

Monthly G.K Capsule

August 2020



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NATIONAL NEWS

1. 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' logo design contest to be conducted by MyGov

- Government is looking to have a distinct identity for 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' by developing a logo based on creative and innovative inputs from the citizens of the country.
- MyGov.in platform has started the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Logo Design Contest on its website where Indian Citizens can submit their entries without any hassle through online medium.
- The last date of submission of entries is 5th of August 2020 till 11.45 PM. The winning logo will be awarded a cash prize of 25 thousand rupees. MyGov is a citizen engagement platform which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote active participation of Indian citizens in Nation's governance and development. MyGov has crowd sourced many logos of various departments and initiatives including Swachh Bharat, DekhoApnaDesh, Lokpal and several others.

2. Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harshvardhan launched 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21'

- Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan, 2020-21. This initiative is a national programme for popularizing 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. This is a platform to identify the talent in the field of science and to promote the scientific acumen among the students.
- Students will help in creating New India and this initiative will play a leading role in it.

3. Tamil Nadu celebrates its monsoon festival 'Aadi Perukku'

- Aadi Perukku, also known as the Aadi monsoon festival, is being celebrated in Tamil Nadu.
- The festival falls on the 18th day of the Tamil month of Adi (mid-July to mid-August) and is celebrated as a tribute to water's life-sustaining properties.
- It takes the form of thanking Cauvery river for flowing in plenty, thus ensuring a good agricultural harvest during the year.
- The festival assumes added significance in the Cauvery Delta region, where farmers also pay homage to Mother nature in the form of the majestic Cauvery river.

4. Northern Railway runs first-ever Vyapar Mala Express train

- Northern Railway ran the first-ever Vyapar Mala Express train. This train destined for Jirania in Tripura has 46 wagons. Wheat was loaded in 34 wagons at Guniana station of Firozpur Division by Food Corporation of India and in the remaining Rice and Pulses have been loaded.
- Railways has earned more than 94 lakh rupees from this Vyapar Mala Express train.
- This is an express service where piece-meal stock will reach its destination in a shorter time.
- The train departed from Delhi Kishanganj for Jirania and it will cover a distance of two thousand 673 Kilometres from Punjab to Tripura.
- It will help small traders in moving their cargo through Railways, in a short time, cost effective, convenient and environment-friendly mode of transportation.

5. Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates international webinar on 'Lokmanya Tilak - Swaraj to Self-reliant India'

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a two-day international webinar on the theme of 'Lokmanya Tilak - Swaraj to Self-reliant India' organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
- It was organised on the 100th death anniversary of the great freedom fighter Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak played a key role in the making of the Indian Independence movement complete in letter and spirit.
- The slogan is "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it" given by LokmanyaTilak, will always be written in golden letters in the history of the Indian Independence Movement.

6. Indira Rasoi Yojana to start in Rajasthan from 20th of August

- Rajasthan's Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot recently directed his officials to commence Indira Rasoi Yojana from 20Th August 2020. The CM said it is another step towards realising the resolve of Rajasthan Government's "No Hunger No Sleep". Under this scheme, the needy and poor will get healthy and nutritious food at 8 Rs per plate. The state government will spend 100 Crores per year on the scheme.
- The Indira Rasoi Yojana named after former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, will run in 358 kitchens in 213 urban local bodies of the state. Under the Yojana a menu of 100 grams of pulses, 100 grams of vegetables, 250 grams of chapati and pickles will be served to 4.87 crore people every year.
- While all the necessary measures will be taken to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus a monitoring committee at the State and District level will be formed to ensure the quality of the food. All the beneficiary

under this scheme will get the information about the Yojana on his or her mobile phone as he or she takes the coupon.

7. Ramarchan puja begins ahead of Ram temple 'Bhoomipujan' in Ayodhya

- Ramarchan puja has begun at Ram Janmabhoomi site ahead of the foundation laying ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The puja is a prayer to invite all major gods and goddesses ahead of Lord Ram's arrival.
- The puja is being conducted at the temporary seat of Ramlalla. It will be conducted in four phases. In the third phase, father of Lord Ram Dashrath with his wives will be worshipped and then all three brothers of Lord Ram - Laxman, Bharat and Shatrughan with their wives. Lord Hanuman will also be worshipped. In the fourth phase of the puja, Lord Ram will be worshipped.
- Security has been heightened in Ayodhya ahead of the foundation laying ceremony. Temples across the city have been decorated with lights, diyas and flowers ahead of the grand event.

8. Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) moves towards 2nd phase, ODF-Plus

- The Swachh Bharat mission has focused on rural and urban areas separately and played a crucial role in ensuring sanitation in the country.
- Since the launch of the mission in 2014, more than 10 crore individual toilets have been constructed across the country and as a result, rural areas in all the States have declared themselves Open Defecation Free ODF on 2nd October, 2019.
- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) has moved towards its second phase which is also called ODF-Plus.
- This phase will continue till 2024-25. More than 66 lakh individual household toilets and over 6 lakh community and public toilets have also been constructed or are under construction.

9. Govt. approved “Khadi Agarbatti Atma Nirbhar Mission” to make India self-reliant in agarbatti production

- MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari has approved a unique employment generation program proposed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission, KVIC to make India AtmaNirbhar in Agarbatti production.
- The program named as Khadi Agarbatti Atma Nirbhar Mission aims at creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country.
- Under the scheme, KVIC will provide Automatic Agarbatti making machines and powder mixing machines to the artisans through the

successful private Agarbatti manufacturers who will sign the agreement as business partners.

- KVIC will provide a 25 per cent subsidy on the cost of the machines and will recover the remaining 75 per cent of the cost from the artisans in easy installments every month.

10. Hyderabad ranked 16 among top 20 cities globally in CCTV Surveillance, topped in India

- Hyderabad has been ranked 16th among the "Top 20 Most Surveilled Cities globally" according to a report published by a UK-based firm. Hyderabad with its 3 lakh CCTV cameras being used to keep tab on a city that has a population of a little over 1 crore, figured 16th in the most surveilled cities.
- Taiyuan in China was ranked first with 4,65,255 CCTV cameras. Hyderabad was ranked first in India.

11. Ladakh and J&K celebrated first anniversary of becoming UT

- On August 5, 2020, the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir celebrated their first anniversary of formation.
- On August 5, 2019, the Government of India revoked the special status to Jammu and Kashmir by modifying Article 370 of the Constitution. After the abrogation of the article, two union territories Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir were carved out under Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019.

12. HRD Minister lays foundation stone of IIM at Dhaula Kuan in Sirmour district

- In Himachal Pradesh, Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Dhaula Kuan in Sirmour district through video conferencing.
- The first phase of this Institute would be completed by spending an amount of 392.51 crore rupees.
- Union Government would provide all possible help to ensure that the institute emerges as the best institute of the region.
- In 2014 Union Government had taken decision to establish seven new IIMs including IIM Sirmaur.

13. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan tests positive for COVID-19

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has tested positive for Covid-19 and has been admitted to a hospital.
- In a tweet, Mr Pradhan said, after seeing symptoms of COVID-19, he got tested and the report has come positive.

- On the advice of doctors, he has been admitted to hospital. Mr Pradhan is the second Union Minister in the Cabinet to test positive for Covid-19. Earlier, Home Minister Amit Shah had tested positive and was admitted to hospital.

14. DNHDD launches E-Gyan Mitra mobile app for online education

- Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu bordering Gujarat has launched E-Gyan Mitra mobile app for online education. The E-Gyan Mitra app launched by the Education Department of Daman Administration is becoming popular among the students and parents.
- DNHDD was created through the merger of the former union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- Plans for the proposed merger were announced by the Government of India in July 2019 and came into effect on 26 January 2020.

15. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched Parivar Pehchan Patra in the state.

- A brain child of team CMO, the PPP will enable the citizens to get the benefits of various central and state government schemes at their doorstep in a fair and transparent manner.
- The PPP will be now linked to Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yagna (MMPSY).
- All the departments will be linked with e-Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) within the next three months.
- At present, the MMPSY, which was launched on January 26, 2020 and three pension schemes - Old Age Samman Allowance Scheme, Divyang Jan Pension Scheme, and Widow and Destitute Women Pension Scheme, have been integrated with Parivar Pehchan Patra.

16. Atal Innovation Mission declares results of ATL Tinkering Marathon 2019

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has declared the results of its flagship national annual innovation marathon challenge. The ATL Tinkering Marathon 2019 was held over fifty thousand Atal Tinkering Labs across the country and announced 150 winners of the Marathon.
- The challenge was executed by AIM in partnership with MyGOV on MyGov's Innovate Platform this year.
- 42 percent of the winning teams are from rural areas and 57 percent are from government schools. About 45 percent of the winning team students are girls.
- This year's marathon was uniquely designed by the students themselves.
- The Marathon had a strong focus on Research preceding the Innovations.

- The final phase of solution development received over 1191 entries from students across 29 States and UTs.

17. India contributes over \$15 mn to India-UN Development Partnership Fund

- India has contributed \$15.46 million to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, underscoring the country's commitment to supporting developing nations in their developmental priorities across all the Sustainable Development Goals.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti handed over a cheque of \$15.46 million.
- The tranche of \$15.46 million includes \$6 million to the overall fund, in which all the developing countries are eligible for partnership, and \$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.

18. Karnataka Medical Education Minister inaugurates nation's first ICMR approved mobile RTPCR COVID lab

- Nation's first ICMR approved mobile RTPCR COVID lab developed by Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru was inaugurated by Karnataka Medical Education Minister Dr.K.Sudhakar. Packed with all the safety features, this unique lab is capable of producing accurate results within four hours.
- In a month the mobile lab can conduct 9000 tests.
- The lab can be utilised for testing H1N1,HCV,TB,HPV,HIV virus also.
- Called as Mobile Infection Testing and Reporting lab, MITR can be deployed in Corona hot spots quickly.
- Another innovative project fructified in Bengaluru when a bus stand was converted into 200 bed Covid Care Centre.

19. India's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or Kisan Rail started from 07 August 2020.

- The train will transport material between Maharashtra's Devlali and Bihar's Danapur Railway station.
- The Kisan Rail will carry fruits and vegetables and will make stoppages at several stations and pick-up and deliver them. With the launch of Kisan Rail, the Railways aims to help double farmers' income.
- This will help in bringing perishable agricultural products like vegetables, fruits to the market in a short period of time.

- The Kisan Rail train with frozen containers is expected to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables, inclusive of fish, meat and milk.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced to start 'Kisan Rail' in the current year's Budget, for providing a seamless supply chain of perishable produce.

20. PM inaugurated Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra in New Delhi on 8th August

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra' near Raj Ghat in New Delhi. It is an interactive experience centre on the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- A tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra (RSK) was first announced by the Prime Minister on April 10 2017 on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of Gandhiji's Champaran 'satyagraha'. The visitors will experience a unique 360 degree audio visual immersive show, which will narrate India's Swachhata Story.
- The installations at Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra will introduce future generations to the successful journey of the world's largest behavioural change campaign, the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- A balanced mix of digital and outdoor installations in Kendra will impart information, awareness and education on Swachhata and related aspects.

