



Monthly G.K Capsule

October 2020



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NATIONAL NEWS

1 .India donates 41 ambulances, 6 school buses to Nepal on Gandhi Jayanti

- India donated 41 ambulances and 6 school buses to several organisations working in the fields of health and education in Nepal on the occasion of 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi ji was born on this day in 1869 at Porbandar in Gujarat.
- The vehicles were provided to organisations working across 30 districts of Nepal, according to a statement issued by the India embassy in Kathmandu. India has gifted nearly 823 ambulances since 1994, including those given on Gandhi Jayanti.
- However, this is the first time the embassy has gifted three different categories of ambulances Advanced Life Support category, Basic Life Support and Common Life Support ambulances. All three categories are built as per the guidelines of Government of Nepal. The Advanced Life Support category ambulances include equipment such as travelling ventilator, ECG, wheelchair and 4G mobile device among others.

2. West Bengal Launches Pathashree Abhijan Scheme To Repair 7,000 Roads In State

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched the Pathashree Abhijan, a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometers across the state will be repaired.
- Informing about the same, the Chief Minister said that under the scheme the roads will be repaired in a mission mode and in a time-bound manner.

3. Meity holds Conference to unveil RAISE 2020 – a Global Virtual Summit on AI to be organised from 5 to 9 October, 2020

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) unveiled 'RAISE 2020', a Global Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Electronics Niketan, New Delhi. The Mega

Virtual Summit AI, RAISE 2020 is organized by the MEITY and NITI Aayog.

- Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020 (RAISE 2020) will be held from 5-9 October 2020. The summit will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The summit aims to start discussion on the creation of robust AI-powered public infrastructure that benefits all across the world.
- India is one of the founding members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence. GoI aims to implement AI-based solutions domestically as well as in countries around the world. #AIForAll is the main objective of India's AI strategy and the focus is to build responsible AI for social empowerment, transformation and inclusion.

4. Railway Minister Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurates Phool bagan Metro station of East-West Metro corridor in Kolkata

- Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Government of India inaugurated Phoolbagan Metro station of East-West Metro on 4th October, 2020. Shri Piyush Goyal also flagged off the first train from the newly inaugurated Phoolbagan station through video link.
- In his address, congratulating all for taking extra initiative to complete the work of Phoolbagan station in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic, Shri Goyal said that this extension of services from Salt Lake Stadium to Phoolbagan (a stretch of 1.665 kms) will be a great help for the commuters more so because of its proximity to Sealdah station.
- Terming this as a gift for Durga Puja, he also said that Metro provides the safest, cleanest and fastest transportation system in Kolkata. He has further reassured that if land is made available and encroachments are removed then funds won't be a constraint for implementing any Railway project.

5. DoNER minister Dr. Jitendra Singh releases coffee table book Discovering the Heritage of Assam

- Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, DoNER, Dr Jitendra Singh released a Coffee Table Book on Discovering the

Heritage of Assam, with foreword by Amitabh Bachchan and published by Penguin.

- The voluminous coffee table book with pictures and photographs presents an absorbing compilation of heritage, faith, beliefs and traditions of different ethnic tribes and subtribes living in the largest State of the North Eastern Region.
- The book has been written by IRS officer Padampani Bora who has over the years established himself as an accomplished author, specializing in the subjects reflecting diverse nuances of the North Eastern Region of India.

6. 12th BRICS Summit to be held virtually for 1st time on Nov 17

- For the first time since the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to come face-to-face virtually at the BRICS annual summit to be held on November 17.
- Russia, the chair of the five-nation BRICS, announced on Monday that the annual summit of the bloc will be held on November 17 via video conference.
- The BRICS is known as an influential bloc that represents over 3.6 billion people, or half of the world's population. The BRICS countries have a combined GDP of USD 16.6 trillion.
- "The theme of the meeting of the leaders of BRICS countries is "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth"," the Russian government said in a statement.

7. India, Myanmar Agree to target operationalisation of Strategic Sittwe Port in Q1 2021

- During the visit of the Indian army Chief and Foreign Secretary to Myanmar, the two countries agreed to work towards operationalising the Sittwe port in the first quarter of 2021.
- Indian army Chief General M.M. Naravane and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla travelled to Myanmar on a two-day visit. They called on State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and Myanmar's Commander in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

- The last time that India's foreign secretary and army chief had travelled together was to Bhutan in 2018. It made sense to do so again in Myanmar due to its government structure – a reference to the role of the military at the top of the decision-making set-up in the south-east Asian country.

8. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announces anti-pollution campaign 'Yudh Pradushan ke Virudh'

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, October 5, launched an anti-air pollution campaign named "Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh" to keep a check on the air pollution levels in the national capital.
- Stressing that polluted air can prove harmful to the health amid the coronavirus outbreak, he said, "Polluted air can be life-threatening in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both affect lungs.
- Under the campaign, separate plans have been prepared for each of the 13 pollution hotspots in the city, the Chief Minister stated while addressing a digital press conference. He said, "Customised plans of action are being made for each area, according to their respective causes of pollution & the thereby execution those plans to deal with all that pollution."

9. Puducherry airport becomes AAI's first 100% solar-powered airport

- Puducherry airport has become the Airports Authority of India's (AAI) first entirely solar-powered airport in the country with the commissioning of 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant at a cost of Rs 2.8 crore.
- The 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant was commissioned on 2nd October 2020. With becoming absolutely power-neutral, the Puducherry airport will be able to meet its entire power requirement through the solar power plant.

10. Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches 'Ayush Standard Treatment Protocol'

- The Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan on October 6, 2020, launched the Ayush Standard Treatment Protocol at an event held via video conference. The protocols detail the self-care

guidelines for preventive health measures which will help in protecting against COVID-19.

- While launching the protocols, the health minister hailed the up-gradation of the protocols by the AYUSH Ministry which has been done in sync with CSIR- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and ICMR- Indian Council of Medical Research.
- The Union Health Minister while launching the Ayush Standard Treatment stated that the modern systems of medicine have their own strengths as they have made available medicines and operations which have helped in making people's lives much better.

11. Govt removes requirement of Minimum Qualifying Service for Defence personnel for Enhanced Family Pension

- In a major announcement giving huge benefit to Defence Forces personnel, Government today scrapped the requirement of Minimum Qualifying Service for Enhanced Family Pension with effect from 1st October 2019.
- As per existing provision, there is a requirement of continuous qualifying service of 7 years for grant of Ordinary Family Pension at enhanced rate to Next of Kin of Defence Forces personnel. The requirement of continuous qualifying service of 7 years is done away with effect from 1st October 2019. Additionally, Defence Forces personnel who died within ten years before the 1st of October 2019 without completing continuous service of 7 years, their family will also be eligible for family pension at the enhanced rates.
- Family Pension at enhanced rate is calculated at the rate of 50 per cent of last emoluments whereas normally it is 30 per cent of the last pay drawn.

12. India and South Africa ask WTO to waive rules to aid COVID-19 drug production

- According to a letter to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India and South Africa have asked to waive off the intellectual property rules in order to make it easier for the developing countries to import or produce the drugs for COVID-19.

- The two countries in their letter dated October 2, 2020, have called on the global trade body to waive parts of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which governs trademarks, patents, copyright, and other intellectual property rules globally.



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13. MoHUA enters into MoU with Swiggy to take street food vendors online under PM SVANIDHI scheme

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has entered into an MoU with Swiggy, one of the leading food delivery platforms, to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform.
- The MoU aims at giving the street food vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses.
- The arrangement has been facilitated under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nibhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme. The Ministry and Swiggy will run a pilot programme by on-boarding 250 vendors across five cities namely - Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Indore, and Varanasi.
- The street vendors will be helped with PAN and FSSAI registration, training on technology, menu digitization and pricing along with hygiene and packaging best practices.

14. Centre to urgently release Rs. 20,000 crore as compensation to States for revenue losses

- The Centre will urgently disburse nearly 20 thousand crore rupees among the states from the amount collected as compensation cess this year.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made the announcement after the 42nd GST Council meet.
- The Centre will also disburse Rs. 25 thousand crore towards Integrated GST for 2017-18 to those states that received less amount due to the anomalies.
- Also, the revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey informed that starting from 1st January next year, taxpayers with less than Rs. 5 crore annual turnover will not be required to file monthly GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B returns.

15. Edappadi K Palaniswami Named as AIADMK's CM candidate for Tamil Nadu assembly polls, BJP welcomes decision

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) has been named as the chief ministerial candidate of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) for Tamil Nadu 2021 Assembly polls.
- The announcement was made by Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister and AIADMK leader O Panneerselva during a press conference on October 7, 2020.

