

# Monthly G.K Capsule

September 2020

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. Hon. President and Prime Minister to address the Governors' Conference on NEP-2020**

- Hon. President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi shall address the inaugural session of the Governors' Conference on National Education Policy on at 10:30 AM on 7th September 2020, through video conference.
- The Conference titled "Role of NEP-2020 in Transforming Higher Education" is being organized by the Ministry of Education, Govt of India.
- NEP-2020 is the first education policy of the twenty-first century which was announced after 34 years of the previous National Policy on Education 1986. NEP-2020 is directed towards major reforms in both school and higher education level.
- The new National Education Policy strives for making India into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society. It envisions an India-centred education system that contributes directly to transforming India into a Global Superpower.

### **2. G20 member countries reaffirm commitment to ensuring education continuity and safety for all**

- Education Ministers of G 20 nations have resolved to work together and share best practices in the area of education so that member countries can ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all, even in times of COVID crisis. A virtual meeting of G20 Education Ministers was held yesterday to discuss and share experiences of member countries in the three identified areas. These are education Continuity in Times of Crises, Early Childhood Education and Internationalization in Education.
- Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said, India will continue the efforts it has taken to reform and transform its education system and mitigate the challenge posed by the Covid 19 pandemic. He also said India is committed to collaborate with G 20 member countries in the area of education.
- The Education Ministers adopted a communique at the end of the meeting. Regarding ensuring education continuity in times of crises, the communique recognizes the value of distance and blended teaching and learning and underscores the importance of enhancing access to high-quality education, professional development for educators, digital infrastructure and content. The importance of research and data to assess the learning outcomes and quality of distance learning has also been stressed.

### **3. Government of India Expands the support to Artisans manifold, for making Agarbatti, to make India Aatm- Nirbhar**

- Taking a holistic approach and looking to the enhanced interest of the stakeholders, Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), further expanded the reach and support to Artisans, involved in Agarbatti making, and to the Agarbatti Industry, by issuing new guidelines on 4th September, 2020.
- Further to its launching the support program on 30.07.20, Ministry has looked at all aspects of the industry, beyond just supply of machines for making Agarbatti. This includes ensuring supply of inputs and raw materials, the demand for which has increased hugely in last one year.

#### **4. Vodafone Idea to rebrand as 'Vi' as it prepares for telecom battle**

- Vodafone and Idea brands re-branded themselves under a new brand identify 'Vi' on September 7, 2020. The new brand identity has been adopted keeping in mind the future, which is built for and around customers.
- The new brand identity and unified consumer positioning was launched by Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) through a virtual launch on September 7. The integration of Vodafone and Idea marks the culmination of the largest telecom integration in the world.
- In an official statement, VIL stated that two of India's most loved brands "Vodafone and Idea" are now 'together for tomorrow' giving birth to a new brand called 'Vi', which is read as 'We'.

#### **5. Assam govt launches SVAYEM scheme to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths of state**

- In Assam, the State Government re-launched a scheme to provide self-employment to around two lakh youths of the state. Known as Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment (SVAYEM), it would provide 50 thousand rupees each as seed money to selected youths to start business ventures. The Assam Government is launching the redesigned SVAYEM with a budget of 1,000 crore rupees which will be spent in the next three months without any banking linkage.
- Those seeking to avail benefits of the scheme will be able to register themselves at a new portal which will be launched on September 16.
- Youths up to 40 years with the minimum qualification of matriculation would be able to get the benefit of SVAYEM scheme.

#### **6. Punjab Govt Launches 'I Rakhwali' App**

- The State Forest Department of Punjab has launched a mobile application named „I Rakhwali“ to strengthen its drive to preserve and maintain the environment in Punjab
- The app was launched by the Punjab Forest Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot.

- The main aim of „I Rakhwali“ app is to ensure greenery and protect the environment in Punjab as well as inspire people to plant more trees to safeguard the state forest area.

## 7. India In talks to Join COVAX Global vaccine allocation plan: WHO

- The World Health Organisation is in talks with India about joining the "COVAX" global vaccine allocation plan, a senior WHO adviser. "India is certainly eligible, like all countries in the world, to be part of the COVAX facility and discussions are ongoing in that regard," Bruce Aylward told a briefing in Geneva, news agency Reuters reported.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the GAVI vaccine alliance are leading the COVAX facility, aimed at helping buy and distribute vaccination shots against the novel coronavirus fairly around the world.



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## 8. Tamil Nadu govt releases policy for electronics & hardware manufacturing

- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy released the state's Electronic Hardware Manufacturing Policy-2020. A target is fixed in the new policy for the manufacturing of electronic goods worth 100-billion US Dollars by the year 2025.
- It envisages making the state contribute 25 percent of the country's total electronic hardware export. It aims at attracting semiconductor fabrication units to the state.
- Providing a 30-percent capital subsidy, 50 percent grant for taking land on lease, 5-percent interest grant for term loans and a monthly financial aid for the first-time trainees in the sector for six months at the rate of Rs. 4,000 for men and Rs. 6,000 for women are some of the features in the new policy. Mobile phones, LED's, fabless chips, printed circuit boards, solar photovoltaic cells and medical and automobile electronics are some of the areas that are being given focus in the new policy.



### **9. Government releases draft guidelines on advertising; to treat non-legible disclaimers as misleading ads**

- The Consumer Affairs Ministry has come out with a comprehensive set of draft guidelines on advertising. The guideline says, disclaimers in small font and which are not factual will be treated as misleading ads. The code has been drafted by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- It is aimed at curbing unfair trade. It holds manufacturers, service providers, and advertising agencies accountable for any misleading claims.
- Consumer Protection Act, 2019 is a law to protect the interests of the consumers. It saves the rights of consumers by establishing authorities for timely and effective administration and settlement of disputes.

### **10. Prime Minister to inaugurate Patrika Gate in Jaipur**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi shall inaugurate the Patrika Gate in Jaipur through video conference at 11 AM, on the 8th September 2020. The Iconic Gate is built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur.
- Prime Minister shall also release two books written by the Group Chairman on the occasion.
- The programme will be telecast live on DD News.

### **11. At 96.2%, Kerala tops India's literacy rate chart again, Andhra ranks last at 66.4%**

- With 96.2 percent literacy, Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country, while Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 percent, showed a report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) survey. The report on „Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of the 75th round of National Sample Survey – from July 2017 to June 2018“ provides for state-wise detail of literacy rate among the persons aged seven years and above.
- According to the study, after Kerala, Delhi has the best literacy rate at 88.7 percent, followed by Uttarakhand's 87.6 percent, Himachal Pradesh's 86.6 percent, and Assam's at 85.9 percent.
- On the other hand, Rajasthan is the second-worst performer with a literacy rate at 69.7 percent, followed by Bihar at 70.9 percent, Telangana at 72.8 percent, Uttar Pradesh at 73 percent, and Madhya Pradesh at 73.7 percent. The study has pegged the overall literacy rate in the country at about 77.7 percent.

### **12. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah lauded 'PM SVANidhi' scheme to benefit the street vendors**

- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah lauded the 'PM SVANidhi' scheme being run by Modi Government to benefit the street vendors. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today held 'Svanidhi Samvaad' with street vendors from Madhya Pradesh.
- The Government of India had launched PM Svanidhi scheme on 1st June, 2020 to help poor street vendors, impacted by COVID-19, resume livelihood activities. This scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh Street Vendors. Under the Scheme, the vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year. On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on quarterly basis. There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.
- The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month. Moreover, vendors can achieve their ambition of going up on the economic ladder by availing the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/early repayment of loan.

### **13. Inaugural run of South India's 1st and country's 2nd Kisan Rail between Anantapur and New Delhi flagged off**

- The inaugural run of Anantapur – New Delhi Kisan Rail was flagged off through video link by Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, and Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
- The programme was presided over by Shri Suresh C. Angadi, Union Minister of State for Railways. The Kisan train will run between Anantapur in Guntakal Division of South Central Railway and Adarsh Nagar in Delhi.
- Speaking on the occasion, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that the Kisan Rail will help in strengthening the agricultural economy, while Shri Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the state's popular fruits will now be able to reach other areas in the country easily.

### **14. PM Modi to launch Matsya Sampada Yojana, e-Gopala app on September 10**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will digitally launch the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) on 10th September. Prime Minister will also launch e-Gopala App, a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers. Several other initiatives in the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors in Bihar will also be launched by the Prime Minister on the occasion.
- The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores for its

implementation during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories, as a part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package.

- The investment of Rs. 20,050 crores under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector. Out of this, an investment of about Rs 12340 crores is proposed for beneficiary-oriented activities in Marine, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture and about Rs 7710 crores investment for Fisheries Infrastructure.

#### **15. Petroleum and Gas PSUs to join International Solar Alliance**

- Five Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry will be joining International Solar Alliance (ISA)'s Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (ISA-CSCA) as Corporate Partners and will be contributing to ISA's Corpus Fund, said Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- The Minister said that Oil & Gas PSUs are increasingly evaluating new opportunities in the solar and RE space for diversification. Recently, French major Total has also announced investments for buying about 2 GW operating PV plants in India.

#### **16. MoS V. Muraleedharan attends 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

- Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan attended the 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Wednesday. The Meeting was held virtually.
- It was attended by the Foreign Ministers of the East Asia Summit participating countries and chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam.
- The Meeting discussed ways and means to strengthen the Leaders-led EAS platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary.
- The Ministers exchanged views on the current regional and international developments including the COVID-19 pandemic and the cooperation to achieve a speedy and sustainable recovery.
- Mr Muraleedharan in his remarks appreciated Vietnam's efforts, as ASEAN Chair, for providing continued stewardship towards a „Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN“ during the pandemic.
- He underlined the key role played by EAS as a leading mechanism of the Indo-Pacific region and reiterated India's support to make it stronger and more responsive.