21. Focusing on MSMEs, Gujarat launches new Industrial Policy 2020

- On August 7, 2020, the Gujarat State Government launched the "Industrial Policy 2020". The policy aims to provide Rs 40,000 subsidies to the industries in the state in the next five years.
- The policy will help to lease lands to industrialists and also provide incentives to industrial parks. Under the policy, the Gujarat State Government will appoint dedicated "relationship managers" to host Vibrant Gujarat Summit in January 2021. The Gujarat Industrial Policy, 2015, came to an end in 2019 and the government had extended it till 2020.
- Gujarat stands first in terms of number of Industrial Entrepreneurship Memorandum (IEM). This is 51% of total IEMs filed in the country. The subsidies being allocated to the current policy is three times as that of the previous policy.
- The policy will help industries willing to relocate from China through "Relocation Incentives". The Gujarat State Government has held joint meetings with countries such as Japan, Germany, USA and UK in this regard.


22. CM Arvind Kejriwal launches Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, says it will boost economy

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched 'Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy'. Under this the Delhi government will waive registration fee and road tax, and provide incentives for new EVs in the national capital.
- It will give incentive of up to Rs 30,000 for two-wheelers, autos and e-rickshaws while for cars, it will give incentive of up to Rs 1.5 lakh.
- The policy aims to boost the economy, create jobs and reduce pollution levels.
- Also, it aims to constitute 25% electric vehicles by 2024. Currently, constitution of electric vehicles in capital is 0.29%.

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23. Flipkart Signs MoU With UP Govt's One District, One Product (ODOP) Scheme

- E-commerce platform Flipkart signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uttar Pradesh Government's One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme.
- As part of the MoU, artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme will be brought into the 'Flipkart Samarth' initiative. This partnership will enable the under-served communities to showcase their specialised products and crafts in the e-commerce platform.
- Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs at Flipkart Group & Navneet Sehgal Additional Chief Secretary for Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Export Promotion were present during the signing of MoU.

24. 1.5 lakh tele-consultations completed through 'eSanjeevani' and 'eSanjeevaniOPD'

- The initiative by the Union Health Ministry, eSanjeevani OPD, has registered 1.58 lakh online consultations within nine months of its inception. This telemedicine facility has been very much useful for the country and that is proved from the data released by the Ministry in this regard.

- Since November 2019, this platform has been operationalized in 23 states and the services now cover more than 75% of the population of the country. The rest of the states are also in the process of rolling this service out within a very short span of time. The platform has two types of teleconsultation facilities – doctor-to-doctor (eSanjeevani) and patient-to-doctor (eSanjeevani OPD).
- This scheme is being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre Program. The program seeks to connect all 1.50 lakh health and wellness centres in the platform using the hub-and-spoke model. As of now, around 12000 health professionals, including 2800 doctors have been imparted training to offer consultations on the national e-platform through over 3000 Health and Wellness Centres across 10 states. 250 doctors are specialists are available on a daily basis on this platform, even during the lockdown situation. This service is available only for Android apps, as of now.

25. Railways Minister Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurates Railway Museum at Hubballi

- The Ministry of Railways has inaugurated a dedicated museum for railways in Hubballi, Karnataka, through video conferencing. This is the first of its kind museum in Northern Karnataka and second in South Western Railways after the historic railway museum at Mysore, Karnataka.
- The main objective of the museum is to preserve and portray the glorious heritage of various branches of Railways and displays the gradual evolution of advanced systems in all spheres of Railway.
- The artefacts have been arranged in three sections – Malaprabha, Ghataprabha and the outdoor section. There is a grand arch at the entrance of the museum that welcomes one to the bygone era. This will be embellished with emblems of forerunners of South Western Railway, that served this region, which is Southern Mahratta Railway, Mysore and Southern Mahratta Railway, etc. and will attract the visitors to explore the world of Railways.

26. KVIC opened First Silk Training-cum-Production Center in Arunachal Pradesh

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has decided to open the first of its kind training and production centre of silk in Arunachal Pradesh. This centre will come up in Chullyu village in the state. The centre will be launched in the first week of September.
- KVIC has renovated an old school building in the village and converted it into a training-cum-production centre. The state government provided that school building to the commission completely free of cost to develop the centre. There will be machineries such as Charkha, silk reeling machines

and warping drums in the centre. The first batch of 25 artisans has also been selected for training in the initial phases.

- This centre was conceived just six months ago and it is the brainchild of the KVIC Chairman. The idea is to provide training and then employment to the local people of the village through silk production. This will create employment opportunities in the area and also the silk produced will be sold outside.

27. No Sale of junk food within 50 Metres of school campus: FSSAI

- With the aim to ensure safe and wholesome food for school children, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has restricted the sale of junk and unhealthy food in canteens of schools and other educational institutions.
- Besides this, the food regulator has prohibited the sale and advertisement of unhealthy food within 50 metres of the school premises.
- The idea is to provide safe food and a balanced diet for children in schools.
- Foods which are referred to as foods high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) cannot be sold to schoolchildren in school canteens or mess premises or hostel kitchens or within 50 metres of the school campus.

28. Mumbai's Dadar becomes the first city to have female icons on traffic signals

- Mumbai has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage.
- Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed traffic signals that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from the default representation of men.
- Aditya Thackery, Minister for Tourism and Environment termed that the signage is “ensuring gender equality with a simple idea.”
- While a first in India, countries like Germany and Australia started marking female icons in traffic signage in 2014 and 2017, respectively.

29. Delhi Airport launches 'Air Suvidha', an online portal for international passengers

- The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has developed a first-of-its-kind web portal named ‘AIR SUVIDHA’.
- This portal is meant for India-bound international arriving flyers, to enable them to fill the mandatory self- declaration form.
- Eligible passengers can also apply online for exemption from mandatory institution quarantine process.
- The AIR SUVIDHA portal will make traveling contactless as the passengers won't have to fill physical copies of self declaration and quarantine exemption forms when they arrive in India.

30. Finance Minister Sitharaman launches online dashboard for National Infrastructure Pipeline

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on August 10 launched an online dashboard of National Infrastructure Pipeline. The Dashboard will showcase over 6,800 projects online.
- The Online dashboard of NIP is to be hosted on the India Investment Grid (IIG), which is a dynamic and interactive online platform that showcases real-time and updated investment opportunities in India.
- As per the Ministry of Finance, the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) project database will help in providing real-time updates for domestic and foreign investors in the infrastructure projects.

31. GoI launched National Portal "SURAKHSYA" on Human Elephant conflict

- The Union Environment Minister launched National Portal on Human Elephant conflict called "SURAKHSYA".
- The portal aims to collect real time information and will also manage conflicts on real time basis.
- The portal will help to set data collection protocols, data visualization tools and data transmission pipelines.
- The National Portal was launched during the celebration of international annual event World Elephant Day.
- The World Elephant Day is celebrated every year on August 12 to create elephant conservation and share knowledge for better protection of wild captive elephants.

32. Daughters become equal coparceners at birth even if born prior to 2005 amendment to Hindu Succession Act

- The Supreme Court on August 11, 2020 ruled that daughters are entitled to equal property rights even if they were not born at the time of the 2005 amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 or irrespective.
- The apex court ruled that daughters would have equal coparcenary rights in Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) properties. This would hold irrespective of whether the father was alive or not at the time of the amendment.
- The judgement was delivered by a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justices Arun Mishra, S Abdul Nazeer and MR Shah. They were hearing appeals that raised the issue of whether the amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 granting equal rights to daughters to inherit ancestral property would have retrospective effect.

33. Lok Sabha starts beginner-level course in French

- Lok Sabha has started a beginner-level course in French for the officials and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat at the Parliament House. As many as 57 officials registered for the course.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the course. Birla appreciated the initiative undertaken by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE).
- In the near future, courses in German, Spanish, Russian and other important world languages would also be organised.

34. Govt abolishes Cotton Advisory Board; notifies change in status of textiles research associations

- On the lines of Government of India vision of “Minimum Government and Maximum Governance”, the Ministry of textiles has abolished its another advisory body, Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), and notified that all eight Textiles Research Associations (TRAs) have ceased to be “affiliated bodies” of the ministry.
- Hereafter, TRAs will be approved bodies for conducting testing, research and developmental activities related to the textiles sector.
- Any disposal/sale/transfer of assets created out of the central government grant shall require prior specific approval of the ministry.

35. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches ICAR's data recovery centre 'Krishi Megh'

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched ICAR's data recovery centre – Krishi Megh. The move is aimed at protecting the precious data of the government's premier research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- It has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) in Hyderabad. The main data centre of the ICAR is at the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) in the national capital.
- Krishi Megh has been set up under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), funded by both the government and World Bank.

36. Tribal Affairs Ministry develops nine ‘Tribal Freedom Fighters’ Museums

- The Tribal Affairs Ministry is developing “Tribal Freedom Fighters’ Museums dedicated to the contributions of the tribal people in India to the freedom struggle.
- Out of nine sanctioned museums, two museums are near completion and the remaining seven are at different stages of progress.
- By the end of 2022 all the museums will come into existence.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced setting up of these tribal freedom fighters' museums during his Independence Day Speech on 15th August 2016.
- All the museums will have strong usage of technologies like Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and 3D/7D holographic projections. These museums will demonstrate the way tribals struggle to protect their custodial concerns for the biological and cultural diversity of the country.

37. Ahead Of Assembly Polls, Assam Launches Largest Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme Arunodoi

- The Assam Government is set to roll out the Arunodoi Scheme from October 02, 2020, to provide financial assistance to around 17 lakh families in the state. This is the largest direct benefit transfer scheme till date in the state.
- Under this scheme, an amount of Rs 830 will be provided to the eligible families to buy food grains and essential food items. Around 15000-17000 families will be provided with this facility per assembly constituency. The government will have to bear Rs 210 crores per month for this scheme.
- The main aim of the scheme is to take care of the financial problems of the poor and BPL families in the state with substantial financial support. As it is a DBT scheme, there is no chance of any kind of misappropriation of funds and the end beneficiary is expected to get the support as mandated in the scheme.

38. PM Modi launches 'Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest' for Honest Taxpayers

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a platform in order to honour and appreciate the honest taxpayers in the country. The 'Transparent Taxation – Honouring the Honest' platform has been launched by the PM through video-conferencing. The government aims to change the way in which taxes are being paid in India now, through this platform.
- The platform will introduce reforms such as faceless assessment, faceless appeals and taxpayers' charter. Faceless assessment and taxpayers' charter will be made live from the inception whereas the feature of faceless appeal will be made available on the platform from September 25, 2020.