16. Sikkim's Dalle Khursani one of the world's spiciest chillies gets GI tag

- Dalle Khursani, the famous red hot cherry pepper of Sikkim, is set to get a geographical indication (GI) tag from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The GI tag is a name or a sign given to a certain product that has a specific geographical location or origin. An application filed by the Guwahati-based North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (Neramac) for the GI tag of Sikkim's Dalle Khursani has been accepted by the DPIIT.
- Considered one of the world's hottest chillies, it has a range of 1,00,000 to 3,50,000 SHU (Scoville Heat Units). The Scoville scale is a measurement of spiciness or heat of chillies. The famous Bhut Jolokia, grown in neighbouring Assam, Arunachal Pradesh,

Nagaland and Manipur, has an SHU range of 8,55,000 to 10,41,427.

17. Maharashtra becomes first state to regulate prices of masks

- Maharashtra has become the first state to regulate the rates of face masks during COVID-19 pandemic as a committee formed to implement caps on the price of masks has submitted its recommendations to the state government and formal order will soon be issued.
- The state govt had constituted a committee to give suggestions about regulating prices of Masks and Sanitisers.
- The prices have been fixed after studying all the factors like raw material, production cost, profit of producers and distributors. After the government approval, the N-95 mask will be available for around 19 to 50 rupees depending on the type, whereas double and triple layer masks will be available for just three to four rupees.
- With this, Maharashtra has become the first state to cap the prices of masks. The prices of sanitizers are also being capped as well.

18. QUAD Foreign Ministers of India, USA, Japan, Australia meet in Tokyo

- QUAD Countries' Foreign Minister meet held in Tokyo, Japan. All four Quad countries the United States, Japan, India and Australia to hold bilateral discussions over "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP) initiative amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- This is the second Quad Finance Ministers meeting. The first was held in 2019. The Quad FM meeting was represented by External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.
- They discussed the post-COVID-19 international order and the need for a coordinated response to the various challenges emerging from the pandemic.

19. World Famous Jog Falls In Karnataka Get A Face Lift

- The world famous Jog falls in Karnataka will get a face lift [at a cost of Rs. 120 crore. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa was given details of the project during a Tourism department review meeting today in Bengaluru.
- Additional Chief Secretary of the Tourism department P Ravikumar informed that the project cost will be finalised by this month end.
- Jog Falls is a waterfall on the Sharavati river located in the Western Ghats in Uttara Kannada District.

20. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Reddy launches India's first of its kind scheme Jagananna Vidya Kanuka

- In yet another first in the entire country, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Jagananna Vidya Kanuka' scheme, which provides preparatory educational kits to school students in the state.
- The novel scheme, seen in awe by many across the country, is the brainchild of YS Jagan to achieve the larger objective of enhancing student interest towards schooling and reduce the dropout rate in government schools.
- The AP CM formally inaugurated the one of its kind scheme at an event organized at the ZP High School of Punadipadu of Kankipadu mandal in Krishna district. To set this unique programme rolling, he gave away school kits to students of various grades between 1st and 10th standard and blessed them to do well in their studies.

21. Train services on Pamban bridge suspended for maintenance work

- Railway service across the historic Pamban bridge, connecting Pamban Island with Rameswaram on mainland Tamil Nadu has been suspended till further notice.
- The Madurai railway division has informed that rail traffic on the two-kilometer long bridge has been suspended for conducting maintenance work.
- The bridge, with a unique bascule section that can be drawn up to allow passage of ships, has been in service since 1915. Following damage to the bascule section, service on the bridge had been

stopped for a period in 2018 - 19. In the meantime, work on a new bridge at Pampan had been inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018.

22. Union Education Minister virtually inaugurates Gyan Circle Ventures

- Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank virtually inaugurated the Gyan Circle Ventures, a MeitY funded Technology Business Incubator of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh through Video Conference.
- He said innovation and entrepreneurship needs to be fostered to ensure self-sustainability and remain a global leader. The Minister said that centers like ‘Gyan Circle ventures’ instill entrepreneurship in young minds and steward them to become successful innovators.
- These, ‘Gyan Circle ventures’ have the potential to infuse entrepreneurship in young minds.
- It would also encourage them to become successful innovators.

23. Piyush Goyal gets additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been assigned the additional charge of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- According to a release by the President Ram Nath Kovind's office, Goyal will hold the charge of this Ministry in addition to his existing portfolios.

24. Interviews for central govt jobs abolished in 23 states, 8 UTs: Jitendra Singh

- Union minister of state for personnel, public grievances & pensions Dr Jitendra Singh disclosed so far, interview for central government jobs has been abolished in 23 states and 8 Union territories of India.
- The Union minister said this is a follow-up to the abolition of interview for Group-B (Non- Gazetted) and Group – C posts in the Central Government ever since 2016.

- Giving a brief about some of the path-breaking reforms brought in by the department of personnel & training (DoPT), Dr Singh recalled that it was on August 15, 2015, while speaking from the rampart of Red Fort on the occasion of Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had suggested abolition of interview.

25. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launches Saur Swarojgar Yojana to generate self-employment

- Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat launched Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana. The Yojana aims at creating self-employment for nearly 10,000 youths in the state.
- The targeted beneficiaries, including the youth and migrants who have returned home after leaving their jobs in various parts of the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

26. Thaawar chand Gehlot Virtually Inaugurates International Conference on “Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19”

- Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Thaawar chand Gehlot inaugurated the virtual “International conference on Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19” through video conferencing. Prof. Craig Jeffrey, Director, Australia-India Institute co-chaired the conference.
- Shri Thaawar chand Gehlot drew the attention of rising trend of mental health concerns across the globe. He also apprised about the recent initiatives of the Govt of India such as setting up of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh & KIRAN mental health rehabilitation helpline for addressing mental health issues.
- The Conference was organized by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), M/o Social Justice & Empowerment in association with University of Melbourne, Australia as a part of joint initiative under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of Australia and Government of India for cooperation in the disability sector in November, 2018.


27. Delhi exempts road tax on battery-operated vehicles; CM Kejriwal says 'crucial step'

- Delhi government exempts road tax on battery-operated vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle Policy, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said.
- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed the decision ‘another crucial step towards ensuring a pollution-free Delhi’
- People have been asked to give their suggestions on the exemption of the registration fees of electric vehicles, according to a Delhi government statement. It said an order to waive the fees will be issued in three days.

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28. Indian beaches awarded international 'Blue Flag' certification

- Eight beaches spread across five states and two union territories in India have been awarded the 'Blue Flag' certification, the environment ministry said.
- The eight beaches that have received the international 'Blue Flag' certification are Shivrajpur (Dwarka-Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (AP), Golden (Puri-Odisha) and Radhanagar (A&N Islands).
- Blue flag certification is a globally recognised label that has been accorded by a Denmark based International agency called the foundation for environment education. The blue flag tag is provided to beaches that adopt eco-tourism model.

29. India ranked 155th on the health spending index

- The survey data show India spent less than 4% of its budget on health and ranked 155th on the health spending index. “Its health budget is the fourth lowest in the world.
- Just half of its population have access to even the most essential health services,”
- Afghanistan and India set aside the same share for health in their budgets, 4%, just above a quarter of the recommended spending and one-third of what the second poorest country in the world, Burundi, did.

30. India among top three FDI destinations in near future

- India has emerged as one of the top three choices for investments in the next two to three years, with more than two-thirds of respondents in a survey of multinational companies (MNCs) citing the country as their number one choice for future investments.
- Recent reforms in the country such as corporate tax cuts, 'Ease of Doing Business' measures, simplification of labour laws, FDI reforms, and focus on human capital have emerged as the top drivers for fresh investments.

31. PM Modi to release commemorative coin to mark 75th Anniversary of FAO

- On the occasion of 75th Anniversary of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on 16 October 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release a commemorative coin of Rs 75 denomination to mark the long-standing relation of India with FAO.
- Prime Minister Modi will also dedicate to the Nation 17 recently developed biofortified varieties of 8 crops.
- It will be witnessed by Anganwadis, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Organic and Horticulture Missions across the country. Union Agriculture Minister, Finance Minister and WCD Minister will also be present on the occasion.

32. Haryana govt launches mobile water testing labs

- The Haryana government has launched a mobile water testing laboratory van, fully equipped with a multi-parameter system

containing analysers, sensor, probes and instruments meant for assessing water quality, the Jal Shakti Ministry said.

- Water quality in Haryana is mainly affected by constituents like total dissolved solids (TDS), fluoride, nitrate, iron and alkalinity.
- The work under the Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide tap water to rural households by 2024, is being done on a war footing and it gives a lot of emphasis on water quality surveillance and monitoring, the ministry said in a statement.

33. NITI Aayog announces governing structure of India Energy Modelling Forum

- NITI Aayog has announced the governing structure of the India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF) following its constitution in July. The Forum was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the US–India Strategic Energy Partnership.
- Part of the Sustainable Growth pillar of the US–India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP), IEMF aims to engage Indian researchers, knowledge partners, think tanks and national and international government agencies and departments for modelling and long-term energy planning.
- The governing structure of IEMF will consist of an inter-ministerial and a steering committee. The inter-ministerial committee will be convened by NITI Aayog and headed by its CEO, and comprise senior officials from the ministries of petroleum and natural gas; power; new and renewable energy; coal; environment, forest and climate change; and department of science and technology.