#### **17. First India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue held virtually**

- The first India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue was held virtually. The focus of the dialogue was on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

region. The outcome oriented meeting was held with the objective of building on the strong bilateral relations that the three countries share with each other.

- The three sides agreed to hold the dialogue on an annual basis.
- The three sides discussed economic and geostrategic challenges and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and domestic responses to it. Cooperation on Marine Global Commons and potential areas for practical cooperation at the trilateral and regional level were also discussed, including through regional organisations such as ASEAN, IORA and the Indian Ocean Commission.

### **18. Education Minister launches EFLU"s free English learning app**

- Union Minister of Education has launched a free mobile app named as "English Pro". The mobile application has been developed by the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad under University Social Responsibility (USR).
- This app will be "a useful digital tool" and will act as an educational resource for the teachers, students and for people from varied backgrounds. The first-of-its kind initiative by any university in the country, the mobile application "EnglishPro" will help learners in developing Indian English Pronunciation in the unique "Indian" way.
- In the near future, EFLU will also come up with more advanced versions of the mobile application to address the larger learner-needs.

### **19. Telangana, Haryana states take several activities under Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat programme**

- Under the Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat programme, Telangana and Haryana States have achieved synergy and artists, students and literary personalities learnt arts, language and culture of each other to a large extent. Telangana and Haryana states have taken up several activities under the Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat programme and achieved the objective to a large extent during the past few years.
- Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, the programme provided the two states a perfect platform to promote the spirit of national integration and learn each other"s language, art, culture, literature and know largely about the way of life of each other.

### **20. PM Narendra Modi addresses Conclave on "School Education in 21st Century"**

- A two-day conclave on „School Education in the 21st Century“ commenced virtually. The conclave has been organised by the Ministry of Education as part of Shikshak Parv 2020.



- Shikshak Parv is being celebrated from 8th-25th September, 2020 to felicitate the teachers and to take New Education Policy 2020 forward.
- The conclave was addressed by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi under the National Education Policy- 2020 (NEP-2020).

## **21. India will be self-reliant in the production of fertilizers by 2023**

- Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers said, by 2023 India will be self-reliant in the production of fertilizers as under “Atma Nirbhar Bharat” programme new fertilizer manufacturing units are being setup with an investment of Rs 40,000 crore in the country to reduce dependency on import.
- He asked farmers to use Urea judiciously as excessive use of Urea may spoil the soil health. He advised farmers to use fertilizers according to their soil health cards.

## **22. Films Division to stream films on Rajbhasha on „Hindi Diwas-2020“**

- Streaming of well-researched documentaries leading to the historic occasion of adoption of Hindi as an official language of the Union of India on 14th September, 1949, mock enactment of the meeting of the Constituent Assembly by children and travelogues showing growth and popularity of Hindi in different States will mark the celebration of „Hindi Diwas“ by Films Division on 14th September, 2020.
- The pioneering efforts of Beohar Rajendra Simha, a well known Hindi scholar-writer who rallied and lobbied in favour of Hindi along with other stalwarts like Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Maithili Sharan Gupta and Kaka Kalelkar came to fruition on Simha’s 50th birth day on 14th September, 1949 when the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi as one of the official languages of the Union of India which was ratified by the Constitution of India that came into effect on the 26th of January 1950.
- Under the Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, Hindi written in Devanagari script was adopted as the official language.
- Today, Hindi is one of the widely spoken languages in the world and the first language of more than 520 million people.

## **23. Reliance Industries becomes world's 40th most valuable firm**

- Mukesh Ambani’s Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has become the world’s 40th most valuable firm. The company achieved the feat after it became the first Indian company to cross USD 210 billion in market capitalisation intra-day.
- This is the first time that an Indian company has crossed the USD 200 billion market capitalisation milestone.
- The Reliance Industries Limited is at present the world’s 40th most valuable firm, ranked ahead of companies including Oracle, PepsiCo, SAP, Exxon

Mobil, Novartis and Pfizer. RIL is, in fact, ranked among Asia's top 10 most valuable companies.

#### **24. Punjab Govt rolls out Smart Ration Card Scheme**

- Punjab launched the Smart Ration Card Scheme to cover 1.41 crore beneficiaries across the state, Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh announced a separate state-funded scheme to provide subsidised ration to nine lakh beneficiaries not covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- With this, the total number of beneficiaries in the state would go up to 1.50 crore, the Chief Minister announced, while rolling out the smart card scheme under which 37.5 lakh cards would be distributed to the eligible beneficiaries this month.

#### **25. KG Basin holds massive reserves of methane fuel: ARI**

- The Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin holds a massive reserve of methane hydrate and a rich source of cleaner natural gas, claims a study by the Pune-based Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) of the science & technology ministry.
- Even the lowest estimate of methane present in the Methane hydrates in KG Basin is twice that of all fossil fuel reserves available worldwide.

#### **26. Govt enhances scholarship for students of J&K under Pragati and Saksham Scholarship Schemes to Rs 50,000**

- The central government has increased the scholarship amount under „Pragati and Saksham Scholarship Schemes“ for students of Jammu and Kashmir from Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000 per annum. “Pragati and Saksham Scholarship Schemes” being implemented and offered by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to provide financial assistance for advancement of girls pursuing technical education besides supporting specially abled students for technical education respectively.
- Under Pragati scheme, all girls of J&K belonging to families having annual income of Rs. 8 lakh who shall be admitted in the AICTE approved institutions for the session 2020-21 will be eligible for scholarship.
- Under Saksham scheme, all specially abled students with 40 percent disability pursuing technical education at Degree or diploma level belonging to families with annual income less than Rs. 8.00 lakh would be eligible for the scholarship.

#### **27. Rajasthan govt and SIDBI sign pact to develop MSME ecosystem**

- Rajasthan's Department of Industries and SIDBI will work together to provide financial, technical, marketing and export support to MSMEs in the state.
- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Rajasthan government to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state.
- The MSME Act was amended to promote industries and exempt such businesses from all kinds of permissions and inspections for three years.

## **28. Arrest, search without warrant under UP's new special security force rules**

- A special force will be set up in Uttar Pradesh that can search and arrest without a warrant, said the government on Sunday. Called the Special Security Force, the government plans to launch it within the next three months.
- The force will be deployed for the security of strategic and vital installations, high court, district court, state government administrative premises, religious spots, Metro Rail, airports, banks, industrial undertakings and any other establishment notified by the state government.
- The state legislative assembly passed the Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force Bill-2020 in the monsoon session, paving the way for constitution of the specialised force.

## **29. India's Economy To Shrink By 9 Pc This Year: ADB**

- The Asian Development Bank announced on September 15, 2020, that India's economy is expected to contract by 9% in 2020-worse than the 4% contraction which the bank had forecasted three months ago.
- In the first quarter of the Current Fiscal Year, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had contracted by a record 23.9% as the COVID-19 lockdown stalled business and consumer spending.
- However, ADB expects India to bounce back with an 8% growth in 2021 as the country begins to emerge from the economic devastation which has been caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

## **30. RajyaSabha Passes Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020**

- The Parliament passed Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on September 15, 2020 after it was approved by the RajyaSabha. The LokSabha had passed the bill earlier on March 17th.
- The bill seeks to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934 and convert three existing regulatory bodies under the Civil Aviation Ministry including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) into statutory bodies.
- The three regulatory bodies include the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau and the Bureau of Civil

Aviation Security. The bill has proposed each of the bodies to be headed by a Director General who will be appointed by the centre.

### **31. Govt bans export of all varieties of onions with immediate effect**

- The Union Government banned the export of all varieties of onions with immediate effect. The move is aimed at increasing availability and checking the price of the commodity in the domestic market.
- Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification that the export of all varieties of onions is prohibited with immediate effect.
- The DGFT, under the Commerce Ministry, deals with exports and imports-related issues.
- Last year on 29 September, the government had banned exports of onions and imposed countrywide stock limits to bring down prices of onions that had soared ahead of state elections in Maharashtra and Haryana.
- The crackdown followed retail onion prices touching ₹ 80 a kg in Delhi because of supply disruptions after floods in some states.

### **32. Lok Sabha passes bill to cut salaries of MPs by 30%**

- The Lok Sabha passed a bill to cut salaries of all MPs by 30 per cent for a year, to meet the exigencies arising out COVID-19 pandemic. The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was unanimously passed by the members of the Lower House.
- The bill was introduced in the Lower House on September 14. Earlier this year, the government had brought the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, which provided a 30 per cent cut in sumptuary allowance payable to each minister for a period of one year commencing from April 1, 2020.

### **33. India becomes member of UN's ECOSOC body; China fails to secure seat**

- India has been elected as a member of the United Nations Commission on Status of Women, a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- India will be a member of United Nations Commission on Status of Women for four years, 2021 to 2025.
- India, Afghanistan and China had contested the elections to the Commission on Status of Women. Even as India and Afghanistan won the ballot among the 54 members, China could not cross the half-way mark.
- The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.
- It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.



- It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.


### 34. PMGKY Insurance Scheme Extended for another Six Months

- Six months extension have been made to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme. The Scheme was announced for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19 on 30th March 2020 under the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, 2016.
- The scheme provides health insurance to the staff working in Government Hospitals and Health Care Centres. The scheme covers ward boys, safai karamcharis, ASHA workers, nurses, technicians, paramedics, doctors and specialists and other health workers. Any health professional who meet with some accident while treating Covid-19 patients then he/she would be given a compensatory amount of Rs 50 lakh under the scheme. Approximately 22 lakh health workers would be provided insurance cover.
- PMGKY scheme was launched by the Narendra Modi led Government in December 2016. The scheme was launched on the lines of the Income declaration scheme, 2016. PMGKY is a part of the Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2016. It provides an opportunity to declare unaccounted wealth and black money. It also avoids prosecution after paying a fine of 50% on the undisclosed income.