39. First-of-its-kind Katra-Delhi Express Road Corridor to be completed by 2023

- First-of-its's-kind Katra (Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir)-Delhi Express Road corridor works have begun and it is expected to be completed by 2023.
- It was announced by Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER), Dr. Jitendra Singh. The express Corridor is

expected to reduce the travel time between Katra and Delhi to around six and half hours, the total outlay of the project is Rs. 35, 000 crores.

40. Govt to reconsider minimum marriage age for women

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the Centre will decide on the recommendations of a committee set up to reconsider the minimum age of marriage for women. The minimum age of marriage, especially for women, has been a contentious issue.
- The law evolved in the face of much resistance from religious and social conservatives. Currently, the law prescribes that the minimum age of marriage is 21 years and 18 years for men and women respectively.
- On June 2, the Union Ministry for Women and Child Development set up a task force to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio and the improvement of nutritional levels among women.
- The task force will examine the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with health, medical well-being, and nutritional status of the mother and neonate, infant or child, during pregnancy, birth and thereafter.

41. PM Modi announces optical fiber link connecting Lakshadweep to mainland India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an undersea optical fiber cable link to connect Lakshadweep with mainland India. Modi set a target of completing the Lakshadweep undersea project in 1,000 days to boost mobile and broadband communication between mainland India and the group of islands situated on the Laccadive Sea, off the southwestern coast of India.
- On 10 August, Modi inaugurated the Chennai-Port Blair project, whose foundation was laid in December 2018.
- The 2,312-kilometer-long cable project, implemented at a cost of ₹1,224 crore, will connect not only Port Blair but also other islands such as Swaraj Dweep, Long Island, Rangat, Little Andaman, Kamorta, Car Nicobar, and Greater Nicobar.

42. PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate 'Atal Tunnel' in Rohtang next month

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said the 'Atal Tunnel' in Rohtang would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by the end of September this year. The tunnel will be the world's longest above an altitude of 3,000 metres and will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km.
- The tunnel is being built under Rohtang Pass in the Pir Panjal range on the Leh-Manali highway. The length of the tunnel is 8.8 kilometers.
- Once thrown open, the tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity to remote border areas of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh which otherwise

remain cut-off from the rest of the country for about six months during winters.

43. Indian Railways begins construction of world's tallest pier bridge across river Ijai in Manipur

- As a part of 111 kilometre-long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal line project, Indian Railways' North East Frontier Railway zone is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge, having height of 141 metres, across river Ijai in Manipur with an outlay of Rs 280 crore. After completion, it will surpass the existing height record of 139 meters of the Mala – Rijeka Viaduct, Montenegro in Europe.
- The 703 meters long bridge is located at the hilly terrain of Marangching village in Noney district, about 65 km west of Imphal, Manipur. The project will be completed in March 2022.

44. Nagaland Government Rolls-Out Centralized e-commerce platform "Yellow Chain"

- On the occasion of Independence Day, the Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio launched "Yellow Chain". Yellow Chain is a centralized e-commerce platform, 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.
- It may include Home service(Barber, Electrician, Plumber, Painter, Carpenter, Water Service etc.), Delivery service, IT Products & Services, Cab & Taxi Service, Health Care & Education, Fast food & Catering, Bakeries & Confectioneries, Grocery Stores, Local Product/Produces, Trainings, Pre-owned Products, Real Estate, Rentals etc.

45. National Recruitment Agency Gets Cabinet Nod to Conduct Common Eligibility Test for Govt Jobs

- The Union Cabinet gave its nod to setting up of a National Recruitment Agency (NRA), which is aimed at filling up posts in central government organisations and public sector undertakings. Recruitment will be done on the basis of computer-based common eligibility test conducted for non-gazetted vacancies.
- "The #National Recruitment Agency will prove to be a boon for crores of youngsters. Through the Common Eligibility Test, it will eliminate multiple tests and save precious time as well as resources. This will also be a big boost to transparency," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a tweet.

- The NRA will hold a test for preliminary selection to various government vacancies. The score of the CET will be valid for three years and during these years a candidate can “apply for job in different sectors depending upon his aptitude and preference.”
- The CET will take place for three levels – graduate, higher secondary (12th) and matriculate (10th).
- The test will replace the Tier 1 exams held by Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) for non-technical posts.
- However, final selection will be made through separate specialized Tier 2 or Tier 3 exams. These exams will be conducted by the respective recruitment agencies.
- On the basis of the CET, candidates will be shortlisted for Group B and C posts in the central government. There will be no restriction on the number of attempts if a candidate is eligible as per the upper age limit. Candidates belonging to reserved categories will be given relaxation in upper age limit.



46. PM Modi to inaugurate First World Solar Technology Summit to be held on Sept 8

- The First World Solar Technology Summit will be organized by International Solar Alliance, ISA on a virtual platform on 8th of September. The summit aims to bring the world scientists and engineers together to address the challenges to make energy affordable.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address of the First World Solar Technology Summit and it will be graced by Ministers from member countries from across all ISA regions.
- ISA would also be launching the ISA Journal on Solar Energy that would help authors from across the globe to publish their articles on solar energy, during the event.

47. Uttar Pradesh’s Manduadih railway station to be renamed as Banaras

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved the renaming of Manduadih Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh (UP) as 'Banaras'.
- In 2019, Former Union Minister Manoj Sinha had written to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath requesting the change in name of the Manduadih Railway Station.
- Manduadih is a place in Varanasi situated about four kilometres from Varanasi Cantonment Station.

48. President Gives Nod For Changing Name Of HRD Ministry To Ministry Of Education

- President Ram Nath Kovind notified Union Cabinet's decision to rename Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) as Ministry of Education.
- A gazette notification published said the President had given his nod to changing the name. On July 29, the Union Cabinet approved a new education policy and took some major decisions including the renaming of the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) as the Ministry of Education.
- In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution, President Ram Nath Kovind amended the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 by Government of India (Allocation of Business) Three Hundred and Fifty Sixth Amendment Rules, 2020, thereby, changing the name of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) as Ministry of Education.
- This renaming of ministry was among the key recommendations of the draft new National Education Policy (NEP), which was also cleared by the Union Cabinet in July 2020.

49. Two over bridges of Ahmedabad named after late Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj

- In Gujarat, two over bridges of Ahmedabad city have been named after late Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj. The Railway over the bridge in Ranip area of the city will be known as Atmanirbhar Gujarat Railway Flyover.
- The newly built flyover at Income Tax circle will be known as Arun Jaitley flyover, while another flyover at Anjali crossroad will be known as Sushma Swaraj Bridge.

50. UP becomes number one in conducting COVID tests in country

- Uttar Pradesh has become number one in conducting COVID tests in the country. Cumulative COVID testing figures reached 36 lakh samples. The state is conducting around one lakh COVID test daily.

- With at least 9 districts in the state recording more than 100 new cases of COVID infection in the past 24 hours, the number of active cases in the state crossed 50,000.
- The state now has 50426 active cases and the list is topped by Lucknow, which has 7,188 active cases. Kanpur is in second place with more than 4 thousand active cases.

51. India ranks first in the number of organic farmers

- The growth story of organic farming is unfolding with increasing demand not only in India but also globally. India ranks first in number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming.
- Sikkim became the first state in the world to become fully organic and other states including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets.
- The growth story of organic farming is unfolding with increasing demand not only in India but also globally. India ranks first in number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming. Sikkim became the first state in the world to become fully organic and other states including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets.
- 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 earnings due to premium prices. Agri-export Policy 2018, has also given a major thrust in the field of Organic farming in the country. The major organic exports from India have been flax seeds, sesame, soybean, tea, medicinal plants, rice and pulses. Quick and easy certification process of the Organic produce under Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and National Program for Organic Production (NPOP) have helped poise India to be a leader in terms of Organic produce in years to come.

52. India Ranked 57th in Digital Quality of Life Index 2020

- In accordance with the 2nd edition of global research “Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2020” released by online privacy solutions provider SurfShark, India ranked 57th out of 85 countries in terms of overall category “Digital Quality of Life 2020” with 0.5 index points which has been topped by Denmark with 0.79 points.
- The DQL Index 2020 analyzes 85 countries around the world covering 6.3 billion people or 81% of the global population in terms of five core pillars: internet affordability, internet quality, e-infrastructure, e-security, and e-government, and results are premised on 12 different factors.

53. Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment launches Logo of Labour Bureau

- Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment launched the official logo of the Labour Bureau. The newly launched logo displays the three goals of the Labour Bureau i.e. Accuracy, Validity, and Reliability.
- It also indicates the Labour Bureau as a data-based organization that deals in data pertaining to workers and work.
- The logo of the Labour Bureau also comprises “Blue wheel”, a cog wheel that represents work.
- The blue colour indicates that the Labour Bureau deals with the blue collar workers.

54. Chhattisgarh The Cleanest State, Indore Creates Record by Winning Title of Cleanest City Fourth Time in A Row

- Chhattisgarh has been declared as the cleanest state of the country as per the Cleanliness Survey 2020 organized by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry. Chhattisgarh has bagged 14 national awards in various categories. The state had taken many initiatives to achieve this success
- In Chhattisgarh, 100% door to door garbage collection was ensured.
- All 166 municipal bodies are ensuring collection of waste from every household and 100% disposal of the same in SLRM center.
- 3R Principle- Residue, Reuse and Recycle was implemented in all the urban bodies through innovations such as Neki Ki Diwar, Bartan Bank, Home Composting. Waste pickers were given employment under the Mission Clean City Scheme.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. UK to issue coin in honour of Mahatma Gandhi

- Amid growing interest in recognizing the contributions of people from the BAME community (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) Britain is considering minting a coin to remember Mahatma Gandhi.
- Rishi Sunak Britain’s current Finance Minister issued an order in a letter to the Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC) to pursue recognition of individuals from the BAME community.
- Taking a step ahead in following the order RMAC will mint a coin to commemorate Gandhi. While remembering Mahatma Gandhi the officials from the department said in a statement, “Often referred to as “Father of the Nation” Mahatma Gandhi, was born in the year 1869.

2. Trump Suspends H-1B and other Visas that Allow Foreigners to Work in the U.S.

- US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order that bans federal agencies from hiring foreign workers especially those on H-1B visa on contracting or subcontracting.
- The unprecedented move is followed by a month old announcement by the Trump government on June 23 where the administration announced that the H-1B visas along with other types of foreign work visas will remain suspended until the end of 2020 to protect American workers in a crucial election. This new restriction took effect from June 24.
- Also recently a federally owned corporation in the US called Tennessee Valley Authority in a press release announced that the company will outsource 20 per cent of its technology jobs to companies based in foreign countries. Through this new announcement, the US was going to witness another 200 American workers losing their jobs over the next five year.

3. UK's Envoy To India Philip Barton Promoted As UK's Foreign Office Minister

- British high commissioner to India Philip Barton on Monday got appointed as the permanent under-secretary to head the newly merged Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. This new appointment of Sir Philip Barton as the Permanent Under-Secretary of the new ministry came just after the approval of United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab.
- UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has earlier announced to the parliament that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID) will merge to form the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). This new ministry called FCDO will be established in 2020 and it will be led by the Foreign Secretary. The function of the new ministry will involve a combined function of DFID and FCO.