34. E-Sanjeevani rapidly gaining popularity amongst patients & doctors

- Health Ministry's telemedicine initiative - E-Sanjeevani is rapidly gaining popularity amongst patients and doctors. It has recorded five lakh teleconsultations in a short span of time and the last one lakh consultations were completed in a record time of 17 days.
- As a digital modality of health care services delivery, e-Sanjeevani is gradually shaping into a parallel stream for the Indian healthcare

delivery system with the number of teleconsultations per day on the platform touching 8,000 mark in the last few days.

- At present, 26 states are using e-Sanjeevani's two variants of telemedicine namely - doctor to doctor (e-SanjeevaniAB-HWC) and patient to doctor (e-SanjeevaniOPD).

35. Ravi Shankar Prasad to host SCO meeting of law and justice ministers

- Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad will host the seventh meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) this week. The virtual meeting on October 16 will be attended by Law and Justice ministers of China, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic.
- The ministers during the meet will share the knowledge on creating conducive environment to promote dispute resolution mechanism, forensic activities and other legal services. Also, the ministers will discuss on the action plan of the working groups of experts on legal services and forensic activities.
- SCO is a part of India's policy of "multi alignments". RATS is regional Anti-terror structure of SCO. Accessing information and intelligent from RATS will help India learn about non-Pakistan centred Counter Terrorism.

36. Kerala becomes first state to go digital in public education

- Kerala became the first state in the country to go completely digital in public education. Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has implemented the project which comes under the general education department.
- Over 3.74 lakh digital equipments were distributed in 16,027 schools for the smart classroom project.
- Apart from KIIFB fund, the asset development funds of public representatives and local government funds were also utilized for the project.

37. India, France re-elected as President, Co-President of International Solar Alliance

- India and France were re-elected as the President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), for a term of two years at

the virtual meeting of the Third Assembly, informed the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

- This was decided during the virtual meeting of the third assembly of the International Solar Alliance attended by 34 ISA members. Four new Vice-Presidents were also chosen to represent the four regions of ISA.

38. India contributes 1 million dollars to UNRWA for Palestine Refugees

- India has contributed one million dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Near East. This aid will support the Agency's programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services.
- The Representative Office of India in Ramallah said, India's support for the Palestinian cause is an integral part of the nation's foreign policy. It shall continue supporting the UNRWA's activities in providing vital services and necessary humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees.

39. Odisha Launches 'Sujal' Mission, first state to provide tap water fit for drinking in urban areas

- The Odisha Government launched 'Sujal - Drink from Tap Mission'. The aim of the mission is to provide quality drinking water, fit for direct consumption from the pipe, to over 15 lakh people in 15 towns.
- Rs 1300 crore will be spent by the Government to provide the drink directly from tap quality water to all households in urban areas. The initiative was started at Salia Sahi in Bhubaneswar and Masani Chandi in Puri.

40. CCEA approves demerger of Nagarnar Steel Plant from NMDC Limited

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its in-principle approval to the demerger of Nagarnar Steel Plant (NSP) from National Minerals Development Corporation (NMDC) Limited.

- It has also approved the strategic disinvestment of the demerged company (NSP) by selling the entire Government of India stake in it to a strategic buyer.
- NSP is a three million tonne per annum Integrated Steel Plant being set up by NMDC at Nagarnar in Bastar District of Chhattisgarh in an area of 1980 acres at revised estimated cost of Rs. 23,140 crore.
- As on date NMDC has invested Rs. 17,186 crore in the project.

41. Government sets up a panel of secretaries to streamline telecom spectrum allocation

- The government has constituted a panel of secretaries under cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba to streamline the spectrum allocation process.
- It will also examine the possibility of drawing up an annual calendar for auction of airwaves that will give telcos a clear road map of the quantum as well as the frequency of spectrum on offer for commercial use.
- Besides Gauba, the panel comprises the secretaries of home, defence, railways, telecom, I&B and department of space.

42. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates Food and Agri Week 2020

- Union Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, the Food Processing Industries Minister inaugurated the India-International Food & Agri Week virtually. The focus of the Food and Agro Tech will be on the use and benefit of the technology in the field of food and agriculture sector. India - International Food & Agri Week is being organized from 16th to October 22 2020.
- CII in association with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Fisheries & Animal Husbandry and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, is organizing its first-ever Virtual CII Agro & Food Tech: India - International Food & Agri on CII HIVE – virtual platform with an intent to create a platform for the benefit of the stakeholders involved in the agriculture & allied sectors.

43. CM Yogi launches 'Mission Shakti' campaign in UP for safety of women

- Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath asserted that culprits of crimes against women will be punished swiftly as there will be a separate room now for women complainants in 1,535 police stations across the state.
- Adityanath made these remarks while launching "Mission Shakti" programme for women security in Uttar Pradesh. Young girls demonstrated self-defence techniques during the event.
- "To pay homage to the victim of a very unfortunate incident, I decided to kick-off the Mission Shakti campaign from Balrampur and I am extremely delighted to launch this programme. Mission Shakti aims at guaranteeing security and respect for every woman in the state," he said.

44. All India Bar Association demands action against Andhra CM for letter against Justice Ramana

- The All India Bar Association (AIBA) urged the Chief Justice of India (CJI) to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for making "scandalous" allegations against Justice NV Ramana, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court and judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.
- AIBA chairperson Dr Adish C Aggarwala, while condemning the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister for his October 6 letter to the CJI SA Bobde, said the "scurrilous and scandalous" remarks against Justice Ramana, the next in line to become the Chief Justice of India, and judges of Andhra Pradesh High Court have "shaken the independence of the judiciary".

45. India ranks 94th among 107 countries in Global Hunger Index

- India ranked 94 among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020 and is in the "serious" hunger category with experts blaming poor implementation processes, lack of effective monitoring, siloed approach in tackling malnutrition and poor performance by large states behind the low ranking.
- Last year, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries.
- The neighbouring Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan too are in the "serious" category but ranked higher than India in this year's

hunger index. While Bangladesh ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan are in the 78th and 88th position.

- Nepal in 73rd and Sri Lanka in 64th position are in "moderate" hunger category, the report showed.

46. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and lays foundation stones for 16 NH projects in Andhra Pradesh

- Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 16 National Highways projects with a total length of 1411 kms worth Rs 15,592 crore in Andhra Pradesh.
- The event was presided by the Chief Minister Shri Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy. Union MoSs Gen (Retd) Dr V K Singh and Shri G Kishan Reddy, Ministers from the State, Members of Parliaments, MLAs and senior officers from the Centre and the State. Speaking on the occasion, Gadkari said that the length of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh before May 2014 was 4193 Km, which has now increased to 6860 Km

47. J&K Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha announces ‘My Town My Pride’ programme

- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha announced the ‘My Town My Pride’ programme, starting from October 19, as a part of the public outreach initiative “in J&K’s towns to deliver services at doorsteps to the urban population”.
- Its main objectives are public outreach in towns, strengthening grassroots democracy, and service delivery at doorsteps
- The programme will also ensure on-the-spot grievance redressal, instant delivery of services to the masses, and on the ground speedy execution of people-centric projects.

48. India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 in the Asia Power Index 2020

- India stands as the fourth most powerful country in Asia but falls just short of the major power threshold in 2020, a study showed.
- According to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index for 2020, although India is the fourth most powerful nation in the

Asia-Pacific following the US, China and Japan, it stops short of attaining the "major power" status in the said year (2020).

49. India invites British government to explore business opportunities in North East

- The Development of North East Region minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh invited the UK government and the private sector to explore various forms of business opportunities present in India's North-East Region.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh during a virtual meeting with the officials of the British High Commission stated that both India and UK are two vibrant democracies that enjoy mutually rewarding business relationships. He added that both countries can work together in exploiting and exploring new opportunities in the North East region.

50. India's agricultural exports rise by 14.8 % during first five months of current fiscal

- India's agricultural exports have recovered from a pandemic-induced decline. Exports of major farm products stood at 53,000 crore rupees in the five-month period between April and August 2020-21, a rise of 14.8 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.
- During the April to August period, farmers gained from higher exports of rice, wheat and sugar. Exports of basmati rice, a big-ticket export item among cereals, during April-August rose 8.2 percent from the year-ago period, while the value of non-basmati rice exports grew 91.3 percent.

51. NITI Aayog to establish Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre with AWS

- In order to address societal challenges through digital innovation, NITI Aayog announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre, CIC with Amazon Web Services, AWS. It is the first of its kind in India.
- This CIC is part of the AWS CIC Global Programme which provides an opportunity for government agencies, non-profits and educational institutions, to come together on pressing challenges,

apply design thinking, test new ideas, and access the technology expertise of AWS.