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### 35. Government plans to introduce law to ban crypto currency trading

- The Central Government has been planning to introduce a new law that will ban the trade in crypto currencies, placing it out of step with other economies of Asia who have chosen to regulate the fledgling market.
- The bill has been expected to be discussed by the federal cabinet before it is sent to the Parliament for approval. Under the law, the federal government will be encouraging the blockchain, the technology underlying crypto currencies, but is not keen on crypto currency trading.

- In 2018, the Indian Central Bank had banned the crypto transactions after a series of frauds. These frauds took place in the months following PM Modi's decision to ban 80% of the nation's currency. Crypto currency Exchanges had responded with a lawsuit in Supreme Court in September and had won respite in March 2020.

### **36. Cabinet Approves establishment of new AIIMS at Bihar's Darbhanga ahead of Assembly Polls**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar.
- This will be established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The approved AIIMS would be established at a total cost of Rs. 1264 crore and is likely to be completed within a period of 4 years from the date of the approval of Government of India.
- The new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar will have 15-20 Super Specialty Departments.
- The proposed institution shall have a hospital with capacity of 750 beds which will include Emergency / Trauma beds, ICU beds, AYUSH beds, Private beds and Specialty & Super Specialty beds.

### **37. U.K. hands over three recovered Indian antiquities**

- Antique bronze idols of Rama, Sita and Lakshmana, which were reportedly stolen from Nagapattinam in the 1970s, are set to return home due to efforts taken by art enthusiasts, officers of Idol Wing CID, and the High Commission of India (HCI), London.
- It was conveyed to HCI that the idol of Rama was suspected to be in the possession of an individual collector in London.
- "Once the idol was verified by comparison with relevant records, the matter was taken up with the Art and Antique Unit of the London Metropolitan Police as well as the Idol Wing of Tamil Nadu police," said Rahul Nangare, First Secretary, HCI, London.

### **38. Chhattisgarh to set up specialised police unit to counter Maoists in Bastar**

- A specialised unit of Chhattisgarh Police's 'Bastar Special Force' may soon be introduced for Maoist-affected districts which will comprise of local youths from the interiors of insurgency-hit Bastar division.
- Chief minister Bhupesh Baghel directed the senior officers of the police department to raise 'Bastar Special Force' by recruiting local boys from sensitive areas.
- The Bastar division comprises seven districts - Bastar, Kanker, Kondagaon, Dantewada, Narayanpur, Sukma and Bijapur and each one of them has been facing Maoist problems since the 1980s.

- Earlier in 2016, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) raised the Bastariya Battalion, to counter insurgency in which local tribals were recruited.

### **39. Delhi airport now has India"s first exclusive terminal for private jets**

- India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated by Union Civil Aviation at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi on September 17, 2020. The exclusive terminal will handle flight operations of private jets.
- The exclusive terminal has 57 parking bays and so can handle up to 150 private jet flights per day. Before the pandemic, the Delhi airport was handling the operations of around 40 "general aviation" flights per day and it is currently handling about 20 such flights. The flight operations of private jets are classified under the "general aviation" category.
- The new and exclusive private jet terminal will enable smooth movement of business jets and chartered aircraft. The inauguration of the terminal fulfills a long-pending demand of the Indian billionaires, who have been since long seeking friendlier skies with a network of airports just for private jets.

### **40. HOCL gets BIS certification for all its products**

- Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL), a PSU under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has been granted Bureau of Indian Standards – BIS certification for all its products.
- HOCL has been a pioneer in the manufacturing of Chemicals since its inception and quality is its motto since then.
- The company is supporting and implementing the Make in India initiative of the Government of India in one or other way.
- HOCL, a leader in the chemical industry, has a manufacturing unit at Kochi in Kerala.
- It provides basic organic chemicals essential for vital industries like Drugs and pharmaceuticals, resins and laminates, dyes and dyes intermediates, rubber chemicals, paints, pesticides and Textile industry, virtually touching every face of life.
- It is also manufacturing sanitizers in this period of COVID pandemic.

### **41. Principal Secretary to PM chairs meeting of High-Level Task Force to improve air quality in NCR**

- Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Dr P K Mishra chaired the meeting of the High-Level Task Force constituted to improve the air quality in the National Capital Region of Delhi.
- Dr Mishra emphasized that the meeting was called well in advance before the onset of harvesting and winter season to ensure proper precautionary

and preventive measures to combat the causes of air pollution are taken well in time.

- A review of the main sources of air pollution, measures taken and the progress made by the State Governments and various Ministries was carried out.
- It was noted that the incidence of stubble burning has reduced by more than 50 per cent in the last two years and the number of Good AQI days have gone up.

#### **42. Eight Indian beaches recommended for coveted Blue Flag international eco-label**

- Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that eight beaches of the country have been recommended for the coveted „Blue Flag“ international eco-label. Clean beaches are a testimony to good environment in coastal areas and India’s many beaches are among the best in the world.
- For the first time, eight beaches of India have been recommended for the Blue Flag certification.
- Blue Flag certification is a globally recognised eco-label accorded by an international agency „Foundation for Environment Education, Denmark“ based on 33 stringent criteria in four major heads—environmental education and information, bathing water quality, environment management and conservation and safety and services in the beaches.
- The „Blue Flag“ beach is an eco-tourism model endeavouring to provide the tourists/beachgoers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities/amenities, safe and healthy environment and sustainable development of the area. The eight beaches recommended under the BEAMS are Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Daman and Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden in Odisha and Radhanagar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

#### **43. Cricketer Suresh Raina to set up cricket schools in J&K**

- International cricketer Suresh Raina called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Srinagar yesterday. The celebrity cricketer, on the request of Lt Governor, agreed to set up five schools in Kashmir division and an equal number in Jammu division to train the aspiring cricketers, particularly the youngsters from remote areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Lt Governor appreciated the gesture of the cricketer and also informed him of the government’s resolve of developing sports culture in the Union Territory and said with sports and education, we shall give a new direction to the talented youth of J&K“.

#### **44. KVGB launches special gold loan scheme for pandemic**



- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched a special gold loan scheme “Vikas Laghu Suvarna” with a reduced interest rate of 7.25%. The rate has been reduced considering the pandemic and also to provide easy and affordable credit to customers at a cheaper cost.
- Gold loans are easy means to get money during emergencies with minimal procedure and are still a popular loan product among customers.
- Under this new gold loan scheme, the bank is giving 80 % of the market value subject to a maximum of Rs 3,200/gram. A customer can avail up to maximum loan of Rs 15 lakh which is repayable within a period of maximum 6 months.

#### **45. Govt launches Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan in 272 most affected districts**

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated and is implementing a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025.
- The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy.
- The activities under the NAPDDR include awareness generation programmes in schools, colleges, Universities, workshop and provisioning of treatment facilities and capacity building of service providers.
- The Ministry has also launched NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyaan in 272 most affected districts with focus on institutional support, community outreach and awareness generation.

#### **46. “Swachhta Pakhwara” is being observed all over Indian Railways**

- Indian Railways is observing “Swachhta Pakhwara” from 16th to 30th September 2020. During the inaugural day of Pakhwara, the Swachhta pledge was administered to Railway employees at all Zonal Railway HQs, Divisional Offices, and other establishments.
- During the Pakhwara, intensive cleaning and sanitization of stations, trains, tracks, colonies and other railway establishments is being carried out with special focus on plastic waste management.
- Railway Board through Northern Railway, in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), organised a webinar on “Swachhata and Environment”.
- The Webinar was held to flag off the “SwachhataPakhwada” beginning from September 16 and ending on September 30, 2020.

#### **47. Tamil Nadu becomes first state to unveil ethical AI, blockchain, cybersecurity policies in country**

- Tamil Nadu became the first state in the country to come out with policies on Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Cyber security policies. The

policies go by the names Tamil Nadu Cyber Security Policy, 2020, Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy, 2020, and Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy, 2020.

- In order to promote IT/ITeS industry in the State and to attract more investments, eight Special Economic Zones were established in Chennai and tier-II cities by Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ELCOT) and start-up warehouses were set up in Chennai and Coimbatore.
- State Family Database (SFDB) and Block-Chain Backbone infrastructure will be established in the state for the implementation of these policies.

#### **48. Rajya Sabha Chairman rejects no-confidence motion against RS Deputy Chairman**

- Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on September 21, 2020, rejected the no-confidence motion moved by Opposition MPs against the Deputy Chairman Harivansh saying that it is "not admissible under the rules".
- The RS Chairman said that he has received a letter from 46 Opposition MPs against the Deputy Chairman alleging violation of "norms of parliament procedures". M Venkaiah Naidu further said that it was a bad day for Rajya Sabha yesterday, when some members came to the well of the House and the Deputy Chairman was physically threatened and obstructed from doing his duty.

#### **49. India is home to largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros: Prakash Javadekar**

- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world with population in the range of 3000 animals in Assam, West Bengal and UP.
- In his message on the occasion of World Rhino Day, Mr Javadekar said Environment Ministry has launched a National Conservation Strategy for Indian One-Horned Rhino. He added that the conservation initiatives for rhino has also enriched the grassland management which help in reducing the negative impacts of climate change through carbon sequestration.
- The National Rhino Conservation Strategy for India was launched last year to conserve the greater one-horned rhinoceros. This is a first of its kind for the species in India which aims to work for the conservation of the species under five objectives. The objectives include strengthening protection, expanding the distribution range, research and monitoring, and adequate and sustained funding.