4. In landmark move, Prime Minister Imran Khan unveils 'new political map' of Pakistan

- Pakistan recently released a new political map claiming the entire territory of Jammu & Kashmir, and part of Gujarat including the erstwhile state of Junagadh as part of its territory.
- In recent times in the wake of the global pandemic when the whole world is fighting against the deadly virus in unison, our neighbours are in a race to occupy our territory. When India is all set to celebrate, the first anniversary of its decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on 5th August then our neighbour Pakistan a day before the anniversary has made a controversial change in their political map inviting arguments and disputes.

- This is the second such map revising territorial claims in the South Asian region. Before this, our neighbour in the north “Nepal” printed a political map showing the Kalapani region of Pithoragarh district as part of its sovereign territory.

5. US Conducts Test Flight of Unarmed Minuteman 3 Missile

- United States (US) Air Force conducted a scheduled test launch of an LGM-30G Minuteman III, an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) carrying a load of three unarmed reentry vehicles, from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, US to a target in the Pacific Ocean.
- Missile’s three reentry vehicles traveled 4,200 miles (6,759 kilometers) to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands as part of a developmental test. Minuteman III, manufactured by Boeing is a long-range, solid-fuel, three-stage ICBM with the capability to carry single or multiple nuclear warheads.

6. India extends Line of Credit worth 18 million dollars to Maldives

- India has extended Line of Credit worth 18 million US dollars 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.
- It is part of the 800 million US dollars line of credit offered by India with repayment tenor of 20 years and a 5-year moratorium.

7. Rajapaksa brothers win by landslide victory in Sri Lanka's election

- Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa-led Sri Lanka People’s Party (SLPP) registered a landslide victory in the Sri Lankan Parliamentary Elections on August 5, 2020. The party and its allies secured two-thirds of the seats at the elections.
- Sri Lanka People’s Party (SLPP) won 145 seats in the 225-member parliament, while the allies managed to clinch more than five seats. Out of the total vote percentage, SLPP got around 59 percent of the popular vote, while SJB (Samagi Jana Balawegaya) garnered around 23 percent of votes. The SJB is an offshoot of UNP, which was formed earlier this year.

8. Mauritius declares state of environmental emergency after oil spill

- Mauritius' Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth declared a state of environmental emergency on August 7, 2020 after a shipreck caused massive fuel spill.

- A Japanese-owned ship, which ran aground on July 25, has been leaking tons of oil into the Indian Ocean. The ship is reportedly carrying nearly 4000 tons of fuel oil and 200 tons of diesel on board.
- The Mauritius PM made the brief statement by tweeting that Mauritius does not have the skills and expertise to refloat stranded ships, so he has asked for help from France.
- Mauritius' Ministry of Environment has set up a committee to identify how best to orchestrate the cleanup. The ministry warned the public to stay away from the affected area because of toxic fumes.

9. Bangladesh to construct monument for Indian soldiers martyred in 1971 Liberation War

- Bangladesh will construct a memorial for the Indian soldiers martyred during the country's liberation war in 1971. The memorial will be constructed coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh.
- Liberation War in Bangladesh, was a revolution and armed conflict sparked by the rise of the Bengali nationalist and self-determination movement during the 1971 Bangladesh genocide. It resulted in the independence of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- The war began after the Pakistani military in West Pakistan launched Operation Searchlight against the people of East Pakistan on the night of 25 March 1971.

10. Lebanese PM resigns after protests erupt following Beirut Blast

- Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab has resigned from his post in the wake of a 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 that decimated the facility and caused widespread destruction, killing more than 160 people and injuring about six thousands.
- Diab's government was formed in January this year after his predecessor, Saad Hariri, stepped down in October last year in response to the demonstrations.
- President Michel Aoun has accepted the resignation of the Diab government and asked it to stay on in a caretaker capacity until a new cabinet is formed.

11. Russia registers World's first Covid-19 vaccine, Putin's daughter among those inoculated

- Russia is all set to launch the world's first COVID-19 vaccine on August 12, 2020. The news of Russia registering its first vaccine against the virus

was announced earlier on August 8 by Oleg Gridnev, Deputy Health Minister.

- In the efforts of finding the cure for coronavirus, six candidates of vaccines around the world have entered phase three of human trials and as per the reports, one of Russia's candidates has completed all the three phases of human clinical trials.
- The vaccine to be launched by Russia has been developed jointly by the Russian Defence Ministry and the Gamaleya Research Institute. Reportedly, Russia will also begin producing the vaccine soon and has plans for a massive, country-wide vaccine drive.

12. Saudi Arabia cuts off loan, oil supply to Pakistan; end of decade-long ties

- With Saudi Arabia ending loan and oil supply to Pakistan, the decade-long friendship between the two countries has finally ended.
- Pakistan was also made to pay back USD 1 billion to Saudi Arabia, which was part of a \$6.2 billion package announced by Saudi Arabia in November 2018, which included a total of \$3 billion in loans and an oil credit facility amounting to \$3.2 billion.
- The deals were then signed when Crown Prince Muhammed Bin Salman made a visit to Pakistan in February last year.

13. Indian-origin senator "Kamala Harris" named US Vice Presidential candidate for Democratic party

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

14. Israel shares AI-based technology, high-end equipment with AIIMS to help combat COVID-19

- Israel has given state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence-based technologies and high-end equipment to AIIMS, Delhi as part of Israel-India cooperation to fight the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Israeli Ambassador to India Dr Ron Malka formally handed over the high-end equipment and technology solutions to Director of AIIMS, Dr RandeepGuleria.
- It also includes a 12-hour disinfection product called CPD that stays active to protect the surface against new attacks of contamination.
- Earlier, India helped Israel with medicines and safety gear.

- Now Israel has sent equipment including robotic teleconsultation and telemonitoring equipment.

15. Russia, Brazil agree to cooperate in production of world's first coronavirus vaccine Sputnik V

- Russia and Brazil have agreed to cooperate in the production and marketing of the world's first registered coronavirus vaccine 'Sputnik V'. The Russian Direct Investment Fund said that the cooperation agreement was signed with the Brazilian State of Parana on August 12, 2020.
- Under the strategic agreement, the Russian Direct Investment Fund together with pharmaceutical companies in the state of Parana will organise the production of the Sputnik V vaccine and its distribution in Brazil and other Latin American countries.
- The Russian Health Ministry registered the world's first COVID-19 vaccine- Sputnik V on August 11, 2020.

16. India Extends USD 1 Million Assistance to Antigua and Barbuda's COVID-19 Response

- As a part of India's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, India extended an assistance of 1 million USD to the government of Antigua and Barbuda to combat the global COVID-19 pandemic and to improve their health infrastructure and capacity.
- Under the 1 million USD assistance, KJ Srinivasa, Indian High Commission in Guyana handed over the medical supplies, equipment and medicine to Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda over a virtual platform.

17. Greek and Turkish Warships in 'Mini Collision' in the eastern Mediterranean

- A Greek and Turkish warship got engaged in a mini-collision during a standoff in the eastern Mediterranean. This was shared by a Greek Defence source who described the incident as an accident.
- Tensions rose in the Eastern Mediterranean region after Turkey sent a survey vessel to the region, escorted by warships, to map out the sea territory for possible oil and gas drilling in an area that is claimed by both Greece and Turkey.

18. Luis Rodolfo Abinader sworn in as 54th President of Dominican Republic

- Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona has been sworn in as the 54th President of Dominican Republic. Luis Rodolfo Abinader is a businessman who has never held any other elected office. He succeeds Danilo Medina of Liberation Party.

- The 53-year old Luis Rodolfo Abinader was elected to the four-year term on July 5, which ended the 16-year run in power by the Center-Left Dominican Liberation Party (PLD). He finished second in the 2016 President election. Abinader's Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) won the elections with 53% vote, while Gonzalo Castillo who was the candidate of the ruling PLD got 37.7%.
- The swearing-in ceremony was attended by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

19. Keith Rowley Becomes Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd Consecutive Term

- Keith Rowley sworn in as Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term at the President's House, following victory in general elections held on August 10, 2020. In addition to him, his new cabinet ministers were also sworn in. He is from the ruling People's National Movement (PNM).
- The new cabinet sworn in was delayed due to requests for recounts of ballots.
- As per the preliminary result PNM won 22 of the 41 electoral seats, while the opposition United National Congress (UNC) led by former Prime Minister Kamla Persad -Bissessar won 19 seats. Keith Rowley's cabinet consisted of young and experienced politicians like ColmImbert, Finance minister; Franklin Khan, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries; Camille Robinson-Regis, Minister of Planning and Development and Attorney General Faris Al-Rawi.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. RBI approves Sashidhar Jagdishan as CEO and MD of HDFC Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the Managing Director (MD) and CEO of HDFC Bank. Mr.Jagdishan will take charge of the outgoing MD AdityaPuri on October 27, 2020 and will remain on the position for three years.
- HDFC Bank mentioned that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bank will be held in due course to approve the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the new MD and CEO of the bank.
- Along with Sashidhar Jagdishan, HDFC Bank had also submitted the names of Sunil Garg, Global CEO of Citi Commercial Bank, and Kaizad Bharucha (ED at HDFC Bank) for the RBI's consideration.

2. Govt extends Ajay Tyagi's term as SEBI chairman by 18 months till Feb 2022

- Ajay Tyagi has been given an 18 month extension as the chairman of markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI. His term will continue till February 2022.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of Ajay Tyagi's term for 18 months with effect from 1st September 2020 to 28th February 2022.
- Tyagi, a 1984 batch retired IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre was appointed as the SEBI chairman in March 2017 for three years.

3. Senior BJP leader Manoj Sinha appointed as new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir

- The President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Manoj Sinha as the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. The President accepted the resignation of Girish Chandra Murmu as Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Mr Murmu, a 1985 batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer was appointed as the Lt.Governor in October last year.
- Murmu had sent his resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind.

4. Ex-Lieutenant Governor of J&K G.C. Murmu appointed as the new CAG of India

- Former Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. G.C. Murmu had resigned as J&K Lt Governor on August 5, 2020.
- An official notification released by the Department of Economic Affairs read that the President by virtue of the power vested in him by clause (1) of Article 148 of the Indian Constitution appointed Girish Chandra Murmu to the post of Comptroller and Auditor General of India with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.

5. Harmanpreet Kaur and Suresh Raina appointed as Brand Ambassadors for Gaming Platform of WTF

- Indian middle-order batsman Suresh Raina & Indian women's team captain(T20) Harmanpreet Kaur were appointed as Global brand ambassadors of World Trade Fantasy (WTF) Sports . In addition to this, Suresh Raina has also joined the brand as Strategic Partner.
- World Trade Fantasy (WTF) Sports is a fantasy sports gaming platform, which was formally launched in India and other parts of the world on 6th August, 2020. Users can create their own team made up of real-life players from upcoming matches, score points based on their on-field performance and compete with other fans.