52. Nitin Gadkari lays foundation of country's 1st multimodal logistics park in Assam

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari virtually laid the foundation stone for the first-ever multi-modal logistic park of the country in Assam. The 694 crore rupees park at Bongaigaon district will provide direct connectivity to air, road, rail and waterways to the people of Assam.
- It will be developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Centre.
- The fund for the multimodal logistics park would be spent in 3 components - road and railway connectivity as well as building and infrastructure work.



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53. Govt bans gas, CBM producers from buying their own produce

- The government has banned natural gas and coal-bed methane (CBM) producers from buying their own produce in the newly notified gas marketing freedom guidelines.
- The reforms give producers the freedom to discover the market price of gas through a standard e-bidding process.
- As per the notified guidelines, producers have the liberty to market or sell the gas produced to anyone including affiliates but the producer or any member of its gas field consortium cannot bid and buy the fuel.

54. Indian Vice Chief of Army visits US Indo-Pacific Command in Hawaii

- Vice Chief of Army Lt Gen SK Saini on Tuesday visited the US Indo-Pacific Command in Hawaii and held talks with senior American military commanders on ways to enhance strategic cooperation between the two forces.
- The US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), comprising over 3,75,000 military and civilian personnel, is one of the largest unified formations of the US armed forces and it is tasked to protect Washington's interests in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The visit by the Vice Chief of Army Staff to the command comes in the backdrop of renewed efforts between India and the US to bolster cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, which has been witnessing growing Chinese muscle-flexing.

55. Kati Bihu festival celebrated across Assam

- Assam's third Bihu festival, known as Kati Bihu or Kongali Bihu, was being celebrated across the state.
- Assam Governor Jagadish Mukhi and Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal extended their prayers and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Kati Bihu hoping that the festival will bring in peace and prosperity in the state, an official release said here.
- On the occasion of Kati Bihu, women, both in urban and rural areas, try to ward off evil and pray for a rich harvest by lighting earthen lamps.

56. Uttar Pradesh Governor launches Safe City Project, a women's safety campaign, in Lucknow

- Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel inaugurated the 'Safe City Project'. It is a 180-day-long campaign under which the police and other departments will work towards the safety of women.
- The Governor flagged off 100 pink scooties and 10 four-wheeler police vehicles as part of the campaign.
- Lucknow is among eight cities in the country selected for the 'Safe City Project'.
- The central government has approved the project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs 194 crore with an aim to strengthen security of women in public places.

- The projects will be financed under Nirbhaya Fund at a cost of INR 2919.55 Crores.

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

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate three key projects in Gujarat on 24th October, via video conferencing. Prime Minister will launch the 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana' for the farmers of Gujarat. He will inaugurate the Paediatric Heart Hospital attached with U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre and a Mobile Application for tele-cardiology at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad. He will also inaugurate the Ropeway at Girnar on the occasion.
- To provide day-time power supply for irrigation, the Gujarat Government under Chief Minister Shri Vijay Rupani had recently announced the 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana'. Under this scheme, farmers will be able to avail power supply from 5 AM to 9 PM. The state government has allocated a budget of Rs.3500 crore for installing transmission infrastructure under this scheme by 2023.
- Prime Minister will also inaugurate Paediatric Heart Hospital attached with the U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre and a Mobile Application for tele-cardiology at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad.
- Gujarat will once again be highlighted on the global tourism map as the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Ropeway at Girnar on 24th October, 2020. Initially, there will be 25-30 cabins, with a capacity of 8 people per cabin. A distance of 2.3 kms will now be covered in just 7.5 minutes through the ropeway. In addition to this, the ropeway will also provide a scenic view of the lush green beauty surrounding the Girnar mountain.

58. Haryana tops Anemia Mukht Bharat Index in country

- The Anemia Mukht Bharat, an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF, has been launched to reduce the prevalence of Anemia all over India.
- In a recently released scorecard of the Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Index by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Haryana was ranked at the top slot with an AMB Index of 46.7.

59. India participates in 18th meeting of Prosecutors General of SCO via video conference

- India today participated in 18th meeting of Prosecutors General of SCO via video conference.
- Representing India, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said India has zero tolerance to corruption and black money.
- He also highlighted government's flagship Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, saying it has expanded India's financial architecture.
- Today's meeting of Prosecutors, agreed to strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating corruption, mutual legal assistance and exchange of regulatory legal acts.
- India will host the next meeting of Prosecutors General in 2021. SCO Law ministers met last week and SCO Trade Ministers will meet next week.

60. India to host third India-US 22 Ministerial Dialogue on Oct 27

- India will be hosting the Third India-US 22 Ministerial Dialogue on 27th of October in New Delhi.
- United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark T. Esper will be visiting India to participate in the dialogue.
- From the Indian side, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will lead the delegation.
- The first 22 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi in September 2018 and followed by the second in Washington DC in 2019.
- The agenda for the third dialogue will cover all bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. India expresses concern over raging military conflict between Armenia, Azerbaijan

- For almost four decades, Armenia and Azerbaijan have been battling over a piece of land situated in the mountainous region of south Caucasus. The dispute over Nagorno Karabakh that began in 1988 has over the years caused massive human rights violations, a

severe refugee crisis and impacted the economies of both the Transcaucasian republics.

- The issue flared up once again this week, resulting in more deaths and destruction.
- Reportedly, close to a hundred lives have been lost between civilians and Armenian combatants. Azerbaijan is yet to release data on its military losses.
- India has expressed its concern over reports of resumption of hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Armenia-Azerbaijan border which took place in the early hours of September 27.

2. Russia Successfully tests new 'Tsirkon' Hypersonic Missile

- Russia has successfully test-fired its highly touted hypersonic cruise missile called Tsirkon in the waters of northwestern Russia.
- Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov reported to President Vladimir Putin on his 68th birthday that the Tsirkon's launch from a guided missile frigate "directly hit" its intended target.
- The missile hit its target at a distance of 450 kilometres (280 miles) in four and a half minutes after reaching hypersonic speeds of more than Mach 8.

3. King of Jordan Abdullah II names his policy adviser Bishr al-Khasawneh country's new Prime Minister

- Jordan's King Abdullah II designated his chief policy adviser to form a new government amid criticism of the previous government's handling of the virus pandemic.
- King of Jordan, Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein has appointed Bishr al-Khasawneh, policy advisor to the king, as new Prime Minister of the country.
- His appointment comes after King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Omar al Razzaz.

4. Nepal withdraws textbook which includes contentious border map with India

- Nepal has withdrawn a school textbook which included a contentious map of border areas with India that it earlier showed

as part of its territory in its political map, a move being seen as a conciliatory step.

- Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli ordered the education ministry to halt distribution of the 110-page 'Self Study Material on Nepal's Territory and Border' to high school students, said people aware of the matter.
- The Nepali-language book also included a chapter on the campaign to reclaim disputed territory with India. The new books for the 9th and 12th classes have a preface written by education minister Giriraj Mani Pokharel.

5. Kyrgyzstan President Sooronbai Jeenbekov declares state of emergency amid protests

- The embattled president of Kyrgyzstan ordered a nearly two-week state of emergency in the capital in a bid to end the political turmoil that has been sparked by a disputed parliamentary election.
- President Sooronbai Jeenbekov decreed that the state of emergency, which starts at 8 pm on Friday and runs through 8 am on October 21, could include a curfew and travel restrictions. He also ordered the military to deploy troops to Bishkek, the capital, to enforce the measure.

6. Bangladesh's Cabinet approves death penalty in rape cases

- Bangladesh Cabinet approved a draft law to include death penalty as the highest punishment for rape.
- The decision to amend the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act-2000 was announced after the Cabinet meeting Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
- The ordinance will be issued after getting approval of the President as Parliament is not in session.
- Currently, the highest punishment for rape is life imprisonment.

7. Pakistan, China re-elected to UNHRC; US slams United Nations for electing 'authoritarian regimes'

- The UN General Assembly elected Pakistan, China, Russia and 12 other countries to serve as members of the UN Human Rights Council for three-year terms starting from January 1, 2021.

- China was re-elected to the UNHRC after it defeated Saudi Arabia in the elections to win a seat by the smallest margin. Pakistan and Nepal have also been re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council.
- The United States Secretary of State Michael Pompeo slammed the United Nations for electing “authoritarian regimes” such as China, Russia and Cuba into the UN Human Rights Council. He added saying that the US' decision to withdraw from the council has been “validated”.

8. India, Chile hold first joint commission meeting

- India and Chile held their first joint commission meeting and agreed to add new momentum to their relations in a wide range of fields including trade and commerce, agriculture, health and social security, defence and space.
- The meeting held virtually was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chilean counterpart Andres Allamand Zavala.
- Both sides noted that the Joint Commission was a significant development in India - Chile relations, being the first institutionalized dialogue between the two countries at the level of Foreign Ministers.

