a heart attack, during the training in April 2019.



4. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor GC Murmu resigned

Girish Chandra Murmu has resigned as Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He has now been appointed as the CAG of India. Murmu officially took charge as the first L-G of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir on October 31, 2019, under the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organisation Act, 2019.

Mr Murmu is a 1985 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of the Gujarat cadre. Prior to his appointment as LG of J&K, he was the expenditure secretary in the Ministry of Finance.



5. Lebanon's PM Hassan Diab resigned

Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab has resigned from his post in the wake of major blast in Beirut that has triggered public outrage. The Prime Minister's resignation follows a weekend of anti-government protests after the August 4 explosion in Beirut's port. President Michel Aoun has accepted the resignation of the Diab government.

Diab's government was formed in January 2020 after his predecessor, Saad Hariri, stepped down in October 2019 in response to the demonstrations.



6. Isher Judge Ahluwalia resigned as ICRIER Chairperson

Isher Judge Ahluwalia has stepped down as Chairperson of think tank Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). She had been at the helm for 15 years. Isher will continue as Chairperson Emeritus as a honour for her exceptional contributions to the Council.

Isher Judge Ahluwalia was awarded Padma Bhushan by the President of India in the year 2009, for her services in the field of education and literature. Dr. Ahluwalia was Chairperson of the High Powered Expert Committee on Urban.



7. MS Dhoni and Suresh Raina announced retirement from International Cricket

Former Indian Cricket Team Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni announced his retirement from International Cricket. Under his captaincy, India won the 2007 ICC World T-20, the 2010 and 2016 Asia Cups, the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup and the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy.

Suresh Raina has also announced his retirement from International Cricket. A member of India's 2011 World Cup-winning squad, Raina featured in 18 Tests and 226 ODIs, apart from playing in 78 T20Is.



8. Ashok Lavasa resigned as Election Commissioner

Ashok Lavasa has resigned as the Election Commissioner of India. He will join the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its new Vice-President in September. The ADB has appointed Ashok Lavasa as vice-president for Private Sector Operations and Public-Private Partnerships. Mr. Lavasa will succeed Diwakar Gupta in ADB.

Lavasa was appointed as Election Commissioner on January 23, 2018. He is a 1980 batch IAS officer of Haryana cadre and retired as Finance Secretary.



9. Mali's President resigned following a military coup

Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita resigned after the military seized him from his home as part of a coup. The President along with PM Boubou Cissé were detained by the military.

Mr Keïta won a second term in elections in 2018. However, the country was going through anger over corruption, the mismanagement of the economy and a dispute over legislative elections. The mutinous soldiers identified themselves as the National Committee for the Salvation of the People (NCSP).



10. England woman cricketer Laura Marsh announced retirement

England off-spinner, Laura Marsh, announced her retirement from international cricket. During her 13-year international career, she represented England in 103 ODIs, 67 T20Is and 9 Tests. She is the most successful England Women spinner ever, with 217 international wickets.

Laura was also famously a part of three World Cup-winning teams, lifting the ICC Women's World Cup in 2009 and 2017, and the ICC Women's World Twenty20 trophy at Lord's, also in 2009.



11. Australia all-rounder Cameron White announced retirement

Australian all-rounder Cameron White announced retirement from all forms of professional cricket. He played 91 ODIs and 47 T20Is, leading the limited-overs team in seven international games. He scored 146 runs in Tests, 2072 in ODIs, 984 T20I runs and had over 10,000 runs in first-class cricket.

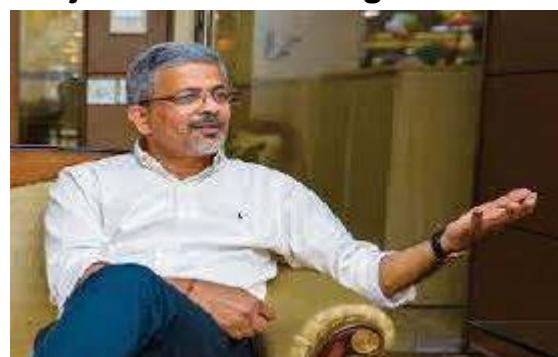
White is known for being best middle order batsman and right-arm leg-spin bowler. In domestic cricket, Cameron scored 10,537 first-class runs from 177 games at an average of 39.91.