#### **50. No permit requirement for vehicles carrying oxygen till March, 2021**

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued an order on September 21, 2020 waiving off permit requirements for vehicles carrying

oxygen tanks or cylinders till March 31, 2021 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The decision was taken in view of certain issues brought to notice of ministry about problems being faced by certain Transport Vehicles operators for the transportation and delivery of oxygen cylinders or oxygen tanks across states or within a state.
- The move will, hence, ensure the smooth movement of vehicles carrying oxygen and further ensuring the supply of oxygen across the country. Oxygen is an important item required for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

### **51. RajyaSabha Passes National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020**

- The Parliament on September 22, 2020 passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 with the RajyaSabha approving it. The LokSabha had approved the bill earlier.
- The bill proposes to establish the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar and the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, New Delhi, as a National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat. The Bill declares the University to be an institution of national importance.
- Speaking on the bill's provisions, Minister of State for Home Affairs, G. Kishan Reddy said that forensic science plays an important role in the scientific investigation of crime incidents. He said that the university will work for the capacity building in the field of forensic science and promote research.

### **52. Piyush Goyal participates in the G-20 meeting of the Trade and Investment Ministers**

- Union Commerce and Industry & Railways Minister Shri Piyush Goyal took part in the virtual meeting of the G-20 Trade and Investment Ministers.
- Making interventions during the meeting, he called upon G-20 to play a leadership role in crafting a pathway to recover from COVID19, he said that one of the key lessons for all countries is the need to strike the right balance between their external and internal economic policies, with a view to ensuring balanced and sustainable development.
- He said that India stands ready to engage constructively with all G-20 Members to push an agenda that is inclusive and development oriented.
- Describing G20 as a significant grouping representing the majority of the world's population, its GDP and trade, Shri Goyal said that we must pursue an agenda that is universally beneficial and also takes into account the interests of Members outside the G-20. He stressed on the need to be sensitive to diverse economic realities.

**53. India registers a Record of Highest Single day recoveries on 22 September**

- In an unprecedented surge, India has recorded the highest number of single day recoveries.
- More than 1 lakh (1,01,468) new recoveries have been registered in the last 24 hours in the country.
- In another landmark achievement, the trend of very high number of single day recoveries has sustained for the past four consecutive days.
- With this, the total number of recoveries are nearly 45 lakh (44,97,867). This has resulted in the Recovery Rate touching 80.86%.

**54. India, UK to hold Water Partnership Forum on 22 September**

- A virtual India-UK Water Partnership Forum held to discuss ways to collaborate on issues pertaining to water conservation and infrastructure development.
- According to an official note, the inaugural address given by Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Gaitri Issar Kumar. Besides, a memorandum of understanding inked between Ganga and British Water.
- The event highlighted the strategic partnership approaches between the two countries to develop 21st-Century water infrastructure in India.

**55. Ministry of AYUSH partners with Ministry WCD to control Malnutrition**

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development to control Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan. The MoU will see some time-tested and scientifically proven Ayush-based solutions being adopted for controlling malnutrition in the country.
- The MoU will help in tackling the problem of malnutrition in mothers and children in the country.
- The Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of WCD will work together towards integrating Ayush in POSHAN Abhiyaan and management of malnutrition through the principles and practices of Ayurveda, Yoga and other Ayush systems.

**56. Government to set up Neutrino Observatory in the country: Dr.Jitendra Singh**

- The central government is planning to set up a Neutrino Observatory in the country. This was informed by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh on September 21, 2020 in a written reply in the lower house of the Parliament, Lok Sabha.
- The India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) will be a world-class underground laboratory with a rock cover that will study the neutrinos produced in the atmosphere of the Earth.



- Construction of an underground laboratory and associated surface facilities at Bodi West Hills in the Theni district, Tamil Nadu. The underground laboratory will comprise a large cavern of size 132m X 26m X 20m and several smaller caverns. The approach to the caverns will be by a 2100 m long and 7.5 m wide tunnel.

### **57. PM Modi pushes for digital self reliance, launches „Ghar Tak Fibre“ scheme to connect 45,945 villages across Bihar**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched nine highway projects and Optical Fibre Internet Services in Bihar. The optical fibre services are being provided under the scheme “Ghar Tak Fibre”. These services are to be executed along with combined efforts of Common Service Centre.
- The project is to be implemented Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under the scheme “Ghar Tak Fibre”. The project will connect 45,945 villages in the state and will thus enable the Digital revolution to reach the farthest corner of Bihar.
- The scheme aims to provide optical fibre enabled internet connections to every home in the country, concentrating on the village and rural areas. During his 74th independence-day address, PM Modi had said that over 1.5 lakh village panchayats have received optical fibre connections after 2014 under the scheme.
- The CSC Wi-Fi Choupal is an initiative to provide high-speed internet connectivity to rural India. It ensures digital connectivity using Bharat Net.

### **58. Lok Sabha passes Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020**

- Lok Sabha passed the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020. The bill aims to make Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi, English and Urdu as the official languages of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The earlier the official language for the Union territory was only Urdu.
- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir had informed the Centre that people across the Union Territory had been demanding to include the languages they speak and understand as their official language.

### **59. India aims to end tuberculosis by 2025: Health Minister at UN**

- Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has said that India has accorded high priority for ending tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan said this while addressing Ministers of Member Nations of WHO, Heads and Representatives of UN Agencies through virtual interaction
- The Minister added that Tuberculosis has been in existence since time immemorial and continues to remain a major global public health problem.

Despite the progress made over the last decade, TB remains the leading infectious killer disease worldwide.

#### **60. Nagaland rolls back COVID-19 cess on petroleum products; Rs 10.32 cr collected so far**

- Following a cabinet meeting held in Dimapur, the Nagaland government has announced its decision to revoke the COVID-19 cess on petroleum products. A total of Rs 10.32 crore has so far been collected from the cess which came to force on the midnight of April 28.
- The decision of the state government comes after several civil societies and political parties demanded a rollback on the COVID-19 cess.
- Nagaland government had levied the COVID cess on diesel by 5 rupees per litre and on petrol 6 rupees per litre from 28 April this year.

### **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

#### **1. Donald Trump announces Wilmington as first World War II Heritage City**

- US President Donald Trump announced Wilmington in southern US state North Carolina as the first World War II Heritage City at a ceremony held to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.
- During the war, Wilmington was the site of the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, which built 243 ships in five years as part of the federal government's emergency shipbuilding program, according to a The Hill report.
- The President signed legislation last year directing the secretary of the interior to each year designate at least one city as an American World War II Heritage City based on contributions made to secure victory in the war.

#### **2. Typhoon Haishen wreaks havoc in South Korea**

- A powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea after battering islands in southern Japan and injuring dozens of people.
- The Korea Meteorological Administration said typhoon Haishen was passing waters off the eastern coastal city of Sokcho.
- Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency said at least 38 people were injured, five of them seriously, after Haishen lashed southwestern Japan over the weekend with strong winds and rain.

#### **3. Bangladesh launches campaign against fake information & rumours**

- The Bangladesh government has launched a campaign named „Asol Chini“ or „real-sugar“ to fight fake information and rumour spreading on social media. It is very difficult to find out the truth in the whirlwind of fake information and rumours on the online media.
- It can cause social unrest and loss of property and life.
- The project is aimed to stop rumours and fake information to spread. The campaign aims to create digital literacy to stop fake information and rumours. A digital platform Durbar21.org has been created for this purpose.

#### 4. US cancels over 1,000 visas for Chinese nationals citing security

- The United States has revoked visas for more than 1,000 Chinese nationals under a May 29 presidential proclamation to suspend entry from China of students and researchers deemed security risks.
- The visa action was being taken under a proclamation President Donald Trump made on May 29 as part of the US response to China's plans to impose national security legislation on Hong Kong.
- It says that China is involved in a wide-ranging and heavily resourced campaign to acquire sensitive United States technologies and intellectual property to boost and modernize its own military capabilities.



#### 5. Bahrain becomes latest Arab nation to recognise Israel

- Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation to agree to normalise ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by President Donald Trump.
- Trump announced the agreement following a three-way phone call he had with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.
- The three leaders also issued a brief six-paragraph joint statement, attesting to the deal.
- Like the Abraham accord with the UAE, a peace deal between Israel and Bahrain would normalise diplomatic, commercial, security and other bilateral relations.

## **6. Yoshihide Suga picked by Japan's governing party to succeed Shinzo Abe**

- Yoshihide Suga was elected as the new head of Japan's ruling party, virtually guaranteeing him parliamentary election as the country's next prime minister. Suga received 377 votes in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party election to pick a successor to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who announced last month that he would resign due to health problems.
- The other two contenders received a combined 157 votes.
- Suga is actually known for his iron-fist approach to getting jobs done as a policy coordinator and influencing bureaucrats by using the centralised power of the prime minister's office.

## **7. Bangladesh govt allows limited export of Hilsa fish to India**

- Bangladesh Commerce Ministry has given special permission for traders to export Hilsa fish to India on a limited scale in view of the forthcoming Durga Puja. The Commerce Ministry has allowed nine exporters to send a total of approximately 1,500 tonnes of Hilsa to India.
- The export will be allowed till 10th of October.
- Bangladesh had imposed a ban on the export of Hilsa in 2012.
- However, as a special measure, last year also export of 500 tonnes of Hilsa to India was permitted by the government around the time of Durga Puja.
- Hilsa or 'Ilish' is considered a delicacy in Bangladesh and West Bengal.
- Bangladesh has a share of close to 75 per cent in the production of Hilsa fish in the world.

## **8. Nepal plans to resume passenger railway services after 7-year suspension**

- Nepal is planning to resume passenger railway services after a 7-year suspension after it received two sets of rails from India. The Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit rail sets that Kathmandu had purchased from India arrived in Janakpur city yesterday.
- Director General at the Department of Railway Balram Mishra said, it would take at least one and half months to restart the services, as it was currently working to recruit necessary human resources. The Department has planned to recruit over 200 staff gradually. It will be the country's first ever broad-gauge passenger railway service. The service will start from Kurtha, an area close to Janakpur town to Jayanagar, a town bordering India.
- There was an operation of Janakpur-Jaynagar railway service in the past but on a narrow gauge line. The service was completely halted seven years ago.