9. New Zealand's Ardern wins 2nd term in election landslide

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern won a second term in office in an election landslide of historic proportions.
- With most votes counted, Ardern's liberal Labour Party was winning 49% of the vote compared to 27% for its main challenger, the conservative National Party.
- In a victory speech in front of hundreds of cheering supporters in Auckland, Ardern said her party had gotten more support from New Zealanders than at any time in at least 50 years.

10. Sweden bans Huawei, ZTE from 5G, calls China biggest threat

- Sweden is banning Chinese tech companies Huawei and ZTE from building new high-speed wireless networks after a top security official called China one of the country's biggest threats.

- The Swedish telecom regulator said that four wireless carriers bidding for frequencies in an upcoming spectrum auction for the new 5G networks must not use equipment from Huawei or ZTE.
- Wireless carriers that plan to use existing telecommunications infrastructure for 5G networks must also rip out any existing gear from Huawei or ZTE, the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority said.

11. UAE delegation reaches Israel for first time in history

- In an historic first visit by a Gulf Arab nation, a United Arab Emirates delegation reached Israel.
- It was accompanied by top US officials to cement the normalisation of ties between the two nations.
- As part of the US-brokered deal, four agreements were signed relating to investment, scientific cooperation, civil aviation and visa exemptions, during the visit.

12. Sushil Kumar Singhal accredited as next High Commissioner of India to Solomon Islands

- Sushil Kumar Singhal, a 2000-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Solomon Islands.
- Mr Singhal will be residing in Port Moresby.
- He is presently serving as the High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

13. Brazil's President Bolsonaro rejects purchase of coronavirus vaccine from China

- Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro has decided on Wednesday to cancel the purchase of Coronavac, a COVID-19 vaccine in phase-3 clinical trials by Chinese firm Sinovac.
- A day before, on Tuesday, Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello had confirmed that Brazil would buy the vaccine developed by Sinovac to include it in the immunization program, in addition to one developed by the UK-based AstraZeneca and Oxford University.

- Bolsonaro said on social media, For sure, we will not buy the Chinese vaccine, because it is unjustifiable to pay billions for a vaccine that has not been through its testing phase

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Priyanka Chopra's memoir 'Unfinished' to release in January 2021

- Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas' long-awaited book debut, "Unfinished", will be launched on January 19, 2021, publisher Penguin Random House India announced on Friday.
- The "thoughtful and revealing" memoir will take readers through Priyanka's childhood in India, her teenage years in the US living with extended family in the Midwest, Queens, and suburban Boston, where she endured bouts of racism; to her return to India, where she unexpectedly won the national and global beauty pageants (Miss India and Miss World) that launched her acting career.

2. Modern Family Star Sofia Vergara Tops Forbes List Of Highest Paid Actresses

- Forbes released this year's list of Highest Paid Actresses and Modern Family star Sofia Vergara has scored the top spot with earnings of \$43 million. Second on the list is Hollywood star Angelina Jolie with \$35.5 million.
- Sofia and Angelina are followed by Wonder Woman star Gal Gadot with \$31.5 million
- Last year's number one, Scarlett Johansson, had made \$56 million. Dwayne Johnson topped the male list, with \$87.5 million. Akshay Kumar was the only Indian actor on either list.

3. Senior IPS officer M A Ganapathy appointed Director General of BCAS

- Senior IPS officer M A Ganapathy has been appointed as director-general of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. The 1986 batch, Uttarakhand cadre IPS officer is currently CISF special director-general and head of the airport sector.

- PM Modi-headed appointments committee of cabinet approved the aviation ministry's proposal to appoint Ganapathy as DG BCAS till his superannuation on February 29, 2024, or until further orders, whichever earlier.
- Rakesh Asthana, a 1984 batch IPS officer, held this position till this August when he was appointed as the chief of the Border Security Force (BSF). Asthana is also holding additional charge of DG, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

4. Dinesh Khara takes charge as the Chairman of State Bank of India

- The senior-most Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI) Dinesh Kumar Khara on Wednesday took charge as the new chairman of India's largest public lender. The government had appointed Khara as the chairman of the bank for a period of three years. Khara has replaced chairman Rajnish Kumar, whose three-year term came to an end on October 7.
- "The Central Government, hereby appoints Dinesh Kumar Khara, Managing Director, State Bank of India as Chairman, for a period of three years with effect from the date of his taking over charge of the post on or after 7.10.2020, or until further orders, whichever is earlier," a notification by the Department of Financial Services.

5. M Rajeshwar Rao appointed as deputy governor of RBI

- The Centre has appointed M Rajeshwar Rao as the new deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Prior to this, M Rajeshwar Rao was an executive director at RBI.
- He succeeds N S Vishwanathan as the central bank's fourth deputy governor. N S Vishwanathan who resigned from the post in March 2020 before the completion of his term in June, citing health reasons.

6. Nilesh Shah re-elected as Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India

- Nilesh Shah has been re-elected as the Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), at the recently concluded Board Meeting of AMFI.

- Besides, he would continue as the ex-officio chairman of Amfi Financial Literacy Committee, being the chairman of the industry body. Besides, Saurabh Nanavati, who is the chief executive officer of Invesco Asset Management (India) Pvt Ltd, has been re-elected as the vice-chairman of AMFI.

7. Delhi teen, Chaitanya Venkateswaran, spends day as British High Commissioner

- Chaitanya Venkateswaran from New Delhi had the unique opportunity to spend a day as the UK's senior-most diplomat in India under the mission's initiative aimed at empowering and highlighting the challenges faced by women across the world.
- The British High Commission has been organising the 'High Commissioner for a Day' competition annually since 2017, inviting young Indian women aged 18 to 23 years to take over as their most senior diplomat. Chaitanya is the fourth young woman to take over as the British High Commissioner in an annual competition run by the UK mission in celebration of International Day of the Girl Child on October 11.
- Chaitanya, an active volunteer, has worked to aid visually-impaired students, acid attack survivors and marginalised LGBT groups.

8. Supreme Court appoints Former Justice M B Lokur as one-man panel to prevent stubble burning

- The Supreme Court has appointed Justice (retd) Madan B Lokur, a former judge of the apex court, as a one-man monitoring committee to prevent stubble burning in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.
- These states are known as the main source of pollution in Delhi-national capital region (NCR).The new committee will monitor the stubble burning and take preventive steps.
- The panel shall submit its report on stubble burning within 15 days to the apex court.

9. Union Bank of India MD & CEO Raj kiran Rai is new chairman of IBA

- Indian Banks' Association (IBA) said Union Bank of India's MD and CEO Raj kiran Rai G has been elected as the association's chairman for the term 2020-21.
- State Bank of India's Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara has been elected as the deputy chairman of the association.
- IBA is an association of banks and other entities in the banking ecosystem in India catering to its members.

10. Vishal V Sharma appointed as India's next permanent representative to UNESCO

- Vishal V Sharma has been appointed as the next permanent representative of India to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Sharma has succeeded Jawed Ashraf.
- Sharma is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

11. Michael Irani appointed as International weightlifting federation Interim President

- The International Weightlifting Federation announced the appointment of Michael Irani as its interim president.
- Irani is chair of the IWF Medical Committee and a former chair of the IWF Anti-Doping Commission.
- He has extensive experience of the fight against doping and in safeguarding athlete welfare.
- Prior to this, Michael Irani was serving as the chairman of the IWF Medical Committee.

12. Aishwarya Sridhar becomes first Indian woman to win Wildlife Photographer of the Year award

- Making India proud, Aishwarya Sridhar became the first Indian to win the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award. The announcement was made at the Natural History Museum in London.
- It is the 56th year of the prestigious award.
- Aishwarya Sridhar's photo won among 50,000 entries from over 80 countries across the world. Only 100 images were shortlisted

and she won the award for her photograph in the Behaviour Invertebrates category.

- She is the first and youngest girl to win this prestigious award from India in the Adult category. The award winners were announced at the Natural History Museum in London.

13. Parle agro ropes in Priyanka Chopra Jonas as brand ambassador

- Parle Agro has roped in Priyanka Chopra Jonas as the national brand ambassador to maximise reach and awareness of its fruits plus fizz portfolio 'B-Fizz'.
- The campaign will be aggressively promoted across IPL on Hotstar and YouTube. B-Fizz is a unique and refreshing apple juice-based malt flavoured carbonated drink that is set to revolutionize the taste experience of consumers across age groups

BANKING

1. NABARD launches sanitation literacy campaign in Karnataka

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, NABARD regional office in Karnataka launched the Sanitation Literacy Campaign to promote literacy on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, (WASH) under Swach Bharath Mission.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has announced a special refinance facility of Rs 800 crore for Fiscal Year 2021.
- With this, NABARD will support the Government of India's Water, Sanitisation and Hygiene (WASH) programme. NABARD will provide concessional refinance to all eligible financial institutions including commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks with a repayment period of up to 36 months.

2. HDFC Bank's Ravi Santhanam in Forbes list of World's Most Influential CMOs

- Ravi Santhanam, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO), HDFC Bank has been recognized in the Forbes list of 'The World's Most Influential CMOs'.