12. Indian Energy Exchange MD & CEO Rajiv Srivastava resigned

Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Rajiv Srivastava resigned from his post. Satyanarayan Goel, the current non-executive chairman of the board of IEX was given additional charge as the interim MD and CEO of the company.

Indian Energy Exchange Limited (IEX) is India's power trading platform regulated by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. It enables efficient price discovery and increases the accessibility and transparency of the power market in India, while also, enhancing the speed and efficiency of trade execution.



13. Indian Table Tennis star Poulomi Ghatak announced retirement

Poulomi Ghatak, one of the most successful Indian table tennis players, who represented India at various international levels, announced retirement. She had won three junior national championships (1996, 1998 and 1999), seven senior national championships between 1998 and 2016, won gold medal at SAF Games 2006, National Championships 2006 and at National Championship, 2007.



Poulomi is ranked 22nd amongst women players in India as per the 2018 rankings of the Table Tennis Federation of India. She was honored with Arjuna award in 2009.

14. Kevin Mayer resigned as CEO of TikTok

Kevin Mayer, the chief executive of TikTok resigned from the post. The resignation follows President Donald Trump's order to ban TikTok unless its parent company, ByteDance, sells its US operations to an American company within 90 days. Kevin Mayer had joined TikTok in May 2020 after resigning as Disney executive.



TikTok, known in China as Douyin, is a video-sharing social networking service owned by ByteDance, a Beijing-based Internet technology company. It is for creating short-form mobile videos.

15. Bryan brothers announced retirement from the sport

Veteran men's doubles pair in tennis history, Mike Bryan and Bob Bryan have announced their retirement from the sport. They had created historical Open Era record of 119 trophies in 26 seasons, including all four Grand Slams, all nine ATP Masters 1000s and the Olympic gold medal.



Bryan brothers are the only doubles pairing in history to have completed the "Double Career Grand Slam", having won all four Grand Slam titles at least twice as a team. They were named ATP Team of the Decade for 2000–2009[5] and for 2010–2019.

16. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe resigned

Japanese PM Shinzo Abe has resigned on account of health reasons. He is the longest serving prime minister of Japan. He was first appointed to office in 2012. He had also served as PM for a short period between July 2006 to September 2007, making him the youngest PM when he was elected at the age of 52.

Abe has been a firm conservative politician and is known for his nationalist policies. Abe's tenure will particularly be known for his aggressive economic policies known as 'Abenomics'. Abe became the first Japanese prime minister to attend India's Republic Day parade.

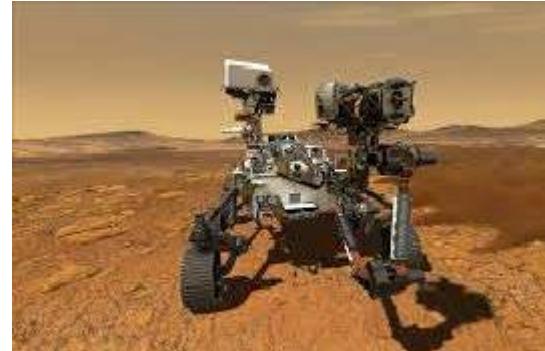


Science & Technology

1. NASA, ULA launched Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover Mission to Red Planet

A United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket with NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover onboard was launched from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The Perseverance rover is part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program, a long-term effort of robotic exploration of the Red Planet.

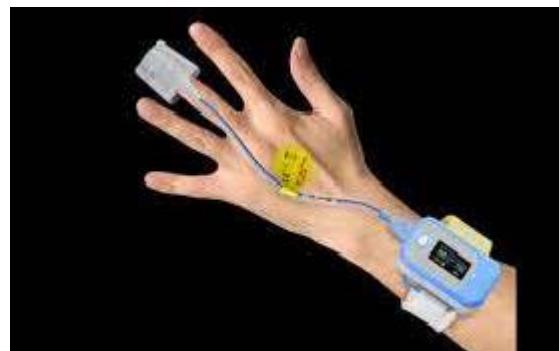
NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission is on its way to the Red Planet to search for signs of ancient life and collect samples to send back to Earth. The rover's technologies for entry, descent, and landing also will provide information to advance future human missions to Mars.



2. IIT-M Startup developed wrist-worn health monitoring device for Covid-19

A healthcare Startup at IIT-Madras has developed a device called OXY2 jointly with HELYXON. OXY2 is now commercially available. It serves as a remote patient monitoring solution.