- The app at present hosts Fantasy Cricket, Football and Basketball. It lets users strategize and use their sports knowledge to get rewards. The announcement was made through a web conference by co-founders of WTF India and Global Vinit Bhatia, Manit Parikh and YashKadakia.

6. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi took oath as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission

- Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi took oath as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- Prof. Joshi joined the Commission as a member in the year 2015. He succeeded Arvind Saxena who completed his term as UPSC chairman.
- He served as Director of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration.
- During his career, Dr. Joshi taught more than 28 years at postgraduate level and held many important positions in various policy making, academic and administrative bodies.

7. Odisha cadre IPS officer, P S Ranipse has been appointed as IG, in CRPF

- Odisha cadre IPS officer, P S Ranipse has been appointed as Inspector General (IG), in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- He will hold the post on Central deputation for a period of five years from the date of joining.
- IPS officer P S Ranipse belongs to the 1995 batch and was serving as Additional Director General (Vigilance) in Odisha.
- He held the position of Inspector General of Police (Odisha) in 2013.

8. Capital India Finance appoints ex-NABARD Chief Harsh Bhanwala as executive Chairman

- Financial Services Platform, Capital India Finance Limited (CIFL) has appointed Ex-NABARD Chief Harsh Kumar Bhanwala as its Executive Chairman. Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala took charge as Executive Chairman.
- Dr. Bhanwala is a PhD holder and did his Post Graduation degree in Management from Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. He was Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) from December 2013 till May 2020. He was the Managing Director of Delhi State Cooperative Bank Ltd (DSCB) during its turnaround period from 1999 to 2005.

9. Public Enterprises Selection Board selects Soma Mondal as the next chairman of SAIL

- Soma Mondal has been selected by the Public Enterprises Selection Board as the next chairman of public sector steel major Steel Authority of India Limited.
- Her appointment is subject to approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- If the ACC gives its approval, she will make history with the rare distinction of being the first woman chairperson of SAIL.
- She will also be the first woman to head a major steel company not only in India but also elsewhere in the world. The current chairman of SAIL Anil Chaudhary assumed charge in September 2018 and is due to retire at the end of this year.

10. Mukesh Ambani climbs billionaire rankings; fourth richest in the world

- Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani has surpassed Bernard Arnault, chairman and Chief Executive Officer of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton to become the world's fourth-richest person.
- As per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Ambani's net worth is now at \$80.2 billion (approx Rs 6 lakh crore) after adding \$22 billion to his wealth in 2020. Mr Ambani was behind Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos (net worth \$187 billion), Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates (\$121 billion) and Facebook co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg (\$102 billion)
- Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian in the list of Top Ten Billionaires across the world.

11. Akshay Kumar, Dwayne Johnson and Ryan Reynolds feature in Forbes' highest-paid actors of 2020 list

- Forbes magazine has released "The Highest-Paid Actors Of 2020" list. Bollywood actor, Akshay Kumar is the only Indian star to be listed among the top 10 world's highest-paid actors of 2020 with total earnings of \$48.5 million.
- Akshay is placed at sixth place in the list.
- Most of his income came from product endorsements.
- The list has been topped by Wrestler-turned-movie star Dwayne Johnson, for a second straight year, with the total earning of \$87.5 million.

12. Spanish Mountaineer names Spanish peak after Uttarakhand IAS officer

- Juan Antonio, a Spanish mountaineer, who recently climbed a virgin peak in Spain has decided to name the peak and its route after Ashish Chauhan, a former District Magistrate of Uttarkashi, and present additional secretary (civil aviation) in the state government.
- Ashish Chauhan shared the news regarding Antonio's gesture on his social media account and mentioned that he was touched by the honour of the

mountaineer. As per Juan Antonio, he was overwhelmed by Chauhan's help during his 2018 expedition in Gangotri Himalayas.

- Juan Antonio had visited Uttarkashi in 2018 to climb Mountain Satopanth, which is situated in the Gangotri region at an altitude of nearly 7,075 meters above the sea level. However, as Antonio fell sick during the expedition, Chauhan who was then the DM of Uttarkashi had helped him out.

13. Indian Idol Fame Shahzan Mujeeb Signed as First-Ever National Brand Ambassador Of Aligarh Municipal Corporation

- Indian Idol Season11 Finalist and Oscar Nominated Playback Singer Shahzan Mujeeb became First-Ever National Brand Ambassador of Aligarh Municipal Corporation for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign at National and International level.
- He is also a Music Composer and Music Director. His film Gera won the National Award for Best Gujarati Film.
- Aligarh Municipal Corporation (AMC) is the civic body that governs Aligarh city. established under the Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act-1959.

14. Ashok Gehlot led-govt wins trust vote in Rajasthan assembly

- A month after a rebellion from 19 dissident legislators of his party threatened the survival of his government, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot won the trust vote in the state assembly. The vote took place a day after Sachin Pilot attended the Congress Legislature Party meeting at CM Gehlot's house and declared that he is determined to act in the "interest of the people of Rajasthan and in accordance with the promises made".
- The confidence motion was brought in the assembly after the reunification of the Gehlot and Sachin Pilot factions of the Rajasthan Congress party.

15. Rakesh Asthana appointed DG of Border Security Force

- The Centre appointed Gujarat cadre IPS officer – Rakesh Asthana as the new director general of the Border Security Force (BSF).The 1984 batch IPS officer, currently heading the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) with additional charge of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), will assume full time charge of the border guarding force deployed at the approximately 2,280 km long border with Pakistan.
- Currently, DG Indo-Tibet Border Police (ITBP) Chief S S Deswal, a batchmate of Asthana, was holding the additional charge of BSF since March this year. Asthana, known for his acumen in investigations and strong leadership skills, will hold the post of DG BSF till July 31, 2021, time of his retirement.

16. Ashok Lavasa resigns as Election Commissioner; set to join ADB as vice president

- Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa resigned to take up the position of vice-president at Asian Development Bank next month.
- Lavasa, who would have retired as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in October 2022, would be the second election commissioner to step down from the poll panel before the completion of his term.
- Sushil Chandra, presently posted as Election Commissioner will be in the line of succession after Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora which otherwise would have been donned by Lavasa had he not resigned.

17. National Sports Awards Committee recommended Rohit Sharma, Vinesh Phogat, Manika Batra, Mariappan Thangavelu for Khel Ratna

- The National Sports Awards Committee has recommended the names of cricketer Rohit Sharma, Table tennis champion Manika Batra, Paralympian Mariappan Thangavelu and wrestler Vinesh Phogat for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is India's highest and most prestigious sporting honour. In 2016, India's star shuttler PV Sindhu, wrestler Sakshi Malik, shooter Jitu Rai and gymnast Dipa Karmakar had been collectively awarded the top honour.
- Rohit Sharma will join the elite list of cricketers to ever receive the top sporting honour after Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli.

18. Satya Pal Malik appointed as Meghalaya Governor

- Satya Pal Malik was transferred as Governor of the northeastern state of Meghalaya, replacing Tathagata Roy who completed his five-year tenure. Malik has been shifted to Meghalaya, and Governor of Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshyari has been asked to discharge the functions of Goa governor in addition to his own duties.
- There is no fixed tenure for governors, but conventionally it is considered for a period of five years.
- Roy was appointed governor of Meghalaya in August 2018 and continued till date, barring absence between December 2019 to January 2020 when he was on leave. Malik was the last governor of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir before it was divided into two union territories 'Ladakh and JK' on October 31 last year.
- The announcement in this regard was made on August 5 last year when the Centre abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

19. 21-year old Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash bags 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title

- Twenty-Year old Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonna lagadda of Hyderabad has bagged the first ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations (MC) World Cup (MCWC) held on August 15, 2020 by Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO).
- The MSO was held virtually with 30 participants, who were upto 57 years of age. The participants were from 13 countries including the UK, Germany, UAE, France, Greece and Lebanon.
- Bhanu Prakash had secured the gold medal with a score of 167, Lebanese contender Mohammed El Mir secured the Silver Medal with a score 102 and Asmita Pal from the UAE bagged the Bronze medal with a score of 100 points.
- He has created a new All Time Record and has beaten the records of Math Maestros like Shakuntala Devi and Scott Flansburg. India's Aryan Shukla finished fourth with a score of 96.

20. DRDO Chief G Satheesh Reddy gets two-year extension

- Renowned Aerospace Scientist Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy was given a two-year extension as Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & as Secretary of the Department of Defence Research & Development (DoDRD) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- G Satheesh Reddy was appointed to the post in August 2018 for a tenure of two years.
- Satheesh Reddy was born in Atmakuru, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. He was appointed as Scientific advisor to the Defence Minister of India in June 2015. Satheesh Reddy also heads Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, a Military Missile Research Centre in Hyderabad, India.
- Satheesh Reddy is one of the Chief Architects behind India's Mission Shakti, Anti Satellite Missile Test (ASAT).

BANKING

1. RBI announces a slew of measures to boost digital payments

- On August 6, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India launched "Innovation Hub" for ideation and incubation of new capabilities that can be leveraged to deepen financial inclusion.
- The hub is being launched to promote the start ups in the country. It will help in ideation and incubation of new capabilities. This will in turn help to deepen financial inclusion in the country and promote efficient banking services.
- The hub is to act as a centre to create viable and innovative financial products. This will provide the following benefits

- The hub will help achieve efficient banking. RBI has recently taken several similar initiatives to encourage responsible innovation. One such recent initiative is the “Regulatory Sandbox”.

2. RBI's monetary policy committee decides to leave policy repo rate unchanged at 4 percent

- The RBI's monetary policy committee has decided to unanimously leave the policy repo rate unchanged at 4 percent. RBI will continue with the accommodative stance of monetary policy as long as necessary to revive growth, mitigate the impact of COVID-19, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward.
- The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank rate remain unchanged at 4.25 per cent.
- The reverse repo rate stands unchanged at 3.35 per cent.
- The Consumer Price Index inflation, which was at 5.8 per cent in March 2020, was placed at 6.1 per cent in the provisional estimates for June 2020.

3. Airtel Payments Bank, Bharti AXA partner to offer ‘shop insurance’ for retailers

- Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer “Smart Plan Shop Package Policy” for the financial protection of the bank’s retailers and merchants. The policy will provide financial protection in case of damage to assets inside the shop due to fire and allied perils and burglary, among others, as covered in the product.
- This policy covers assets inside the shop against burglary, fire and allied perils such as flood, earthquake, landslide, rockslide, riots, strike and malicious damage, among others.
- It also covers the loss of money in safety because of an accident. The policy has a flexible sum insured option, starting from Rs 2 lakh up to Rs 25 lakh.

4. RBI governor announces 'positive pay' feature to help avert cheque frauds

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said that the banking system will move to a positive pay practice in cheque transactions to curb 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 will cover approximately 20 per cent of transactions by volume and 80 per cent by value.
- Since 2016, the second largest private sector lender ICICI Bank has such a facility for all cheques irrespective of the amount.