- Ranked at Number 39, he is the only CMO of an Indian company to be featured in the illustrious list which includes marketing heads of Apple, BMW, Lego, Adobe, Microsoft, P&G among others.
- This is the eighth edition of this annual list released by Forbes with research partners Sprinklr and LinkedIn. This year, 427 global CMOs were eligible for consideration. It is generated using data from news reports, websites, and social networks to measure influence.

3. Nirmala Sitharaman launches Indian Bank's business mentoring programme 'MSME Prerana' for MSMEs

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched 'MSME Prerana', an online business mentoring programme for MSMEs by state-run Indian Bank. The programme, to be made available in local languages, is aimed at empowering entrepreneurs through skill development and capacity building workshops, the bank said in a release.
- "Indian Bank has taken an out-of-the-box initiative in launching MSME Prerana which will handhold the entrepreneurs through a mentoring program. This novel initiative shall further inspire others in the banking sector to adopt similar measures," Sitharaman said.
- The initiative was launched by the finance minister at the bank's corporate centre in Chennai. Financial Services Secretary Debashish Panda, who also participated in the launch event through video conferencing, delved on the various initiatives taken by the government to support MSMEs.

4. RBI to move to next generation treasury application for managing forex, gold reserves

- In a bid to improve its functioning, the Reserve Bank has decided to move to the Next Generation Treasury Application (NGTA) for managing the country's foreign exchange and gold reserves.
- The NGTA, according to the RBI, would be a web-based application providing scalability, maneuverability and flexibility to introduce new products and securities, besides supporting multi-currency transactions and settlements.

- The RBI said the objectives of the proposed system includes, dealing in various asset classes (like Fixed Income Securities, Forex, Money Market, Gold); portfolio management; workflow management; reserve management; integration with various third party and in-house systems; and dashboards, reports, widgets.

5. Axis Bank collaborates with Google Pay, Visa to launch a new ACE Credit card

- Axis Bank announced the launch of its ACE Credit Card in India in collaboration with Google Pay and Visa. The card meant to help with digital payments.
- From application to issuance, with the entire user journey for the credit card application will be done digitally.
- For essential use cases, including mobile recharges and bill payments made via Google Pay, users can earn a cashback of 5 per cent.
- There is also an unlimited 2 per cent cashback on other transactions.

6. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announces LTC cash voucher scheme, special festival advance

- To stimulate consumer demand, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an LTC cash voucher scheme and a special festival advance of Rs 10,000 to all government employees, saying the Covid-19 pandemic had adversely affected the economy.
- Addressing a press conference, Sitharaman said the new proposals have been designed to stimulate demand in a fiscally prudent way by front-loading some expenditure.
- Under consumer spending, she announced proposals within two components: LTC cash voucher scheme and special festival advance scheme.

7. After Vishwanathan's resignation, RBI reallocates portfolios of deputy governors

- The Reserve Bank reallocated portfolios of deputy governors, with the Department of Regulation being entrusted to M K Jain. The move was necessitated as N S Vishwanathan demitted office on Tuesday, an RBI communique said.

- Among Vishwanathan's portfolios, regulation goes to Jain, a career commercial banker-turned-central banker, while inspection will be taken care of by B P Kanungo. Kanungo, a career central banker whose term was extended on Tuesday, will also oversee the coordination function, while risk monitoring will go to Jain.
- Jain will also take care of communication, while enforcement and secretary departments will be headed by Kanungo, the RBI said. Kanungo, Jain and the third DG Michael Patra will continue to hold their earlier portfolios.

8. RBI raises banks' aggregate exposure limit for small businesses to Rs 7.5 crore

- In a bid to increase credit flow to small businesses, the RBI raised banks' maximum aggregate retail exposure limit to entities with turnover up to Rs 50 crore to Rs 7.5 crore, up from Rs 5 crore.
- The risk weight of 75 percent will apply to all fresh exposures and also to existing exposures where incremental exposure may be taken by the banks up to the revised limit of Rs 7.5 crore, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a release.

9. Exim Bank extends \$400 mn soft loan to Maldives for connectivity project

- India has extended a USD 400 million (about Rs 2,932 crore) soft loan to Maldives through the Exim Bank to finance a connectivity project in the nation of islands.
- With the signing of the above agreement, Exim Bank has till date extended three LoCs worth a cumulative USD 1.2 billion to Maldives, on behalf of India.
- Exim Bank said the soft loans to Maldives have funded connectivity, water, sewerage projects, Addu Development Project, an international cricket stadium, Gulhifalhu port, Hanimaadhoo airport and road construction work.

10. IDBI Bank launches banking services on WhatsApp

- IDBI Bank announced the launch of banking services on WhatsApp.

- The WhatsApp Banking service is being offered through a dedicated WhatsApp verified number ensuring end-to-end encryption, the Bank stated.
- The facility will enable IDBI Bank customers to avail various essential services such as account balance information, last five transactions, request for a cheque book and an email statement, interest rates, as well as details of IDBI Bank branches/ATMs in the vicinity, to begin with.

Books and Awards

1. Three scientists share 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

- The Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology has been jointly awarded to Harvey J Alter, Charles M Rice and Michael Houghton. The scientists have been awarded for the discovery of Hepatitis C Virus.
- The Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology is the first of six prizes that are to be announced in coming days. The other Noble Prizes to be announced are in the field of Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Peace and Economics.

2. IACC presents lifetime achievement award to Ratan Tata

- The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has presented the lifetime achievement award to business icon Ratan Tata as part of its recent global leadership awards.
- The IACC leadership bestowed the IACC Lifetime and Global Excellence Awards to Tata at a closed-door meeting, owing to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, according to a statement.
- This award was announced in the virtual event of IACC “COVID Crusader Award-2020”. This is the 1st time IACC conferred the Lifetime Achievement award to any individual.

3. Delhi's Deputy CM Manish Sisodia launches a book "Bapu-The unforgettable"

- On the occasion of the 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia has launched the coffee-table book titled "Babu - The Unforgettable" over the virtual event.

- This virtual event was organised by the Delhi Archives & Department of Art, Culture and Language, Government of Delhi. The department also organised a webinar on "Footprints of Gandhi Ji in Delhi".
- The book "Bapu - The Unforgettable" will make the readers think and provide a glimpse of the ideology and philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi. The book also holds several untouched aspects of history, rare photographs, epigraphs and other details about Delhi.

4. Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A Doudna wins Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors

- The Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 2020 has been awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A Doudna for “Development of a method for Genome Editing”. The scientists had developed the Gene Editing Technique called “CRISPR-Cas9 Snipping Scissors”.
- The researchers can change the DNA of animals using the Gene Editing Technique invented by the Nobel Laureates. The technology has had revolutionary impact on life sciences contributing to new cancer therapies. It has potentials to cure inherited diseases.

5. Poet Nityananda Nayak to receive Sarala Puraskar

- Odia poet Nityanand Nayak will be conferred the prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his poetry work ‘Setebelaku Nathiba’, published in 2017. The poet will be felicitated with a cash award of `5 lakh and a citation.
- Sarala Puraskar is recognised as the foremost literary award of Odisha.
- Two other eminent personalities from the State - Ranjit Kumar Nag and Shyamsundar Pattanaik - will be felicitated for their contribution to fields of music and art respectively.
- While Nag will be awarded the Ila Panda Sangeet Samman, Pattanaik would be felicitated with Ila Panda Chitrakala Samman. The awards comprise a cash award of `1,50,000 and a citation.

6. Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson got Nobel Prize in Economics for their work on auction theory

- This year's Economic Sciences Laureates, Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson, have improved auction theory and invented new auction formats, benefitting sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world.
- The 2020 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel has been awarded to Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats."
- The Economic Science Laureates have not just clarified how auctions work and why bidders behave in a certain way but used their theoretical discoveries to invent entirely new auction formats for the sale of goods and services.

7. Indian-origin Philanthropist Harish Kotecha Wins Lifetime Award In US For Help To Children

- Indian-origin philanthropist Harish Kotecha has been conferred the prestigious Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award for his efforts in meeting the needs of homeless children and youth in the United States.
- The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) presented the lifetime achievement award to Kotecha, who is the founder and President of Hindu Charities for America (HC4A), at its 32nd annual conference.
- Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award is rewarded annually to honour the individuals who have worked tirelessly to ensure that children are given basic amenities such as safety, shelter, and a future.

8. PM Modi Releases Autobiography of Dr Bala saheb Vikhe Patil, Renames Rural Education Society After Him

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the autobiography of Dr Bala sahib Vikhe Patil and renamed Pravara Rural Education Society as 'Loknete Dr Bala saheb Vikhe Patil Pravara Rural Education Society'.
- Dr. Bala saheb Vikhe Patil served as Member of Lok Sabha for multiple terms. His autobiography is titled 'DehVechwaKarani' which means 'dedicating one's life for a noble cause'.