OXY2 is portable, wireless and can be clipped on to patient's finger and data is streamed to a mobile phone (via bluetooth) or central monitoring system (from phone to system via internet). The temperature is measured at the user's armpit, whereas blood oxygen level, and other parameters are measured at the finger.



3. Two NASA Astronauts safely splash down from ISS

Two NASA astronauts, Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley, splashed down safely in the Gulf of Mexico for the first time in a commercially built and operated American crew spacecraft. The crew returned from the International Space Station to complete a test flight.

The Demo-2 test flight is SpaceX's final test flight and is providing data on the performance of the Falcon 9 rocket, Crew Dragon spacecraft and ground systems, as well as in-orbit, docking, splashdown, and recovery operations.



4. Microwave device 'Atulya' to disintegrate novel Coronavirus unveiled

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari unveiled a microwave device named 'Atulya'. It can disinfect any premises in just 30 seconds, disintegrating COVID-19 virus. Certified by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and based on French and American standards, the device is 100% Made in India and has been manufactured under the aegis of the MSME.

'Atulya' microwave like device can be used to disinfect any premises up to five metres area.

The device disintegrates the COVID-19 virus with the help of differential heating in the range of 56 to 60 degrees Celsius temperatures.



5. ISRO, IISc Bengaluru develop sustainable process to make space bricks on lunar surface

In a significant step towards space exploration, a team of researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has developed a sustainable process to make space bricks on the lunar surface. The process enables making load bearing bricks by using lunar soil, bacteria and guar beans.

Named as space bricks, it could be used to assemble structures for habitation on the moon surface in future. The process developed now uses urea sourced from human urine, which could be mixed with lunar soil to build structures on the moon.



6. Chandrayaan 2 Orbiter has captured the Moon images of “Sarabhai” Crater

Chandrayaan-2 has captured images of the Moon and one of the craters has been named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian space programme. The Sarabhai Crater is around 250 to 300 kilometres east of the crater, where the Apollo 17 and Luna 21 Missions had landed.

The Sarabhai Crater, captured in 3D images, shows that it has a depth of around 1.7 kilometres taken from its raised rim and the slope of crater walls is between 25 to 35 degrees.



7. Astronomers discover ‘Baby’ Galaxy 12 billion light years away

Astronomers have discovered the most distant look-alike galaxy of our Milky Way. The galaxy called SPT0418-47 is 12 billion light-years away from earth. The astronomers used Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA Radio Telescope) located in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile.

The research was led by Francesca Rizzo of the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Germany. The research was published in a peer-reviewed journal Nature. The SPT0418-47 has a rotating flat disk similar to our galaxy.



8. DIAT, Pune launched “Pavitrapati” and “Aushada Tara”

Pune based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, DIAT (DU) developed a Nanofibres of Ayurvedic based Biodegradable Face Mask, which acts as a virus neutraliser to resist against the bacteria / virus, and has named “Pavitrapati”. DIAT has signed Transfer of Technology agreement with Kolhapur based Textile Company M/s. Siddheshwar Techtessile Pvt. Ltd.

DIAT has also developed anti-microbial body suit in the name of “Aushada tara”. This suit has superhydrophobic, breathing, anti-microbial, comfort feeling properties.



9. Chandrayaan-2 completed 1 year around moon

India’s second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 has completed a year around the moon in the lunar orbit. The orbiter has completed 4,400 orbits around the moon and all its instruments are currently performing well.

Chandrayaan-2 acquired images consisting of nearly 4 million sq. km area of moon surface. It also has images of Balmer-Kapteyn (B-K) basin region, which is located on the east limb of the moon. Chandrayaan-2 was launched for detailed studies of topography, mineralogy, surface chemical composition etc.



10. China launched fifth Gaofen-9 series Earth observation satellite

China launched its latest Gaofen-9 Earth observation satellite and two smaller payloads from the Jiuquan launch center. Gaofen-9 is a multi-functional optical remote-sensing test satellite and is developed by the People's Liberation Army. Gaofen is meant for verifying new technologies related to communications, navigation, and remote sensing and provide all-weather, all-day coverage.



The China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) confirmed the launch mission success and the payloads. Gaofen (GF) is a series of Chinese civilian remote sensing satellites for the state-sponsored program China High-definition Earth Observation System (CHEOS).

11. ASTROSAT detected UV light from a galaxy, 9.3 billion light-years away

Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) confirmed that AstroSat, India's first multi-wavelength satellite, has detected an extreme ultraviolet (UV) light from a galaxy, which is 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth. AstroSat is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously.