## **9. US banned TikTok and WeChat downloads from app stores**

- TikTok and WeChat will be banned from US app stores, unless President Donald Trump agrees to a last-minute deal. The Department of Commerce



said it would bar people in the US from downloading the messaging and video-sharing apps through any app store on any platform.

- The Trump administration says the companies threaten national security and could pass user data to China. But China and both companies deny this.
- WeChat will effectively shut down in the US, but people will still be able to use TikTok until 12 November, when it could also be fully banned.

#### **10. US Imposes Sweeping New Sanctions on Iran**

- The United States on September 21, 2020 imposed new sanctions on Iranian officials and entities after its effort to reimpose UN sanctions on Tehran was largely rejected. The new sanctions were imposed under a new executive order issued by US President Donald Trump, which is aimed at deterring conventional arms transfers to Iran.
- US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said in a statement that the UN arms embargo on Iran is now reimposed indefinitely and we will ensure that it remains in place until Iran changes its behaviour.
- Pompeo said that the new executive order gives the US tools to hold accountable actors who seek to evade the embargo. Some of the sanctions have been issued against the Iranian Ministry of Defence and embattled Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro.

#### **11. Saudi Arabia suspends travel to and from India, Brazil and Argentina due to Pandemic**

- Saudi Arabia on September 23, 2020 suspended travel to and from India, Brazil and Argentina. The decision has been taken due to rising COVID-19 cases in the three nations.
- The Gulf nation has also barred people who have travelled to any of these three countries 14 days before their arrival in the Kingdom. The information was relayed through an official circular.
- The Saudi Travel ban comes as the Union Health Ministry announced that India accounts for 17.7 percent of global COVID-19 cases. The Ministry informed that India also has the highest share of global recoveries, almost 19.5 percent.

#### **12. Bougainville elects former rebel chief Ishmael Toroama as its new president**

- Former rebel military commander Ishmael Toroama has been elected president of Bougainville, an autonomous part of Papua New Guinea, electoral officials say, and is set to lead talks seeking independence.
- The general election was the first since Bougainville voted overwhelmingly for a separation from PNG at the end of last year, with Mr Toroama defeating an open field, the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner.

- Bougainville, a mineral-rich and lush group of islands in the South Pacific, has developed little since a decade-long civil war that claimed as many as 20,000 lives came to an end in 1998.

## **New Appointments and Person in News**

### **1. Rajiv Lall resigns as IDFC First Bank's non-executive chairman**

- Private sector lender IDFC First Bank informed its non-executive chairman Rajiv B. Lall has resigned from the post with immediate effect.
- Lall has cited that he has been dealing with his prolonged personal health issues for a while now.
- Lall is a veteran banker and served as the founder managing director and chief executive officer of IDFC First Bank from October 1, 2015, till December 18, 2018.
- Lall also served as India's representative to the G-20 Working Group on Infrastructure.

### **2. Australia appoints cricket icon Matthew Hayden as trade envoy to India**

- Government of Australia has appointed former cricketer, Matthew Hayden and Indian-origin politician Lisa Singh as trade envoys for advancing business ties with India.
- The council plays an important role in advancing Australia's foreign and economic policy interests with India.
- Three new appointments to the board of the Australia-India Council were announced recently, Ashok Jacob has been reappointed as chair, and will be joined by three new board members."
- Hayden is a former international cricketer, who played 103 Tests and 161 One Day Internationals for Australia. He has scored 40 international centuries. He was made Member of the Order of Australia in 2010 for his sporting excellence.

### **3. Anil Jain becomes new All India Tennis Association president**

- The All India Tennis Association (AITA) elected BJP Rajya Sabha member Anil Jain as its new president. Anil Jain will replace Praveen Mahajan as AITA president.
- Also, Anil Dhupar was chosen as its secretary general during the national federation's Annual General Meeting in New Delhi.
- India's Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal was elected as the treasurer for a four-year term till 2024.
- All the office bearers as well as the new executive committee members were elected unopposed.

#### **4. NDA Candidate Harivansh Narayan Singh re-elected as Deputy Chairman of RajyaSabha**

- NDA candidate Harivansh has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of RajyaSabha. The upper house cleared his name with a voice vote.
- BJP President J.P. Nadda had moved the proposal to elect Harivansh as the deputy chairman and his motion was adopted.
- The Deputy Chairman of RajyaSabha is a constitutional post. Article 89 of the Constitution of India states that the RajyaSabha can elect one of its MPs for the post of Deputy Chairman when the post is vacant.

#### **5. Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Khullar appointed as the Executive Director of World Bank**

- Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Khullar has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank. Khullar, a 1988-batch IAS officer, is currently serving in his cadre state Haryana.
- He is the principal secretary to Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- He will have a tenure of three years or till the date of his superannuation, i.e. August 31, 2023.

#### **6. Sameer Kumar Khare IAS appointed as Executive Director at ADB**

- Sameer Kumar Khare has been appointed Executive Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila. Khare is a 1989-batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre and is currently the additional secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs.
- He has been appointed to the post for a tenure of three years with effect from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

#### **7. Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey takes voluntary retirement**

- In Bihar, Director General of Police (DGP) Gupteshwar
- Pandey took voluntary retirement with immediate effect. The State Government granted his request five months before the completion of his service tenure on 28th of February next year.
- Additional charge of the top post has been given to DG (Homeguard) S. K. Singhal.
- Mr Pandey has been in limelight for taking a strong stand on the bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case in which an FIR was lodged.

#### **8. Colonel Dr Girija Mungali named in Asian Football Confederation task-force**

- Retired Colonel Dr Girija Shanker Mungali has been appointed as one of the seven members of the Asian Football Confederation's task force for regulating football clubs in Asia and Australia. Mungali, who is also currently serving as the Chairman of the Club Licensing Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), is the only Indian to be appointed on this committee.
- According to a statement issued here, the retired Army officer plans to use this platform to promote and create opportunities for young and upcoming footballers especially from the rural areas of the country.
- His appointment to AFC was made on September 15 by Dato' Windsor John, the General Secretary of the Asian Football Confederation and he will be on the panel till 2023.

## **BANKING**

### **1. Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank ceased to be banking company: RBI**

- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank has ceased to be a banking company within the meaning of the Banking Regulation Act. In November last year, the RBI had said that Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank was headed for liquidation after the company's application for voluntary winding up.
- The decision to shut operations by the Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank was taken due to unanticipated developments in the business landscape which have made the economic model unviable.
- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank had received the banking licence from the RBI in April 2017 for carrying on the business of a payments bank and had also received an authorisation to carry on the business of Prepaid Payments Instrument business.
- It had commenced business from February 22, 2018.

### **2. RBI's loan recast plan ready, relief for 26 sectors; banks to follow these rules before restructuring**

- The Reserve Bank specified five financial ratios and sector-specific thresholds for resolution of COVID-19-related stressed assets in 26 sectors, including auto components, aviation and tourism.
- The circular issued by the Reserve Bank for resolution of the stressed assets is based on the recommendations of the K.V. Kamath Committee, which submitted its report on 4th of September.
- The 26 sectors specified by the RBI include automobiles, power, tourism, cement, chemicals, gems and jewellery, logistics, mining, manufacturing, real estate, and shipping among others.



### **3. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches Doorstep Banking Services**

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) on September 9, 2020. The services aim to provide customers with the convenience of banking services at their doorsteps.
- The Union Ministry of Finance issued an official statement saying that as a part of EASE Reforms, Doorstep Banking Services is envisaged to provide the convenience of banking services to the customers at their doorstep through the universal touch points of call centre, web Portal or mobile App. The customers will also be able to track their service requests through these mediums.

### **4. EPFO decides to pay 8.5% interest during 2019-20**

- The Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar chaired the 227th Meeting of the Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund. In view of the exceptional circumstances arising out of Covid-19, the Central Board has recommended the same interest rate at 8.50 per cent to the Central Government.
- It would comprise 8.15 per cent from debt income and balance 0.35 per cent capital gain from the sale of Exchange Traded Funds, ETFs subject to their redemption by 31st December this year.
- The Central Board accorded approval for an Amendment to Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976 to enhance the maximum assurance benefit to 7 lakh rupees from the present maximum assurance benefit of 6 lakh rupees.

### **5. Citi Bank names Jane Fraser as the first woman CEO**

- Citigroup has named Jane Fraser as its next chief executive officer. She will be the first female CEO of this major global bank. She will succeed Michael Corbat, who is retiring in February 2021.
- Citibank was founded in 1812 as the City Bank of New York, and later became First National City Bank of New York.

### **6. Bandhan Bank sets up new vertical "Emerging Entrepreneurs Business" to help Entrepreneurs**

- Bandhan Bank has set up a new vertical called "Emerging Entrepreneurs Business (EEB)".
- The new vertical has been launched to support the emerging needs of the unbanked and underbanked segment of customers.
- The vertical will focus on supporting this segment of customers in their journey to becoming entrepreneurs.

- In addition to micro loans, the vertical will also manage micro home loan, micro bazaar loan and micro enterprise loan.

### **7. SBI starts women self-reliance programme in Assam**

- To accelerate SHG finance in the Bank in a mission mode, State Bank of India (SBI) started a programme by the name “Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani” (Women Self-Reliance programme). SBI stated that women SHGs are very active and credit worthy in rural areas of Assam as it relies on social collateral rather than on financial collateral.
- It also empowers the women by encouraging them to create their micro enterprises for self-reliance and to maintain a sustainable economic condition.
- The basic objective of the programme is to create a strong bonding with the SHG members besides extending credit linkages to the women SHGs nurtured and sponsored by NRLM, Assam for self-reliance and economic upliftment.

### **8. HDFC Bank tops the BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands 2020 report**

- For the seventh straight year, HDFC Bank remained the top-ranked brand in India with a total brand value of more than \$20.2 billion, according to the 2020 BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands ranking released by WPP and Kantar. According to the report, the total value of the BrandZ India Top 75 fell by 6 percent in 2020, shedding \$13 billion in value for a total brand value of \$215.608 billion.
- LIC is ranked second while Tata Consulting Services has been ranked at no.3.