- Pravara Rural Education Society was established in 1964 at Loni in Ahmednagar district, with the aim to provide world class education to the rural masses and empower the girl child. The Society is currently serving with the core mission of educational, social, economical, cultural, physical and psychological development of students.

9. Shashi Tharoor announces ‘solidly researched & passionately-argued work’, new book titled “The Battle of Belonging”

- Renowned Author and Politician, Shashi Tharoor is set to release his new book titled “The Battle of Belonging” is set to be released in November 2020. The book is published by Aleph Book Company.
- Shashi Tharoor described this book as his “magnum opus” on the Theory, evolution and practice of Nationalism across the globe and especially in India. The book appears to be an extension of his book “Why I Am a Hindu”.

10. NK Singh's new book “Portraits of Power” traces origin and growth of the PMO

- Veteran Economist and bureaucrat N K (Nand Kishore) Singh has released his autobiography titled “Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside”.
- ‘Portraits of Power’ recalls Singh’s various stints over the decades- starting from 1964 when he joined the IAS, serving at highest echelons of the government of India before taking a political plunge with a Rajya Sabha term.
- He is currently the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. India, Bangladesh hold naval drills 'Bongosagar' in Bay of Bengal

- The second edition of the bilateral naval exercise Bongosagar between India and Bangladesh was held on Saturday in Northern Bay of Bengal. Ships from both navies participated in surface warfare drills, seamanship evolutions and helicopter operations.

- The first edition of the exercise was held in October last year. Bongosagar will be followed by the third edition of India Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) on 4-5 October. The exercise Bongosagar is aimed at developing interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of maritime exercises and operations, as per the Ministry of Defence.
- During the CORPAT exercise, both navies will undertake joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). In addition to ships, Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies and integral helicopters would also be participating in the exercise.

2. ISRO scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025

- ISRO is scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025 and France will participate in it. The VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker) instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency Roscosmos and the LATMOS atmospheres, environments and space observations laboratory attached to the French national scientific research centre CNRS has been selected by the ISRO after a request for proposals.
- ISRO chairman K Sivan and CNES president Jean-Yves Le Gall held talks and reviewed the areas driving cooperation between France and India in space. After the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) and Moon missions Chandrayaan-1 and 2, ISRO has set its eyes on Venus for carrying out its interplanetary mission.
- France and India share a robust collaboration in the arena of space. It is one of the three nations with whom India collaborates in the strategic sectors of nuclear, space and defence -- the other two being the US and Russia.

3. India successfully flight tests Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo

- India successfully flight tested the Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), SMART is a missile assisted release of

lightweight anti submarine torpedo system for Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations far beyond torpedo range. The launch demonstrated India's anti submarine warfare capabilities.

4. Indian Coast Guard offshore Patrol Vessel 'Vigraha' launched to enhance coastal security

- The seventh offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), 'Vigraha' was formally unveiled at Kattupalli.
- The vessel, built by Larsen and Toubro, is the last in the series of seven OPVs contracted to the company by the Ministry of Defence in 2015.
- It was the first time a private sector shipyard has undertaken the design and construction of offshore patrol vessel class of ships.

5. NCERT books to be converted into Indian Sign Language

- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Thaawar chand Gehlot attended the 60th Foundation Day of NCERT virtually on.
- During the event NCERT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center-ISLRTC to make education materials accessible for Deaf children in their preferred format of communication viz Indian Sign Language. During the programme the online format of NISHTHA training was also release.

6. C-DAC to Commission India's Fastest HPC-AI Supercomputer PARAM Siddhi - AI with NVIDIA

- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) will be commissioning India's largest HPC-AI supercomputer 'PARAM Siddhi – AI'. This initiative will place India among the top countries in global AI supercomputing research and innovation.
- The initiative was headed by Abhishek Das, Scientist and Program Director (HPC-AI Infrastructure Development) at C-DAC, who conceived the idea and designed the architecture for the largest HPC-AI infrastructure in India.

- This high-performance computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer is a machine with 210 AI Petaflops (6.5 Petaflops Peak DP).

7. DRDO successfully test-fires sub-sonic cruise missile Nirbhay

- In a major boost for defence, India on Monday successfully test-fired its first Sub-sonic cruise missile, Nirbhay. The launch was conducted from a test range in Odisha at 11.44 am.
- Nirbhay was the tenth missile to be fired by India in the last 35 days. This says that India is firing an average of one missile in every four days. This is a response to mobilisation of troops and support elements by China in the Ladakh region.
- The missile tested uses Manik Engine. It is a Turbo Fan Engine.

8. Rajnath Singh inaugurates 44 bridges built by BRO, lays foundation stone of Nechipu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 44 bridges built by Border Road Organisation (BRO), and laid the foundation stone of Nechipu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh. The 44 bridges which are located in seven states and union territories will usher in a new era of connectivity and development especially in the far flung areas of the country.
- These bridges will prove immensely beneficial in terms of military and civil transport in the western, northern and north-eastern areas of the country.
- The defence minister also symbolically laid the foundation stone of the Nechipu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh at the virtual event. The nearly 290-km-long road will be crucial for the movement of troops and heavy weaponry into the frontier bases of the Ladakh region and will provide a crucial link to the Kargil region.

9. Microsoft, AICTE to skill students in next gen technologies

- The All India Council For Technical Education (AICTE) announced that it has partnered with Microsoft to empower students and educators with future-ready skills.
- As part of this partnership, over 1500 course modules from Microsoft will be made available to students and educators free of cost through AICTE's e-learning portal, ELIS.

- Microsoft's learning resource centre, Microsoft Learn, has been integrated with the ELIS platform to provide access to personalized learning paths and resources for students, covering a broad range of technologies including AI, IOT, data science and cloud computing among others.

10. BrahMos missile test-fired from destroyer INS Chennai in Arabian Sea

- On October 18, 2020, the Defence Research Development Organization test fired the BRAHMOS missile from INS Chennai successfully. The missile was test fired from an indigenously built stealth destroyer INS Chennai. The missile hit a target in Arabian Sea
- BRAHMOS is a supersonic missile. It was jointly developed by India and Russia. The major classification of the missiles is Cruise Missiles and Ballistic Missiles.
- The Ballistic Missiles are those missiles that have a ballistic trajectory. The currently operational ballistic missiles in the Indian Defence Systems are Prithvi I, Agni I, Prithvi II, Agni II and Dhanush.

11. India successfully conducts night trial of nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile

- India successfully conducted a night trial of the indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile as part of a user trial by the Army from a test range in Odisha.
- The state-of-the-art surface-to-surface missile blasted off around 7.30 pm from launch complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore and the trial was successful.
- The last trial of Prithvi-2, carried out after sunset on September 23 from the same base, was also successful. The trial of the missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher.

12. India and Sri Lanka begin eighth edition of bilateral maritime exercise “SLINEX-20”

- The 8th annual joint exercise between Indian and Sri Lankan navies - SLINEX-20 - will begin at Trincomalee coast. The 3-day exercise will continue till 21st of October.
- SLINEX-20 aims to enhance interoperability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
- SLINEX series of exercise exemplifies the deep engagement between India and Sri Lanka which has strengthened mutual cooperation in the maritime domain.

13. BepiColombo spacecraft swings past Venus on long road to Mercury

- The Bepi Colombo SpaceCraft has crossed Venus in its journey towards Mercury. The spacecraft was launched jointly by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and European Space Agency to explore planet Mercury.
- This spacecraft mission has been launched to explore and study the mercury.
- It was launched on the Ariane 5 rocket and will arrive in Mercury in 2025.

14. India successfully test-fires SANT Missile off Odisha coast

- Indian successfully test-fired the Stand-off-Anti-tank (SANT) missile off the Odisha coast on October 19, 2020.
- The recently tested missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF). Reportedly, the missile will have both Lock-on after launch and Lock-on before launch capability.

15. Australia will participate in Malabar naval exercise with India, US and Japan

- Australia will participate in the Malabar naval exercise next month involving India, the US and Japan that will bring the four key defence partners and democracies in the region together, demonstrating their collective resolve to support an open and prosperous Indo-Pacific.
- This year, the exercise has been planned on a ‘non-contact-at sea’ format.

- The Malabar series of Naval exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy-US Navy exercise and Japan joined the Naval exercise in 2015.

16. IIT Madras startup Stellapps launches ‘mooPay’ for dairy farmers in Rajasthan

- Stellapps, the digital technology solutions provider has recently announced the launch of a fully-automated direct payment platform ‘mooPay’ for dairy farmers in Rajasthan.
- Moreover, mooPay is the first-of-its-kind platform developed for dairies and dairy farmers.
- This IIT-Madras incubated dairy-tech startup and World Economic Forum’s technology pioneer, Stellapps, launched mooPay in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan in the presence of Bilwara Dairy Union (Saras Dairy) Chairman, Ramlal Jat, LK Jain, Advisor to the Union, and Asha Sharma, MD of the Dairy.