AstroSat has five unique X-ray and ultraviolet telescopes working in tandem. The team comprised of scientists from India, France, Switzerland, the USA, Japan and The Netherlands, observed the galaxy.



Switzerland, the USA, Japan and The Netherlands, observed the galaxy.

12. ISRO signed MoU with VSSUT to set up Space Innovation-cum-Incubation Centre

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla in Odisha to set up a Space Innovation-cum-Incubation Centre. VSSUT became the first University in the country to sign such MoU with ISRO.

As part of the agreement, ISRO will offer technical consultancy support and financial assistance of Rs. 50 lakh to the VSSUT for development of infrastructure. A 'sounding rocket', developed by the VSSUT Innovation Club of the institute had found a place in the Limca Book of Records.



13. IIT Alumni Council signed MOU with Russia for building Quantum Computers

Indian Institute of Technology's (IIT) Alumni Council signed an agreement with Russia's Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) and Russoft, to build the world's largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India. This will support solutions for solving infrastructure challenges in the areas of healthcare, agriculture, transport and logistics, pollution and weather forecast to achieve the mission of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.



Under this agreement, the Russian state-owned companies will transfer critical modules in cryogenics, cryptography and modularised cloud management technology to IIT Alumni Council. Currently, IIT Alumni Council has 25,000+ registered volunteer members.

1. Lewis Hamilton won British Grand Prix 2020

Lewis Hamilton of the Mercedes won the British Grand Prix 2020 at the Silverstone Circuit, United Kingdom. Max Verstappen of Red Bull stood second in the race followed by Charles Leclerc of Ferrari at third.

It was the third win for Hamilton in this season of F1 races and his seventh British Grand Prix victory. Hamilton leads the championship table of 2020 followed by his teammate Valtteri Bottas at second position.



2. Harikrishna won second position at Biel Chess Festival

Indian Grandmaster, P Harikrishna won second position at the classical event of the Biel International Chess Festival in Switzerland. He scored 10 points. Radoslaw Wojtaszek of Poland, won the Biel Chess Festival with 12 points scores. Prior to this event, P Harikrishna had won ACCENTUS Chess960 tournament.



The Biel International Chess Festival takes place annually, since 1968, in the Congress Centre Biel/Bienne, Switzerland. It consists of two events, the Grandmaster Tournament, held with the round-robin system, and the Master Open Tournament (MTO), held with the Swiss system.

3. BCCI suspended title sponsorship deal with Vivo for IPL

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has suspended the title sponsorship deal with Chinese mobile phone company Vivo for the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League.

VIVO had won the IPL title sponsorship for five years from 2018 to 2022 for a reported sum of Rs. 2,190 crore. The IPL this year has been shifted to the UAE because of the prevailing COVID-19 situation in India.



4. India to host ICC Men's T-20 World Cup in 2021

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 will be organised in Australia in 2022. India will host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021. ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 will be organised in New Zealand in March 2022, because of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic. The IPL will be held in the UAE from September 19 to November 10.

The format of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will remain as it was for 2020 and all teams that qualified for that event will now participate in India in 2021.



5. Dream11 won IPL 2020 title sponsorship rights with bid of Rs. 222 crore

Fantasy gaming platform Dream11 has won the IPL title sponsorship rights with a bid of Rs. 222 crore. The deal will be valid till December 2020. Dream11 will replace Chinese mobile phone maker VIVO. Vivo India had bagged the IPL title sponsorship rights for five years in 2017 for Rs. 2,199 crore, committing to pay the league approximately Rs. 440 crore every season.



Two education technology companies, BYJUs and Unacademy were also in the race with bids of Rs. 201 crore and Rs. 170 crore respectively. IPL 2020 starts on 19th September in the UAE.

6. Lewis Hamilton won F1 Spanish Grand Prix 2020

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held at Spain in record timing of 1hr 31mins and 45.279secs. He is regarded as one of the greatest drivers in the history of the sport,



Other players who secured second and third position were Max Verstappen and Valtteri Bottas respectively. Charles Leclerc and Lance Stroll secured 4th and 5th position respectively. The Spanish Grand Prix is a Formula One race. It is one of the oldest race in the world still contested.