- By following such a system, a bank knows of a cheque being drawn by the customer even before it is deposited by the beneficiary into her account.

5. SBI waives off SMS charges for all savings accounts

- State Bank of India, SBI has waived off SMS charges in addition to its penalty waiver on non-maintenance of minimum balance for all its Savings Accounts. SBI has over 44 crore savings accounts. The public sector bank informed that the waiver of such charges is applicable for all kinds of savings accounts including those with cheque or Internet Banking facilities.
- Earlier, SBI customers had to maintain an average monthly balance of 3000, 2000 and 1000 rupees in metro, semi Urban and rural areas respectively. The bank used to levy a penalty of 5 to 15 rupees plus taxes on non-maintenance of average monthly balance. The Bank had announced in the month of March this year that the minimum balance charges will be waived off for all its Savings Account customers.

6. Fino Payments Bank launches Aadhaar Authentication based Digital Savings account “Jan Bachat Khata”

- Fino Payments Bank has launched Jan Bachat Khata (JBK), which is an Aadhaar Authentication based digital savings account that brings neo-banking experience to consumers.
- Under the JBK, customers can transact at a Fino branch or merchant point with fingerprint and OTP combination, while at non-Fino points they need Aadhaar authentication.
- Earlier, Fino Payments Bank had introduced Shubh and Bhavishya, subscription-based savings accounts targeted at specific customer segments.

7. RBI Board approves transfer of Rs 57,128 cr as surplus to central govt

- The RBI Board has approved the transfer of 57,128 crore rupees as surplus to the central government for the accounting year 2019-20.
- RBI has informed that it has also decided to maintain a Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.5 percent.
- The Board, chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, discussed the bank's operations in the past year and approved its annual report and statement of accounts.

8. ADB approves USD 1 billion package for rapid transit system in India

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 1 billion (about ₹7,485 crore) loan to support the construction of the modern, high-speed Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system, a first of its kind in India.

- The transit system project aims to help decongest the city and improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options through densely populated sections of the NCR connecting Delhi to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.
- Delhi accounts for 37 percent of the population of the national capital region (NCR).
- The 82-km Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system network is the first of three priority rail corridors in the country's integrated transport network under the NCR regional plan 2021.
- This project will finance the construction of railway tracks, station buildings, maintenance facilities and traction and power supply.

Books and Awards

1. Oscar-winner Matthew McConaughey writes his debut book "GreenLight"

- 'Green lights' the debut book authored by Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey published by Crown Publishing Group is set to be released on 20th October 2020. The book was described as "not a traditional memoir but a playbook" based on the adventures and life experiences of McConaughey.
- McConaughey describes 'Greenlights' as an album, a record and the story of his life and he shared his anecdotes, poems and life lessons in this book.

2. Kala Narayanasamy conferred with President's Award in Singapore

- Indian-origin nurse, Kala Narayanasamy in Singapore has been conferred with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Kala Narayanasamy, who is the Deputy Director of Nursing at Woodlands Health Campus, has been conferred with this award for utilising the infection control practices that she had learned during the 2003 severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, in the current pandemic.
- The President's Award for Nurses in Singapore recognises the efforts of nurses who have shown sustained outstanding performance and contributions to patient care delivery, education, research and administration.

3. Biography of India's youngest Basketball captain Vishesh Bhriguvanshi to hit stands soon

- A book titled, "Vishesh: Code to Win" written by the sportswoman-turned-author Nirupama Yadav is expected to be put out for the public view on August 29, 2020, the National Sports day. The book is the

biography of India's Youngest Basketball Captain, Vishesh Bhriguvanshi and will be published by the Bluerose publishers.

- The Book narrates the journey of a young Indian basketball captain, Vishesh Bhriguvanshi, becoming the captain of the team in a cricket-dominated nation.
- The objective of the book is to encourage the sports industry to focus more on developing games in India like cricket so that the players get their due recognition.

4. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar released a book - "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata".

- Written by Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary. The book published by Bihar Assembly Secretariat is a compilation of Choudhary's views, three dozen articles on different important issues and his life journey.
- It also mentions various developmental works in different sectors and welfare measures taken by Nitish Kumar government in Bihar.
- The book "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata" has also talked about various other important activities of assembly, successful completion of 6th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region, Prohibition law, debate on climate change, reforms in the procedure and business advisory rules of the assembly.

5. Malayalam movie 'Moothon' and documentary 'Son Rise' win awards at 20th New York Indian Film Festival

- Malayalam film 'Moothon' and National Award winning documentary 'Son Rise' won awards at the 20th edition of New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) of Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) which was conducted as a virtual event with the celebrities of the film industries and award winners participating from all across India and the United States.
- More than 45 feature length narratives, short and documentaries of India were showcased in the virtual edition of 20th NYIFF held from 24th July 2020 to 2nd August 2020. The films showcased in the event were in multiple languages including Assamese, Bengali, Haryanvi, Hindi, English, Ladakhi, Maithili, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali and Tamil.

6. DIAT bags 1st prize in Smart India Hackathon 2020

- Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, DIAT, has bagged 1st prize in Smart India Hackathon, SIH, 2020. It was held from 1st to 3rd of this month at Noida Institute of Engineering and Technology, Uttar Pradesh.
- This 36-hour non-stop digital product building competition was a national level competition for software edition, which was organized

- jointly by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and All India Council for Technical Education.
- During the competition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the participants in a live event. Six- member team of the institute received one lakh rupees as prize money for solving a technical problem using artificial intelligence.

7. ‘RAW: A History of India’s Covert Operations’ authored by Yatish Yadav launched

- The new book, titled “RAW: A History of India’s Covert Operations”, has been launched. The book gives a peep into the heroic covert operations carried by India’s external spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).
- The book has been written by investigative journalist and author Yatish Yadav. It has been published by Westland.
- The book provides a deeper insight and understanding of how covert operations are carried out in the uncharted territory.

8. Book Chronicling 3rd Year Of Vice President Naidu In Office Released

- A book chronicling the third year in office of Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu titled ‘Connecting, Communicating, Changing’ was released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The electronic version of the book (e-book) will be launched by Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- The book which runs into more than 250 pages has been brought out by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The book captures through words and pictures the variegated activities of the Vice President, including his travels in India and abroad. It provides a glimpse of his interactions with farmers, scientists, doctors, youth, administrators, industry leaders and artists, among others.

9. ITBP awards 294 troops for bravery during recent skirmishes with Chinese in Ladakh

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has awarded 294 of its troops with the Director General (DG) commendation for displaying bravery during the recent skirmishes with Chinese troops in Ladakh. This was announced by the border force on August 14, 2020.
- The ITBP added saying that recommendations have also been sent to the government for awarding gallantry medals to 21 troops posted in the area.
- The ITBP in its first official account of the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops revealed how its troops not only effectively used the shield to protect themselves but also responded fiercely to advancing

Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops and brought the situation under control.

10. Book “A Bend in Time: Writings by Children on the Covid-19 pandemic” by Bijal Vachharajani Released

- A book titled “A Bend in Time: Writings by Children on the COVID-19 Pandemic” was released in July 2020, the introduction of which is written by award-winning children’s author Bijal Vachharajani. The book is published by Talking Cub (children’s imprint of Speaking Tiger).
- The book showcased the emotions and thoughts of children and young adults, from across the country and social groups, about the greatest global crisis in recent times: the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Bijal Vachharajani is the winner of the Auther Children’s Book Award 2020 and also named in the Parag Honour List 2020 of TATA Groups.

11. Actor Sharon Stone’s Memoir “The Beauty of Living Twice” to Release in March 2021

- Hollywood Actor Sharon Stone announced the release of her Memoir “The Beauty of Living Twice” in March 2021. She unveiled the cover of the book on Twitter.
- The Book will reflect on her journey from painful childhood in Pennsylvania to her experience in acting in films like Martin Scorsese’s mobster epic ‘Casino’ which earned her an Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe award.
- Additionally she will be writing about her two marriages, her near-fatal stroke and humanitarian work on behalf of AIDS research and other causes.
- The book is set to be published by Alfred A Knopf, and is set to release both in hardcover and ebook.

12. President Approves 84 Gallantry Awards for defence personnel

- President Ram Nath Kovind has approved 84 gallantry awards for defence personnel, including nine Shaurya Chakra.
- The Kirti Chakra has been posthumously awarded to Abdul Rashid Kalas, Head Constable, Jammu and Kashmir Police.
- The Shaurya Chakra is awarded for 'gallantry otherwise than in the face of the enemy'.
- It is the third highest gallantry award in peacetime.
- The President 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'.
- Operation 'Meghdoot' was launched in 1984 to secure control of the heights predominating the Siachen Glacier.

- 'Operation Rakshak' is also an ongoing counter-insurgency operation in Jammu and Kashmir.

13. Rural School in Nagaland Wins Pallikkutam National Award for Innovation in Education

- St. Christopher School in Chessore Village, Nagaland won the Gold Award along with cash prize of Rs.1 Lakh from the first ever Pallikkutam National Award for Innovation in Education instituted by Rajagiri Media. The awards were announced over a virtual meeting.
- The St Christopher School won the award for ensuring a seamless class for the students with the limited infrastructure and resources in the rural area. The Prize money for Gold Award is Rs.1,00,000.
- The rural school provided a balanced online and offline activities for the students over the Whatsapp.

14. Michael Cohen's Book "Disloyal: The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump" is set to Publish on 8 sept

- Michael Cohen's book about President Donald Trump titled "Disloyal: The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump" published by Skyhorse Publishing is set to release on 8th September 2020.
- Skyhorse describes "Disloyal" as a devastating business and political horror story of the century.
- On 13th August 2020, Cohen released the foreword of the book with the writing of his former boss.

15. Abhijit Paul's 'Am I' wins first prize in Online Patriotic Short Film Contest

- A Short film titled 'Am I?' directed by Abhijit Paul won the first prize and a cash award of one lakh rupees in the Online Patriotic Short Film Contest organized 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 50 thousand rupees and '10 Rupees' directed by Yuvraj Gokul got the third prize and a cash award of 25 thousand rupees. Eight short films have got Special Mention Certificates.
- The contest went live on 14th July on MyGov portal and ended on the 7th of August. The contest was hosted on the www.MyGov.in website for receiving the entries. The theme for the entries revolved around patriotism, equating it to Atmanirbharta, self-reliance as the new Mantra of progress for the nation.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. SpaceX's Crew Dragon successfully returns NASA astronauts back to Earth

- Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley two US astronauts who were sent to the International Space Station two months ago return to the planet Earth safely following a 21-hour overnight journey. The astronaut were sent by NASA in collaboration with Elon Musk's company Space-X. The Crew Dragon designed and operated by Space-X which is also being used for this flight test can stay in orbit about 110 days,
- On 30th May 2020 at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the company's Crew Dragon spacecraft was launched from Launch Complex 39A at 3:22 PM. This is leap and bound moment in the history of aeronautical science when for the first time in the history, NASA sent their astronauts in a commercially built and operated American crew spacecraft.
- This Demo-2 mission in partnership with Elon Musk's Space-X is the final major test before NASA's Commercial Crew Program approves and certifies Crew Dragon for operational, long-duration missions to the space station.