### **9. IDFC Mutual Fund launches „SIP in Fixed Income“ campaign**

- IDFC Mutual Fund has started a new campaign called SIFI or “SIP in Fixed Income”.
- The new campaign called SIFI has been launched to make investors more aware about the benefits of investing in fixed income products via Systematic Investment Plans.
- SIFI can help in generating better risk-adjusted returns, and the debt fund SIP can help cushion the impact of higher volatility in equity markets, thereby balancing the allocation.
- IDFC Mutual Fund’s SIFI initiative aims to inform investors how a combination of equity and debt SIPs can help them navigate troubled times.

### **10. RBI appoints AK Das as the new administrator of PMC Bank**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed AK Das (ex-general manager at Union Bank of India), as the new administrator of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank.
- He has replaced JB Bhorla who has stepped down from his role as the administrator of the bank due to health reasons.
- In September 2019, the RBI had superseded the board of PMC bank due to fraud and financial irregularities in the PMC bank.

## **Books and Awards**

### **1. Vice President Releases „The State of Young Child in India“ report**

- The Vice President, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu released „The State of Young Child in India“ report, a comprehensive account of the challenges related to early child development in India. The report has been prepared by Mobile Creches a policy advocacy organisation which works with the underprivileged children across India.
- According to the report, from 159 million children aged below 6 years in India, 21 per cent are undernourished, 36 per cent are underweight and 38 per cent do not receive full immunization.
- Based on ranking and values on the Young Child Outcome Index (YCOI), the report named Kerala, Goa, Tripura and Tamil Nadu to be among the top performers, while eight states-- Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar-- with scores below the national average lagged behind.

### **2. Author and natural historian David Attenborough gets Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019**

- David Attenborough, a renowned author, and natural historian was conferred with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented the Peace Prize in a virtual ceremony.
- BBC Broadcaster has been given the prize for revealing the wonders of the natural world and for his contribution through books and films to awaken humankind to protect and preserve the biodiversity on our planet.
- According to the citation for the ceremony, David Attenborough has been honoured with the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for educating and entertaining the generations of people through his films and books and for tirelessly working to awaken humankind to preserve and protect the biodiversity on Earth.

### **3. US President Trump nominated for 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for brokering UAE-Israel peace deal**

- The United States President Donald Trump has been nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize because of his efforts on brokering the Israel-UAE Peace Deal.
- The nomination of Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize has been submitted by Tybring - Gjerdde, a member of the Norwegian Parliament. Tybring - Gjerdde specifically praised Trump for his efforts towards resolving the protracted conflicts worldwide.
- This is not the first time that Mr. Trump has been nominated for the Peace Prize. In 2018, Tybring-Gjerdde had submitted the US President's name following his Singapore Summit with North Korean Leader Kim Jong-Un. However, he did not win the award.

### **4. Indian film „The Disciple“ by Chaitanya Tamhane wins Best Screenplay award at Venice Film Festival 2020**

- The Marathi language feature film „The Disciple“, has bagged the prestigious FIPRESCI award for Best Screenplay at the 77th Venice Film Festival.
- The film has been written and directed by Mumbai-based filmmaker Chaitanya Tamhane
- The Disciple is the first Indian film to have been selected in a major competition category at a European festival in 20 years after Mira Nair's Monsoon Wedding in 2001.

### **5. Aditya Puri conferred Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020**

- Managing Director of HDFC Bank, Aditya Puri has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020.
- He has been awarded for his skills in building a world-class bank in India at a time where there were no similar institutions in existence.
- Euromoney's Awards for Excellence are the awards that matter to the banks and bankers who matter. They were established in 1992 and were the first of their kind in the global banking industry.

### **6. „My Life in Design“: Gauri Khan announces her debut book**

- Interior designer, Gauri Khan has authored her first book titled “My Life In Design”, which will be published by Penguin Random House India in 2021.
- It is a coffee-table book, in which Gauri has written about her journey as a designer.
- The book will feature unseen pictures of her interior design projects, family and residence. She will also talk about her design philosophy and style.



- The book will be very visually appealing with exclusive pictures and information that guide aspiring designers or those who are just generally interested in the art of design.

### **7. Indian teenager Udit Singhal named in UN's list of 2020 Class of Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals**

- Udit Singhal, an 18-year old Indian boy has been named by the United Nations in the list of 2020 Class of Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals. It is a highest-profile recognition opportunity for the youngsters who are leading efforts on the world's most pressing issues.
- He has been named to the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for SDGs. Udit Singhal is the founder of Glass2Sand, a zero-waste ecosystem that has been addressing the growing problem of glass waste in Delhi.
- The 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders included the representatives from Bangladesh, Australia, Bulgaria, Brazil, Columbia, China, Egypt, Ireland, India, Nigeria, Liberia, Senegal, Peru, Pakistan, Uganda, Turkey, and United States.

### **8. Chef Vikas Khanna honoured with Asia Game Changer award for feeding millions in India amid Covid crisis**

- Michelin-star chef Vikas Khanna will be honoured with the prestigious 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for feeding millions across India amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He fed people through a massive food distribution drive that he coordinated from thousands of miles away in his Manhattan home.
- The Asia Game Changer Awards, launched by the Asia Society -- a US-based non-profit organisation -- in 2014, identify and honour true leaders who make a positive contribution to the future of Asia.
- Khanna is the only Indian among the six honourees named by the leading organisation. Preeminent cellist Yo-Yo Ma, tennis champion Naomi Osaka, Korean boy band BTS, producer of Oscar-winning film 'Parasite' Miki Lee and business leaders and philanthropists Joe and Clara Tsai are the honourees of the Asia Game Changer Awards.

### **9. Margaret Atwood awarded 2020 Dayton Literary Peace Prize**

- Margaret Atwood has won the 2020 Dayton Literary Peace Prize's lifetime achievement award.
- The award celebrates literature's power to foster peace, social justice and global understanding.
- The Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award is named for the late U.S. diplomat who brokered the 1995 Bosnian peace accords reached in the Ohio city.

- Margaret Atwood is a prolific writer of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, essays and comic books.
- In the recent years, she has drawn a new round of acclaim for “The Handmaid’s Tale”, her bestselling 1985 novel of a dystopian future in which women are subjugated after a theocratic group overthrow the US government.

#### **10. Barack Obama Announces New Memoir titled “A Promised Land”**

- Former US President, Barack Obama has announced his first presidential memoir titled “A Promised Land.”
- The 768-page book will be published in November 2020 by Penguin Random House and is scheduled to be released on November 17, 2020, in 25 languages.
- A Promised Land is the first of two volumes of the book. This volume tells about his early political life, his presidential campaign in 2008, and ending with the death of Osama bin Laden in 2011.

#### **11. Narendra Modi Becomes Second Indian PM To Win Ig Nobel Prize**

- Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for Medical Education.
- He has been awarded the satirical award for “using the COVID-19 pandemic to teach the world that politicians can have a more immediate effect on life and death than scientists and doctors can”.
- PM Modi is the second Indian Prime Minister to be honoured with the Ig Nobel Prize. Prior to this, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was awarded in 1998. He jointly won the Ig Nobel Peace Prize with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan for aggressively peaceful explosions of atomic bombs.
- PM Modi shares the award with Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico, Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, Donald Trump of the USA, Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, Vladimir Putin of Russia, and Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow of Turkmenistan.

#### **12. Chef Vikas Khanna’s book titled “Kitchens of Gratitude” to be out soon**

- Michelin Star chef Vikas Khanna’s Feed India initiative was one of the brighter things during the bleak pandemic. It evolved into one of the largest food drives in the world carried forth by an individual.
- Spearheaded by him, it crossed 30 million meals in more than 135 cities.
- The chef fed underprivileged kids and ensured food reaches the many cities and towns ravaged by the virus. And now, he will be writing about all this and more in this new book, Kitchens of Gratitude, which will be out next year.

- Published by Penguin Random House, India, the book will detail the author's experience and also touch upon his will to combat the ills of the time with the nourishing quality of food.

### **13. President Ram Nath Kovind confers NSS Awards for 2018-19**

- President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the National Service Scheme Awards for the year 2018-19 through virtual mode.
- The NSS Award for the year 2018-19 was presented to 42 awardees in three different categories like University, NSS Units and their Programme Officers and NSS Volunteers. Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju attended the ceremony from Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.
- Mr Kovind said that it is a matter of happiness that about 40 lakh young students of many technical institutes, colleges and universities are serving the society and the nation by joining the National Service Scheme. He said, so far nearly four crore volunteers have contributed through this scheme.

### **14. A book titled "Voices of Dissent" authored by Historian Romila Thapar**

- Noted Indian Historian and author Romila Thapar has written a new book titled "Voices of Dissent"
- The book is a historical essay that explores dissent, including its articulation and public response to its forms, with a focus on the recent protest in India against the citizenship law and the National Register of Citizens.
- Thapar received the Kluge Prize in December 2008.
- She was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2005 which she declined stating that she made a resolve not to accept any "State Award".

## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1. MoD signs contracts worth Rs 2580 Cr with Indian Companies for supply of Pinaka Regiments to Indian Army**

- Acquisition Wing of Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract worth Rs 2580 Cr with M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML), M/s. Tata Power Company Ltd. (TPCL) and M/s. Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- The contract has been signed for supply of six Pinaka Regiments to the Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army and hence will enhance the operation preparedness of our Armed Forces.

### **2. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh holds meeting with Iran's Minister of Defence in Tehran**

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting on 5th September 2020 with Iran's Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics, Brigadier General Amir Hatami, at the latter's request. Raksha Mantri was on a transit halt in Tehran enroute from Moscow to New Delhi.
- The meeting between the two Ministers took place in a cordial and warm atmosphere. Both the leaders emphasized upon the age-old cultural, linguistic and civilizational ties between India and Iran. They discussed ways to take forward bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional security issues, including peace and stability in Afghanistan.