7. AIFF partnered with Sports Authority of India to launch “E-Pathshala”

The Sports Authority of India launched Khelo India's the web platform e-Pathshala in association with All India Football Federation. The programme is India's first-ever national level open online coaching and education programme for grassroot-level athletes. It will educate young athletes, who have not been able to train in their academies in the past few weeks due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.



E-Pathshala is an Athlete Coaching Program in football to recognise the creativity and develop the interest of children in football. It has been split into three parts: My Football Culture, My Skills and My Training.

8. INOX Group to be official sponsors of Team India at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has partnered with Inox Group for the later to become official sponsor of the Indian Olympic team at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2021. 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.

The INOX Group, a conglomerate with diverse business interests across the globe, is best known in India for its cinema-screening multiplexes, which it operates through its entertainment company, INOX Leisure Limited.



9. Ronnie O'Sullivan won World Snooker Championship 2020

Ronnie O'Sullivan won his sixth world title at the World Snooker Championship. He won against Kyren Wilson. Victory moves him level with Ray Reardon and his hero Steve Davis on six world titles, one shy of Stephen Hendry's record of seven. He holds the all-time record for the most ranking titles with 37.

O'Sullivan, 44, is the oldest champion since Reardon, who was 45 in 1978. The 2020 World Snooker Championship took place in Sheffield, England.



10. Sophia Popov won Women's British Open

Sophia Popov became the first female golfer from Germany to capture a major title after winning the Women's British Open. She won \$675,000 as prize money. Thailand's Jasmine Suwannapura was the runner-up. Australian Minjee Lee, ranked eighth in the world, finished third.

Popov had never won a senior professional event before and lost her card on the LPGA Tour in 2019. She was ranked number 304 in the world at the start of the tournament.



11. Bayern Munich beat Paris Saint-Germain to win UEFA Champions League

German football club, Bayern Munich, have won the European Champions League for the sixth time after beating French club Paris Saint-Germain 1-0. The final was played in Lisbon, Portugal. Paris-born Kingsley Coman scored the only goal of the match as the Bavarians won the premier competition.

With this win, Bayern Munich are the first side in European Cup/Champions League history to win 100% of their games in a single campaign en route to lifting the trophy (11 wins). Bayern also joined Liverpool as six-time champions of Europe, only behind AC Milan (7) and Real Madrid (13).



12. Jacques Kallis, Zaheer Abbas & Lisa Sthalekar inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted three retired greats of the game into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame namely South Africa's all-rounder Jacques Kallis, Pakistan's stylish batsman Zaheer Abbas & Australian World Cup-winning all-rounder Lisa Sthalekar.

The ICC Cricket Hall of Fame recognises "the achievements of the legends of the game from cricket's long and illustrious history". It was launched by ICC in 2009. Kallis is the fourth South African player inducted and Zaheer the sixth from Pakistan. Lisa is the 27th from Australia and the ninth woman player in the list.



13. England pacer James Anderson became first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets

England pacer James Anderson became the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets. On Day 5 of the test match against Pakistan, he dismissed Pakistan batsman Azhar Ali to claim his 600th wicket.

England won the series 1-0, with its three-wicket victory in the first test in Manchester followed by two drawn tests in Southampton. Muttiah Muralitharan with 800, Shane Warne with 708 and Anil Kumble with 619 wickets are the only other bowlers - all spinners - who remain ahead of Anderson on the all-time list of wicket-takers.



14. Government enhanced prize money in Khel Ratna, Arjuna and Dronacharya awards

The government has enhanced the prize money in four of the seven categories of the National Sports and Adventure Awards. The prize money has been increased as per following details:

Category	Initial prize Money	Revised Prize Money
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award	Rs 7.5 lakh	Rs 25 lakh
Arjuna Award	Rs 5 lakh	Rs 15 lakh
Dronacharya (Lifetime) Award	Rs 5 lakh	Rs 15 lakh
Dronacharya (Regular) Award	Rs 5 lakh	Rs 10 lakh
Dhyanchand Award	Rs 5 lakh	Rs 10 lakh

15. Dwayne Bravo becomes first bowler to take 500 wickets in T20s

West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo became the first bowler to take 500 T20 wickets. Bravo achieved the feat during the CPL match between Trinbago Knight Riders and St Lucia Zouks. He dismissed Zouks' Rahkeem Cornwall for his prized 500th wicket.

Bravo has won three IPL and CPL trophies with Chennai Super Kings and Trinbago respectively. He picked 59 wickets in his international T20 career. He took 459 games to reach the 500-wicket mark.