2. IIT Madras in joint collaboration with HELYXON developed a device called OXY2

- A health startup at IIT Madras in joint collaboration with HELYXON has developed a device called OXY2. This newly designed device can easily take vitals of an individual such as heart rate, temperature, oxygen saturation and respiration rate clinically accurate. The device is made commercially available now and has already been deployed to monitor 2000 patients a day in hospitals.
- The core technology of OXY2 was validated after doing a year-long multi-centric study at various Chennai-based medical institutions for accuracy and performance with reference to current standards. After the successful trial medical institutions found the device to be of great help during the pandemic when the medical staff have to come in close with the patients to take their vitals.

3. Paytm launches first pocket Android POS device for contactless payments in India

- Paytm has launched its first pocket Android PoS device for contactless ordering and making payments, for SMEs.
- This comes at an introductory price of ₹499 per month on a rental basis and is designed like a phone. The firm says its PoS machine comes bundled with Paytm's 'Scan to Order' service, which is slowly said to be gaining traction in places like restaurants and takeaway joints.

- This product is also expected to make payments easier for logistic players, Kirana stores, and small shopkeepers.

4. Skyroot Aerospace becomes first Indian startup to test upper-stage rocket engine

- Skyroot Aerospace, Indian aerospace startup successfully test fired an upper stage rocket engine “Raman”, India’s first 100% 3D printed bi-propellant liquid rocket engine injector named after the Nobel laureate Sir CV Raman and became the first private aerospace company in India to test a rocket engine developed in India.
- Raman is a lightweight 3D printed rocket engine featuring a fewer number of moving parts.
- Raman can hurl a satellite of 250 to 700 kilograms into the lower orbits.

5. HAL’s Light Combat Helicopters deployed for operations at Leh

- In the prevailing tension situation in Ladakh with China over repeated incursions by the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) of the country, the government has decided to deploy two Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) in the region.
- These helicopters have been developed by the public sector defence undertaking, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- These two helicopters are going to support the initiatives of the Indian Air Force in the region in the high altitude areas of the region. These helicopters have been deployed for operations at a very short notice. This is the lightest such helicopters in the world in order to meet the specific demands of the IAF.

6. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation through an online webinar. 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 Draft Defence Acquisition Policy 2020 rolled out by the Defence Ministry last month envisaged establishment of Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation by the Service Headquarters.

7. Xiaomi India pledged 2500 smartphones to support online education

- The Chinese smartphone major Xiaomi has stated that its Indian arm MI India will distribute 2500 handsets worth Rs 2 crores to support online

education of children who were the worst affected by the COVID 19 pandemic in the country.

- The company has come up with this idea amid the pandemic situation since it wants to support the concept of education in the country and wants to ensure that education reaches to all the children in the country. This is also part of the Digital India initiative by the government and the company wants to support that, at any cost. The smartphones are worth Rs 2 crores. The company has appealed to inform it regarding any child requiring such help in the country as the company will try to help that child.
- According to Teach for India, one smartphone can support the education of up to seven children on the use of the devices in shifts. This move will help those many children in the country. This comes on the backdrop of the UN policy Brief stating the grim impact of the pandemic on education all over the world.

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- The rural school provided a balanced online and offline activities for the students over the Whatsapp.

11. Army Chief honours 51 SAG of the National Security Guard

- Chief of Army Staff on honoured the 51 Special Action Group of the National Security Guards in recognition of its achievements in combating terrorism.
- The 'COAS (Chief of Army Staff) Unit Appreciation' was conferred on the elite group for its "outstanding achievements" in anti-terror operations.
- The group draws 100 per cent of its manpower from the Indian Army and has established itself as an elite counter terrorist force earning many gallantry awards including three Ashok Chakra which is India's highest peacetime gallantry honour.
- Since its raising in December 1984, 51 Special Action Group has carved a niche for itself.

SPORTS

1. Lewis Hamilton wins his seventh British Grand Prix 2020 despite puncture on last lap

- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton has won the Formula One British Grand Prix 2020 held at the Silverstone Circuit, United Kingdom.
- Max Verstappen (Red bull) ended up second in this F1 race while Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) came third. This is the third win for Hamilton in this season of F1 races.

2. Sports Minister Kiren Rijju chairs 1st General Council meeting of Khelo India Scheme

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijju chaired the 1st General Council meeting of the Khelo India Scheme. Mr Rijju urged the states to organise State-level Khelo India Games annually with an effort to identify a larger number of grassroot-level talents.

- The annual competitions being organized at the national level under the Khelo India Scheme, like the Khelo India Youth Games and University Games, have helped to identify sporting talent from all states.
- Mr Rijiju has asked the states to organise competitions at the district, block and panchayat-level to identify young talent.

3. India withdraws from women's world team squash championship in Kuala Lumpur

- India has withdrawn from the women's world team Squash championship scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15th to 20th December.
- Indian team cited lack of preparation, time and match-readiness of its players.
- The coronavirus case count continues to rise in the country with Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai — all major squash centres — badly hit by the virus, making resumption of training difficult.
- The Asian Junior Individual Championship 2020 has also been cancelled by the Asian Squash Federation due to the pandemic.
- The event was scheduled to be held at Qingdao, China in June but was postponed to December before being finally cancelled.

4. India will hosts T20 World Cup in 2021, Australia to host in 2022

- India will remain hosts of the 2021 Twenty20 World Cup while Australia will host this year's postponed tournament in 2022.
- The ICC also confirmed the women's 50-over World Cup that was scheduled to be held in New Zealand in February-March next year has been postponed to 2022.
- This year's T20 World Cup was scheduled to be held in Australia in October-November but the tournament was postponed due to the logistical challenges of staging the 16-team event amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions in place.

5. PCA's new international stadium to be named after Patiala's last ruler

- Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) is set to name its new stadium in Mullanpur, New Chandigarh, Punjab after the late Maharaja Yadavindra Singh.
- PCA President Rajinder Gupta proposed the idea to name the stadium and it had been approved.
- Maharaja Yadavindra Singh played a test match for India against England in 1934. Maharaja Yadavindra Singh was the father of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. He was the 9th and the last Maharaja of Patiala.

6. Sri Lanka, UAE kept as India's back up for 2021 T20 World Cup

- As per the latest report, Sri Lanka and the UAE have been kept as backup venues for the 2021 Men's T20 World Cup in case India is unable to host the tournament due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ICC had recently confirmed that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will be held in India as scheduled earlier, while this year's postponed T20 World Cup edition will be held in Australia in 2022.
- However, the ICC has identified Sri Lanka and UAE as backup venues for the 2021 edition in case Covid-19 makes India an untenable host. India is currently the third-worst-hit country in the world after the US and Brazil with over 2 million coronavirus cases.

7. Sports Ministry to organise Fit India Freedom Run from Aug 15 to Oct 2

- The Sports Ministry will organise 'Fit India Freedom Run', a largest country-wide run, from August 15 to October 2, 2020. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the mega-event on August 14.
- Amid the ongoing pandemic situation and the norms of social distancing, the sports ministry has decided to encourage the participants of the event to run at their own pace, anywhere and anytime as per their convenience.
- The event organised by the Sports Ministry aims at encouraging fitness among the masses while also following the COVID-19 protocols. As per Mr. Rijiju, it is another endeavor to strengthen the Fit India movement envisaged by Prime Minister Modi.

8. Hockey India To Provide Financial Assistance To 61 Unemployed Athletes

- The Hockey India executive board has announced immediate support to 61 athletes across the junior and senior men and women core probable who are not employed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The purpose behind providing financial assistance is to help them in resuming their sports activities. Athletes who are not holding any form of employment may face constraints that can impact their ability to be able to return to sports activities.
- Mr. Gyanendro Ningombam, Hockey India Officiating President informed that sixty-one athletes will be receiving financial assistance from the Hockey India, which will include 26 Junior men, 30 Junior women, 1 senior men, and 1 senior women core probable.

9. Cricketer Rohit Sharma Appointed Oakley's Brand Ambassador in India

- Indian Limited-overs Team Vice-Captain Rohit Sharma has been appointed as Brand Ambassador of Sports eyewear brand, Oakley for a period of two years in India
- With this partnership, Rohit Sharma will sport Oakley Sports eyewear on and off the pitch.

- He has joined the likes of Vira Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and model Milind Soman who have endorsed the brand in the past
- Ben Goss, Oakley global brand director announced the appointment of Rohit Sharma as Brand Ambassador through a press statement.

10. MS Dhoni announces retirement from international cricket

- Former Indian skipper, MS Dhoni announced his retirement from international cricket on August 15, 2020. The 39-year-old World Cup-winning captain made the announcement through his social media account.
- Dhoni announced his retirement through a post on Instagram, which read "Thanks a lot for your love and support throughout. From 1929 hrs consider me as Retired."

11. Table Tennis Player Poulomi Ghatak retires silently, shifts her focus on coaching

- One of the most successful Indian table tennis players, Poulomi Ghatak, quietly bid adieu to her playing career. A seven-time national champion, Ghatak was the most prominent name in women's table tennis in the last couple of decades. 'We don't play cricket. We play table tennis. That's the difference,' she says as she retires as an eminent successful Table Tennis player of the Indian team.
- She had broken into the national team of Table Tennis at quite a young age and had remained an extremely consistent performer. Excelling for more than two decades, she won the National crown for stupendous seven times.

12. Bayern Munich win Champions League 2019-20 title

- German professional sports club Bayern Munich won the UEFA Champions League title for the sixth time by defeating Paris Saint-Germain 1-0. The club bagged their maiden UEFA Champions League title in 1974.
- French professional footballer, Kingsley Junior Coman was the only scorer of the match and selected the Man of the Match. Real Madrid is the top club in the winner list of total UEFA Champions League with 11 trophies so far. Bayern and Liverpool both are six-time champions of Europe. Bayern Munich won all 11 league fixtures of this season of the UEFA Champions League. Barcelona became the group topper for a record 13th consecutive season.
- The Union of European Football associations organized the UEFA Champions League club football competition annually. Top European clubs participate in the tournament.
- The first UEFA Champions League was organized in 1955-56 when it was called the European Cup. In 1992-93, it became the Champions League.

13. Jaques Kallis, Lisa Sthalekar and Zaheer Abbas inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

- Legendary South African all-rounder Jaques Kallis, Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas and Pune-born former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar were inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame.
- Among the finest all-rounders to play the game, Kallis represented South Africa in 166 Tests, 328 ODIs and 25 T20s between 1995 and 2014. Remarkably, he is the only player to score at least 10,000 runs and take at least 250 wickets in both Test and ODI cricket.
- Zaheer Abbas played 78 Tests and 62 ODIs for Pakistan, accumulating 5062 and 2572 runs respectively. Kallis is the fourth South African player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and Abbas the sixth from Pakistan. Sthalekar represented Australia in eight Tests, 125 ODIs and 54 T20s.
- Sthalekar is the 27th from Australia and the ninth woman player in the list, which includes five from her country.