### **3. Mammoth collision of 'impossible' black holes detected for first time**

- The most massive black hole collision ever detected has been directly observed by the LIGO and VIRGO Scientific Collaboration, which includes scientists from the Australian National University (ANU).
- The short gravitational wave signal, GW190521, captured by the LIGO and Virgo gravitational wave observatories in the United States and Europe on 21 May last year, came from two highly spinning, mammoth black holes weighing in at a massive 85 times and 66 times the mass of the Sun, respectively. But that is not the only reason this system is very special.

### **4. IIT-Bombay students launch AI-based scanning app "AIR Scanner"**

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, students have launched a free-of-cost mobile scanner application "AIR Scanner".
- The app saves the scanned document in PDF format and stores directly in the device.
- The AI (Artificial Intelligence) based Reading Assistant and Document Scanner app is developed by Rohit Kumar Chaudhary and Kavim Agrawal.

### **5. India successfully test-fires hypersonic missile carrier, 4th country to achieve the feat**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle at 11 am on September 7, 2020 from the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha.
- The successful flight test of the indigenously-developed Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV) enabled the successful demonstration of the Hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology, which is a major technological breakthrough for India.

### **6. WhatsApp, Cyber Peace Foundation partner to drive cyber safety awareness**



- WhatsApp announced a strategic partnership with CyberPeace Foundation with the aim to create awareness on cyber safety among students. This is an effort to build on their earlier partnership with WhatsApp under the “e-Raksha” program that reached thousands of students.
- With the collaboration, the platforms aim to reach nearly 15,000 students across five states including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra by the end of 2020.
- In the first phase 15,000 students will be covered in five regions by the end of 2020.
- The need for this awareness campaign was felt as students spend more time online and so they become more vulnerable to cyber threats such as cyberbullying, stumbling across child abuse material, cybercriminals disrupting online classes, the spread of misinformation, privacy issues etc.

### **7. Induction ceremony of Rafale fighter jets into IAF to be held at Ambala airbase on September 10**

- A formal induction ceremony of the five high-profile Rafale fighter aircraft into the Indian Air Force's (IAF) 'Golden Arrows' Squadron will be held at the Ambala airbase in Haryana on September 10. Earlier, sources had said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is most likely to attend the ceremony.
- French Defence Minister Florence Parly will take part in the induction ceremony and during the visit, other than having a bilateral with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, she will also meet National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.
- The first batch of five Rafale jets, which arrived at the Ambala airbase on July 29, have already proven their mettle with successful weapons firing at a test range after arrival. When the first batch of Rafales arrived at Ambala, the IAF had said that efforts are focused on operationalisation of the aircraft at the earliest.

### **8. Oxford COVID-19 Vaccine trial paused after participant falls ill**

- The last phase of clinical trials of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Oxford University and Astra Zeneca has been put on hold after one of the participants fell ill in the United Kingdom. AstraZeneca described the pause as a "routine" pause in the case of "an unexplained illness".
- The AstraZeneca-Oxford COVID vaccine is one of the leading COVID-19 vaccine candidates, whose trials are being conducted in multiple nations including India and the United States. The outcome of vaccine trials is being closely watched across the world.
- The Oxford vaccine is seen as a strong contender among dozens of vaccines being developed globally, as the phase I and II trial results showed that the vaccine offers double immunity against COVID-19. The vaccine candidate moved to phase III trials a few weeks back.

### **9. NSDC and LinkedIn partner to provide digital skills training for youth**

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and LinkedIn have announced a partnership to provide access to free learning resources for digital skills.
- A total of 10 learning paths consisting of 140 courses will be made available for free on e-Skill India digital platform until March 31, 2021.
- LinkedIn will provide periodic labour market insights based on its economic graph of more than 69 million members in India.
- This will include in-demand skills, emerging jobs, and global hiring rates to NSDC to better understand the skilling ecosystem.

### **10. Potential sign of alien life detected on inhospitable Venus**

- Scientists said they have detected in the harshly acidic clouds of Venus a gas called phosphine that indicates microbes may inhabit Earth's inhospitable neighbour, a tantalizing sign of potential life beyond Earth.
- The researchers did not discover actual life forms, but noted that on Earth phosphine is produced by bacteria thriving in oxygen-starved environments. The international scientific team first spotted the phosphine using the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawaii and confirmed it using the Atacama Large Millimeter/ submillimeter Array (ALMA) radio telescope in Chile.

### **11. TikTok chooses Oracle as U.S. „technology partner“**

- TikTok has chosen Oracle to be its technology partner for its American operations.
- Microsoft was also in a bid to acquire TikTok in the United States but the Chinese owner of the video-sharing platform “TikTok” chose Oracle over Microsoft to be its technology partner for its American operations.
- The partnership was signed by the two entities as in an executive order signed last month, President of the United States, Donald Trump stated that TikTok would be blocked in the US if it did not sell its US operations to an American company by 20th of September 2020.

### **12. In a first, 2 women officers to operate helicopters from Indian Navy warships**

- In a historic first, two women officers have been selected to join as “Observers” (Airborne Tacticians) in the helicopter stream of the Indian Navy.
- The women officers will be the first set of women airborne combatants who would be operating from warships. This is a landmark development in the history of Indian naval aviation.
- The entry of women in the Indian Navy was restricted to the fixed-wing aircraft that took off and landed ashore.

### **13. India-China Commander level Talks underway at Moldo in Chinese side of LAC**

- India and China are scheduled to hold a Corps Commander-level talks at Moldo, on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), on the border standoff. This will be the sixth such talks on the issue.
- An official from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is likely to be part of Indian delegation. This is the first time that an MEA official will be present in this meeting, people aware of the developments said.
- In the previous five meetings, the Corps commander-ranked officers have failed to break the deadlock. This will be the first meeting since the foreign ministers of the two countries agreed on a five-point roadmap to take forward the disengagement and de-escalation process.

### **14. Indian Army organises annual 'Shikara Race' in Srinagar**

- Fifteen Shikaras participated in the annual 'Shikara Race' organised by 20 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) of Indian Army for the people in Srinagar. The aim behind the race was to promote tourism in the newly formed Union Territory.
- This event is organised by Indian Army every year along with boat races and other races for children but could not do the same this year due to COVID-19 outbreak.
- The tourists who came to Srinagar to enjoy the race said that events like this should be organised more often as they help in developing good bonds with the locals.

### **15. DRDO conducts successful flight test of missile target vehicle ABHYAS**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS on September 22, 2020. The test was conducted from the Interim Test Range in Balasore, Odisha.
- During the trials, ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was successfully test flown. The air vehicle can be used as a target for the evaluation of various missile systems.

### **16. Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh to be first woman pilot to join Rafale fleet**

- Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh will become the first woman pilot to fly the multi-role fighter aircraft Rafale after finishing her conversion training, according to reports.
- Commissioned into the Indian Air Force in 2017 as part of the second batch of women fighter pilots, Singh currently flies the force's oldest jet MiG-21 Bison. Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who shot down a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) fighter on 27 February last year near the Line of

Control before being shot down himself and taken captive, was Singh's flying instructor.

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) currently has 10 women fighter pilots, who have undergone the arduous training to fly the supersonic jets. Reportedly, it takes around Rs. 15 crores to train a single fighter pilot.

### **17. Google Pay, Visa partner for card-based payments with tokenisation**

- Google Pay announced the rollout of tokenisation across its platform that will enable users to safely transact with their debit or credit cards. Through tokenisation, Google Pay Android users can use their debit or credit card to make payments through a secure digital token attached to their phone without having to physically share their credit or debit card details.
- The feature also works with online merchants, delivering more native and seamless OTP experiences without any redirects to 3D secure sites. This feature is now available to all users of Axis, SBI Card and Kotak.

## **SPORTS**

### **1. Indo-Canadian pair Rohan Bopanna-Denis Shapovalov reach men's doubles quarterfinals**

- The Indo-Canadian pair of Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov have reached the quarterfinals of the ongoing US Open tennis.
- The pair of Bopanna-Shapovalov defeated the German pair Kevin Krawietz and Andrea Mies in the second-round clash that had lasted for an hour and 47 minutes.
- The Indian-Canadian pair will now play against the Dutch-Romanian duo Jean-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecau on September 7, 2020.

### **2. Sports Ministry extends contract of athletics foreign coaches with eye on 2024 Olympics**

- The Sports Ministry has extended the contract of 9 foreign coaches and support personnel, including High Performance Director of athletics with an eye on the 2024 Olympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games 2022.
- In July this year, the Sports Ministry had decided to draw up extended contracts for foreign and Indian coaches in sync with the Olympic cycle. This decision was taken by the Ministry with a focus on the 2024 and 2028 Olympics, and to ensure Olympic-bound athletes are able to train consistently and in continuity with one coach and improve their performance as per the international standards.

### **3. Pierre Gasly wins F1 Italian Grand Prix 2020**



- Pierre Gasly (Scuderia Alpha Tauri, France) has won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2020 held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza, Italy. This is his first Grand Prix win.
- Carlos Sainz Jr. (McLaren, Spain) came second followed by Lance Stroll (Racing Point, Canada) in third place.
- Lewis Hamilton ended in 7th place after he earned a 10-second stop and go penalty.

#### **4. Japan's Naomi Osaka wins US Open title**

- In US Open Tennis, Japan's Naomi Osaka defeated Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in the Women's Singles final to clinch her third Grand Slam title. The fourth seed, Osaka, overcame her unseeded opponent 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in one hour 53 minute inside Arthur Ashe Stadium at Flushing Meadows in New York.
- It brought 22-year old Osaka's haul of tennis major trophies to three after her victories at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open.
- With this, the Japanese has become the first Asian player to win three Grand Slam singles titles and also moved up to number 3 in the world rankings.

### **OBITUARIES**

#### **1. Keshavananda Bharati of „basic structure“ fame dies**

- Kesavananda Bharati Swamiji, the seer of Edneer Mutt in Kasargod district of Kerala, whose petition in 1973 had led to the creation of the “Basic Structure Doctrine” by a 13-judge bench of the Supreme Court, passed away early morning today. He was 79 years old.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has expressed grief over the passing away of Kesavananda Bharati Ji.
- The Prime Minister said, "We will always remember Pujya Kesavananda Bharati Ji for his contributions towards community service and empowering the downtrodden. He was deeply attached to India's rich culture and our great Constitution. He will continue to inspire generations.

#### **2. Father of India's Radio Astronomy Govind Swarup passes away**

- Father of India's Radio Astronomy, Dr.Govind Swarup passed away in Pune.Dr. Swarup is known not only for his many important research contributions in several areas of astronomy and astrophysics, but also for his outstanding achievements in building ingenious, innovative and powerful observational facilities for front-line research in radio astronomy.
- The Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) was established at Narayangaon near Pune was established under Dr.Swarup's able guidance

.He was awarded Padmashree, Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award, H. K. Firodia award and many international awards.

### **3. Oscar winning Czech Director Jiri Menzel passes away**

- Oscar-winning Czech film director, Jiri Menzel passed away. His 1st feature film, „Closely Watched Trains“ won an Academy Award (Oscars) for Best Foreign Language film in 1968.
- Menzel won the Czech Lion for lifetime artistic contribution and was honoured by the Karlovy Vary festival. He is a recipient of the Medal of Merit, the French Order of Arts and Literature and a score of other international awards.
- He was awarded an IIFA Lifetime Achievement Award in November 2013.

### **4. Arya Samaj leader, Social activist Swami Agnivesh passes away**

- Arya Samaj leader and social activist Swami Agnivesh passed away at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, ILBS in New Delhi. Agnivesh was elected to Haryana Legislative Assembly in 1977 and served as a Cabinet Minister for Education in the state in 1979.
- He founded the Bonded Labour Liberation Front in 1981 and worked against bonded labour.
- He also led numerous movements against alcoholism.
- Swami Agnivesh also served as president of the Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, World Council of Arya Samaj.

### **5. Former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passes away**

- Former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away. He was undergoing treatment at AIIMS, Delhi about a week ago after developing post-Covid complications.
- Raghuvansh Prasad Singh recently resigned from the RJD party.
- Singh had served as the Union Minister for Rural Development in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's cabinet.
- He was widely regarded as the brain behind the conceptualization and implementation of NREGA (National rural employment guarantee act).

### **6. Veteran Tamil Director Babu Sivan passes away**

- Tamil director Babu Sivan passed away. He began his career by assisting director Dharani, who helmed films like Ghilli and Kurvi with Vijay.
- Later, he made his directorial debut with Vettaikaaran in 2009. It was one of the highest grossing Tamil films of that year.

### **7. MoS Railways Suresh Angadi 1st Union minister died of Covid-19**

- Union minister of state for railways and Karnataka BJP MP Suresh Angadi, 65, passed away days after he tested positive for Covid-19. Angadi is the first Central minister to die of coronavirus.
- Suresh Angadi was the fourth-term MP from Belagavi.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1. International Day of Clean Air for blue skies: 7 September**

- The world celebrated its first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on September 7. Part of a resolution taken by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on December 19, 2019, the day intends to emphasize on the ill-effects of air pollution and is a call to action against environmental evil.
- The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was introduced to acknowledge the threats posed by air pollution and to encourage every country in the world to take preventive measures.
- The day emphasises the need to improve air quality for long-term benefits for humankind.

### **2. International Literacy Day: 08 September**

- Countries across the world celebrate International Literacy Day on 08 September. International Literacy Day-2020 will focus on Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond with a focus on the role of educators and changing pedagogies.
- This day was declared International Literacy Day by UNESCO on 26th October 1966 at the 14th Session of UNESCO's General Conference.
- It was celebrated for the first time in 1967 and its main aim is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies. Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist with at least 773 million adults worldwide lacking basic literacy skills.
- According to the UNESCO's „Global Monitoring Report on Education for All“ (2006), South Asia has the lowest regional adult literacy rate, at 58.6 percent and the causes for this illiteracy range from severe poverty and the prejudice against women.

### **3. International Day to Protect education from attack observed on 09 September**

- International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed globally on 9th September. The day is being observed for the first time in 2020.

- The Day draws attention to the plight of more than 75 million 3-to-18-year-olds living in 35 crisis-affected countries and to their urgent need of educational support.
- It expresses concern over the effects of continued violence on these children and their ability to access education, whose consequences require special attention beyond the needs of learners whose establishments were temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The day was established by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly, calling on UNESCO and UNICEF to raise awareness of the plight of millions of children living in countries affected by conflict.

#### **4. World Suicide Prevention Day: 10 September**

- The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) observes World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) on 10 September every year. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented.
- 2020 theme „Working Together to Prevent Suicide“.
- According to WHO, nearly eight lakh people die by suicide every year. Furthermore, for each suicide, there are more than 20 suicide attempts. The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) is a Non-Governmental Organization dedicated to preventing suicide and suicidal behaviour, alleviating its effects and providing a forum for academics, mental health professionals, crisis workers, volunteers and suicide survivors.

#### **5. World First Aid Day 2020: 12 September**

- The World First Aid Day is observed on the second Saturday of September every year to create awareness about the importance of first aid in preventing injuries and saving lives.
- The World First Aid Day 2020 is being observed on 12 September.
- The day was started by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2000 to educate people in the world of the benefits of first aid, need of first aid and the right way to do first aid.

#### **6. Hindi Diwas observed across the country on 14th September**

- Hindi Diwas is being celebrated across the country today, September 14, 2020. The constituent assembly had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari as the official language of the country in 1949.
- Presently, Hindi is among the world most spoken languages. It is the first language of more than 520 million people across the world.

#### **7. International Day of Democracy is observed globally on 15th September every year**

- The International Day of Democracy was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly through a resolution in 2007 to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy.
- The day was observed for the first time in 2008.
- The day of Democracy provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.

#### **8. 111th Birth Anniversary of Tamil Nadu's 1st Chief Minister C. N. Annadurai observed on 15th September**

- The 111th Birth Anniversary of the first Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu C. N. Annadurai, popularly known as Arignar Anna was observed on 15 September.
- He was also a Member of Rajya Sabha from 1963 to 1967. Well known for his powerful oratorical skills, Anna was a prolific writer too.
- Subsidy mechanism for rice and two language policy are some of his prominent administrative innovations.
- The Tamil University in Thanjavoor has announced a 50 per cent discount sale of its prestigious publications in connection with Anna Birth Anniversary today.
- The main purpose of the University was higher level research into Tamil language, literature and culture - all close to the heart of Arignar Anna.

#### **9. World Bamboo Day: 18 September**

- World Bamboo Day is observed every year on 18 September to raise awareness of the benefits of bamboo and to promote its use in everyday products. People and businesses from around the world use this day to raise awareness of the benefits of bamboo and to promote its use in everyday products
- WBD was officially declared by the World Bamboo Organization on September 18 at the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok in 2009. World Bamboo Day was founded by Kamesh Salam as former president of the World Bamboo Organisation in 2009. The theme for the 11th edition of WBD 2020 is „BAMBOO NOW.“

#### **10. International Coastal Cleanup Day observed on 19 September**

- The 35th International Coastal Cleanup Day was celebrated consecutively for the ninth year by the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam on 19 September. To commemorate the occasion, Eastern Naval Command(ENC) as a part of their sustained commitment and responsibility undertook Coastal Cleanup Drive at Ramakrishna Beach, Yarada beach and all seafronts within premises of naval units along the East coast.
- Naval personnel at Ramakrishna beach and at Yarada beach undertook the cleanup drive whilst strictly adhering to COVID-19 protocol.



- Drive was intended to inculcate amongst the general populace, the spirit of respecting the beaches and safeguarding our environment. The event was also aimed to create awareness among the general public to keep beaches clean and to support the noble efforts of GVMC in making „The City of Destiny – Vizag“ a clean city.

### 11. International Day of Peace: 21 September

- International Day of Peace is observed globally on 21st September every year. It is observed to spread awareness and preach peace and harmony all across the globe.
- On this day, the UN encourages countries to observe the day by creating an environment of “24 hours of non-violence”.
- Theme for world peace day 2020 is- “Shaping Peace Together”

### 12. International Day of Sign Languages: 23 September

- International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) is celebrated annually across the world on 23 September. This day is celebrated to raise awareness on sign languages and strengthen the status of sign languages.
- The choice of 23 September is the same date that the World Federation of the Deaf was established in 1951.
- The last week of September is also observed as International Week of the Deaf. The theme for the 2020 International Day of Sign Languages is “Sign Languages are for Everyone!”

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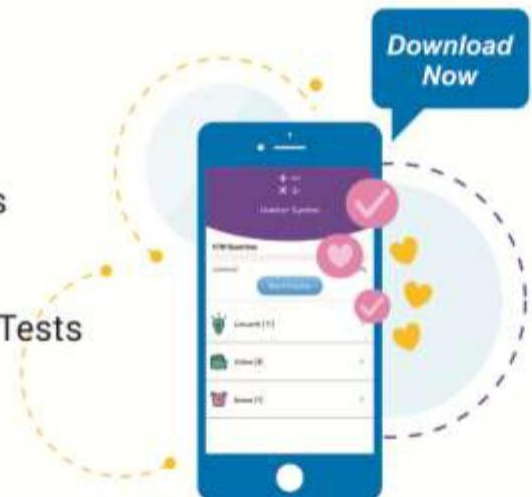
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