14. First female golfer from Germany Sophia Popov wins Women's British Open

- World number 304 Sophia Popov became the first female golfer from Germany to capture a major title after winning the Women's British Open by two strokes at Royal Troon in Scotland.
- Thailand's Jasmine Suwannapura was the runner-up after shooting 67. It completed one of the most unlikely wins in the tournament's history.

15. James Anderson becomes first Fast Bowler to take 600 Test Wickets

- England's James Anderson has created history by becoming the first-ever fast bowler to take 600 wickets in Test cricket. The 38-year-old achieved the feat during England's third test against Pakistan at the Ageas Bowl cricket ground in Southampton on August 25, 2020
- During the beginning of the third test, Anderson was seven wickets away from the historic feat. He, however, reached the milestone on the 5th day of the Test when he dismissed Pakistan batsman Azhar Ali to claim his 600th wicket.
- James Anderson has now become the fourth-highest wicket-taker in the longest format of the game, only behind Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne and Anil Kumble. He is the highest wicket-taker for England in Test cricket. Stuart Broad is the second-highest wicket-taker for England in Test cricket with 500 Test wickets.

OBITUARIES

1. Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Shivajirao Patil Nilangeka passes away at 88

- Maharashtra former Chief Minister and Senior Congressman Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar passed away. The doctor announced kidney failure as the reason for his death. The 88-year-old minister who had been suffering from several co-morbidities including diabetes and high blood pressure, and had been tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Pune was admitted at a private hospital.
- The former CM is survived by wife, three sons, a daughter and grandchildren. His last rites are to be performed in Nilanga his birthplace in Latur district.

2. Former Union Home Secretary & Arunachal Pradesh Governor, Ram Pradhan passes away at 92

- The former Union Home Secretary Ram Pradhan has passed away due to age-related ailments. Mr. Pradhan served as the governor of Arunachal Pradesh during the Rajiv Gandhi government.
- Pradhan was an IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre.
- He also headed a two-member committee set up in December 2008 to probe the security forces' response to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

3. Renowned TV actor Sameer Sharma passes away

- Sameer Sharma, a 44-year-old television actor, was found dead in his Malad apartment. Malad police officials said that the actor died by suicide. The actor had also appeared in the shows Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki and Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, Jyoti, Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Du, and Left Right Left, among others.
- He is also listed as a cast member in films such as Hasee Toh Phasee and Ittefaq.

4. Former India and Mohun Bagan football player Manitombi passes away

- Former India defender and Mohun Bagan captain Manitombi Singh passed away. He played for Mohun Bagan and was part of the Hindustan FC team that won the Delhi Soccer Association league title in 2010.
- He was part of the team that won the LG Cup in Vietnam under the captaincy of Bhaichung Bhutia. He also donned the Indian colours at the Busan Asian Games later in the year.

5. Renowned lyricist & poet Rahat Indori passes away

- In Madhya Pradesh, noted Urdu poet and lyricist Rahat Indori died of cardiac arrest in Indore. He was also tested positive for COVID-19. With a 50-year career in poetry, Indori was known for the lyrics of hit films like Munnabhai MBBS, Kareeb, Ghatak and Ishq.

- Indori did his schooling from Nutan School in Indore and his graduation from Islamia Karimia College, Indore.
- Rahat Sahab had faced poverty in his childhood, so in his words people could see the truth of life.

6. Veteran sports journalist G.K.Menon passes away

- Veteran sports journalist GK Menon died in Mumbai. He was 93 and. He worked with the Indian Express and The Times of India and ended his freelance career in the early 1990s.
- Menon played cricket at the club level and also was an active member of the Shivaji Park Gymkhana in Dadar, central Mumbai.
- He was manager of the 1952-53 Bombay University team which won the Rohinton Baria Trophy by beating Delhi in the final at Bengaluru.

7. PM Modi, Amit Shah pay respects to Atal Bihari Vajpayee on second death anniversary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his second death anniversary as he remembered the former Prime Minister's "outstanding service" to the nation. Born on December 25, 1924 in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior, Vajpayee was the first-ever person from the BJP to become the Prime Minister.
- He served as Prime Minister thrice, briefly in 1996, from 1998 to 1999 and then for a full five-year term between 1999 and 2004. Apart from politics, Vajpayee was a prominent writer and penned a number of poems. The veteran BJP leader passed away on August 16, 2018, at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in Delhi after a prolonged illness.

8. Music legend Pandit Jasraj passes away in US at the age of 90

- Music legend Pandit Jasraj passed away at the age of 90. Pandit Jasraj was an Indian classical vocalist, belonging to the Mewati gharana.
- He was a recipient of the Padma Shri (1975), Padma Bhushan (1990) and Padma Vibhushan (2000).
- Back in 2019, a minor planet, between Mars and Jupiter, was named after the famed musician.

9. Former India opener Chetan Chauhan passed away at the age of 73

- The 73-year-old Chetan Chauhan, who was also a Cabinet Minister in Uttar Pradesh government passed away today. He was admitted to the Sanjay Gandhi PGI Hospital in Lucknow after testing COVID-19 positive on July 12.
- The health condition of former India opener Chetan Chauhan, who tested positive for COVID-19 last month, was worsened after he developed multi-

organ failure and he was now on ventilator support at a medical facility in Gurugram.

10. 'Black Panther' star Chadwick Boseman passes away at 43

- The Hollywood star Chadwick Boseman, best known for his work in 'Black Panther' passed away on August 28, 2020, after a four-year-long battle with colon cancer. He was 43.
- His heartbreaking demise was confirmed by his team through a statement which was shared on Twitter. As per the statement, Boseman was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer in 2016 and was battling with it from the past 4 years as it progressed to stage 4.
- Known to bring King T'Challa to life in 'Black Panther', before starring in Marvel's Superhero flick, Chadwick Boseman had risen to stardom with his characters of Black American icons in 'Get on Up' and in '42'.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated annually from 1st of August to 7th of August

- World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated annually in the first week of August (from 1st of August to 7th of August) around 120 countries in the World. The day is celebrated to encourage breastfeeding and improve the babies' health around the world.
- The theme for the year 2020 is, "Support Breast feeding for a healthier planet".
- The day was commenced after signing the Innocenti Declaration in August 1990. The global campaigning was first organized by the WABA (World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action) along with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1992, to raise awareness about the benefits of breastfeeding for the initial 6 months of a child's life.

2. National Handloom Day celebrated on 07 August

- National Handloom Day is being organised on 07 August by the Ministry of Textiles. 7th August was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on the same date in the year 1905.
- The objective is to generate awareness about the Handloom Industry among the public and its contribution to socio-economic development.
- To mark the occasion and to instil pride in the workmanship of handloom weaving amongst citizens, a social media campaign is planned for the handloom weaving community.

3. India Observes 77th anniversary of August movement or Quit India movement

- The 77th anniversary of Quit India movement, also known as August Kranti Diwas, was observed on August 8, 2019. The Quit India movement began with Mahatma Gandhi's clarion call of "Do or Die" to end the British rule in India.
- In July 1942, the Congress Working Committee met at Wardha and a resolution was passed which was termed The Wardha Resolution.
- It is also known as Quit India Resolution which demanded, The British Rule in India must end immediately. The British had refused to grant India total independence but later they agreed to give independence after World War II ended. World War II ended in 1945 and India gained independence in 1947.

4. Every year 10th August is observed as World Biofuel Day

- It is observed to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the biofuel sector.
- They are renewable, biodegradable, sustainable and environment friendly fuel. It can be seen as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- Biofuels have the benefits of reducing import dependency on crude oil, cleaner environment, additional income to farmers and employment generation in rural areas.

5. Railways to observe cleanliness week to mark Independence Day

- Indian Railways has decided to observe 'Cleanliness Week' starting from August 10 till August 15 in order to give the message of the importance and significance of cleanliness for the national transporter.
- During this week, the Indian Railways has decided to launch a special cleanliness drive and also special focus will be provided to clean the tracks, station offices, colonies, worksites, the edge of stations and other areas near the premises of the railway stations, across the country. The Ministry has decided to focus mainly on the plastic waste collection from the tracks along with other waste products.

6. International Youth Day is observed on 12 August

- International Youth Day is observed every year on 12 August. The day gives an opportunity to celebrate and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal and equitable engagement.

- In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12th August be declared International Youth Day.
- The theme of this year is ‘Youth Engagement for Global Action’.

7. Manipur Observed its Patriots’ day 2020 on August 13

- Patriots’ day is observed annually on August 13 in Manipur. The Patriots’ Day 2020 was observed to commemorate the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri war during which many Manipuris sacrificed their lives to safeguard the independence of the State.
- On this day in 1891, Manipuris including the then Prince of Manipur Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General were hanged before the general public in the present Imphal area. Prabhat Phery was held in the streets of Imphal City, as part of the observance. The day was observed without involving the general public due to COVID-19 pandemic.

8. World Humanitarian Day: 19 August

- World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is held every year on August 19. The day pays tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world.
- Thousands of men and women all around the world put their lives in danger working in Humanitarian causes and do it selflessly, not for ulterior selfish motives.
- This year WHD comes as the world continues to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. On 19 August 2003, a bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq took place in which 22 people were killed brutally and among these ones was the chief humanitarian in Iraq.
- In 2009, the UN General Assembly announced this day as World Humanitarian Day in remembrance of the bomb attack.

9. "Sadbhavana Diwas" Observed on 20th August

- Sadbhavana Diwas is observed on August 20 every year in the memory of late erstwhile Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi who dreamed about a developed India. The day is celebrated to mark the birth of our sixth and youngest Prime Minister. Contributions to the betterment of our society are made on this day, paying respect to Gandhi and his vision for the country.
- Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister at an age of 40 years after the assassination of his mother Indra Gandhi and served from 1984-89. A year after Rajiv Gandhi’s assassination, the Indian National Congress instituted Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award in 1992.
- It was established to accredit outstanding contributions in promoting national integration, peace, and harmony.

10. World Senior Citizen Day: 21 August

- World Senior Citizens' Day is celebrated on 21 August every year. It is observed to raise awareness about the issues that older people face and to acknowledge the importance of senior citizens in society.
- It also recognises and acknowledges 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.

11. Women's Equality Day: 26 August

- Women's Equality Day is celebrated on August 26 every year to honor the hard-fought victory of the women's suffrage movement.
- Women's Equality Day has been designed to commemorate the 19th Amendment being adopted in the 1920s in the United States.
- This act stopped the federal government and states from preventing people from the right to vote based on their sex. By the early 20th century, other countries including Finland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom had legalised voting for women as this movement swept across the world.



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