17. Indian Navy Operationalizes First Batch of Women Pilots

- The first batch of women pilots of Indian Navy have been operationalized on Dornier Aircraft by the Southern Naval Command (SNC) at Kochi. The three women pilots were part of the six pilots of the 27th Dornier Operational Flying Training (DOFT) Course, who graduated as ‘Fully operational Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) Pilots’ at a passing out ceremony held at INS Garuda, Kochi on 22 Oct 20.
- Rear Admiral Antony George, VSM, NM, Chief Staff Officer (Training) of SNC was the chief guest of the event and presented awards to the pilots who are now fully qualified on Dornier aircraft for all operational missions. The three women pilots of first batch are Lieutenant Divya Sharma (from Malviya Nagar, New Delhi), Lieutenant Shubhangi Swaroop (from Tilhar, Uttar Pradesh) and Lieutenant Shivangi (from Muzaffarpur, Bihar). These officers had initially undergone basic flying training partly with Indian Air Force and partly with the Navy prior to DOFT course. Amongst the three women pilots operationalized for MR flying, Lt Shivangi was the first to qualify as a naval pilot on 02 Dec 2019.

18. IIT Kharagpur's cheapest Covid-19 Test Kit 'COVIRAP' gets ICMR Certification

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has validated the efficacy of 'COVIRAP', a diagnostic machine developed by IIT Kharagpur researchers to detect coronavirus. With ICMR's approval, several business houses have approached the institute for technology licensing.
- After rigorous testing with patient samples in one of their authorised laboratories and following strict guidelines, the ICMR granted the certification for 'COVIRAP COVID-19 Diagnostic Test Kit'. It is affordable, easy to use and can produce results in a custom-developed mobile phone application within an hour.
- Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal at a virtual press conference said, "This will impact the lives of many in rural India as the device is portable and can be operated on a very low-energy supply. Minimally trained rural youth can operate this device."

19. Indian Army celebrates 74th Infantry Day in J&K

- Every year, October 27 is celebrated as Infantry Day by the Indian Army in Jammu & Kashmir (known by nickname, Chinar Corps).
- The Chinar Corps celebrated the 74th Infantry Day on October 27, 2020, to honour the supreme sacrifice of the gallant soldiers in fighting the Pakistani invaders, in Jammu and Kashmir, in 1947.
- Infantry Day is celebrated as a remembrance of the first military event of independent India, when the First Battalion of the Sikh Regiment of Indian Army fought battle to accomplish victory over the first attack on the Indian soil by the Pakistan Army and Lashkar invader on October 27, 1947, in the Kashmir valley, who tried to grab J&K.

20. Indian Army develops its own WhatsApp-like messaging application 'SAI'

- The Indian Army has developed and launched an in-house messaging application called the 'Secure Application for Internet (SAI)'. This messaging application supports an end-to-end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platform over Internet.

- The WhatsApp-like application has been specially designed by the Army for its personnel to prevent leaking of any classified information.
- This initiative by the Indian Army can also be seen as a part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

SPORTS

1. Visnu Shivaraj Pandian wins gold in 10 meter air rifle event of International Online Shooting Championship

- India's Visnu Shivaraj Pandian won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship yesterday. The 16-year-old Visnu shot 251.4 to win the title by a clear margin of two points.
- The second place was won by world no. 27 Etienne Germond of France while Olympic quota winner Martin Strempl of Austria took the third place.
- Shooters from 15 countries are participating in the two-day competition. The 10m air pistol event will be held today. Leading India's challenge will be Olympic quota winner Yashaswini Singh Deswal.

2. India's Nihal Sarin wins Junior Speed Chess Championship

- India's Nihal Sarin emerged winner in the Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship after beating Russia's world junior No. 6 Alexey Sarana 18-7 in the final.
- The title win earned the 16-year old Sarin USD 8,766 and enabled him to qualify for the 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final, which will feature the world's best players.
- Sarin had beaten American Andrew Tang, Australia's Anton Smirnov and Armenian Haik Martirosyan en route the title. Past winners of the Speed Chess Championship include Magnus Carlsen (2017) and Hikaru Nakamura (2018, 2019).

3. Nadal beats Djokovic to win 13th French Open, equals Federer's Grand Slam record tally of 20

- Spaniard Rafael Nadal inflicted one of the most humiliating defeats on great rival Novak Djokovic in the French Open final,

thrashing the world number one 6-0 6-2 7-5 to lift a record-equalling 20th Grand Slam men's singles title.

- The defeat in French Open for world number one Novak Djokovic has ended his hopes of winning the 18th Slam and also of becoming the first man since Rod Laver to win all the four majors twice in 1969.

4. National Shooting Camp for core Olympic shooters to take place at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range for two months starting from Oct 15

- National Shooting Camp for core Olympic shooters will be taking place at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi for a period of two months starting 15th of October. In order to maintain a secure bio-bubble whereby the athletes can train safely and to prevent a Coronavirus outbreak, the responsibility of maintaining the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be shared by the Sports Authority of India and the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).
- The NRAI will make boarding and lodging arrangements at a hotel nearby the venue, for which SAI will provide support as per existing norms. From the hotel to the entry to the shooting range, it will be the responsibility of the NRAI to maintain the SOP in order to keep a secure bio-bubble.

5. Five players from Indian Judo Team to participate in Grand Slam 2020 competition

- Five players from the Indian Judo Team will be participating in the Grand Slam 2020 competition, an International Judo Federation event happening in Budapest, Hungary from 23rd to 26th this month.
- The five judokas, consisting of two women and three men players, will leave for the competition on 19th.
- The women's team includes 25-year-old Sushila Devi 48 kg from Manipur and 22-year-old Tulika Mann 78 kg of Delhi.
- The men's team comprises former Olympian and 28-year-old Avtar Singh 100 kg, 22-year-old TOPS developmental group athlete Jasleen Singh Saini 66 kg from Punjab and 24-year-old Vijay Yadav 60 kg.

6. Nine States, Union Territories selected for upgradation to KISCE

- Nine States and Union Territories have been selected for upgradation to Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE). The States and UTs include Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Sports Ministry said, the centres have been selected based on their past performances, quality of infrastructure, management and sports culture in the State.
- Earlier this year, the Ministry had identified a total of 14 centres to be upgraded to Khelo India State Centre of Excellence. The overall number now stands at 24 KISCEs from 23 States and UTs. The assistance to these centres will be provided in the form of bridging the gaps in sports equipment, high performance managers, coaches, sports scientists and technical support.

7. Mohun Bagan receive I-League trophy, 7 months after clinching title

- More than seven months after Mohun Bagan clinched the 2019-20 I-League title, they were handed over the trophy. Bagan won it when they clinched a 1-0 win over Aizawl on March 10 this year.
- The I-League, is one of the two coexisting premier football leagues in India along with Indian Super League.

8. Elavenil wins gold, Shahu Mane silver in Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship

- World number one Indian Elavenil Valarivan won a gold medal and Shahu Tushar Mane bagged a silver in the Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship. The championship was organised by Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF).
- In the 60-shot competition in which shooters from six nations participated, including hosts Bangladesh and India, Elavenil shot a modest 627.5 to come out on top.
- Shiori Hirata won the silver with 622.6, while Indonesian Vidya Toyyiba took the bronze with 621.1.
- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju Attends Y20 Summit Virtually.

OBITUARIES

1. Social activist Pushpa Bhave passes away at 81 in Mumbai

- Veteran social activist Pushpa Bhave passed away in Mumbai following a prolonged illness. She was 81. She has been associated with the Rashtra Seva Dal and democratic movements since her student days.
- She was also an academician and an intellectual, who fought for the rights of common citizens.
- She had taken part in the Samyukta Maharashtra movement and the Goa liberation movement.
- During the Emergency, she had offered her home as shelter to underground political workers.

2. Justice AS Dave, former Judge and acting CJ of the Gujarat HC passes away

- Former Acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court Justice Anant S Dave passed away at the age of 62
- Justice Dave was appointed as a Gujarat High Court Judge in 2004 and was made permanent in 2006.
- He was appointed as an Acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court on November 14, 2018 and served until the present Chief Justice Vikram Nath took over the helm in September 2019.

3. Rock star and guitar legend Eddie Van Halen dies of cancer aged 65

- Rock star and guitar legend Eddie Van Halen has died aged 65 after a "long and arduous battle" with cancer, his son has said.
- Kiss singer Gene Simmons remembered him as a "Guitar God", while other stars likened him to a modern-day Mozart.
- The Dutch-American musician had been receiving treatment for throat cancer. His band were best known for their song Jump, which hit the top of the US charts in 1984.

4. Former CBI director Ashwani Kumar passed away

- Former Governor of Manipur and Nagaland and ex-Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Ashwani Kumar was found dead at his residence in Shimla .Kumar was in service in

both the central government and the Himachal Pradesh state government for more than 37 years.

- Kumar, who joined the Indian Police Service in 1973, took over the reins of the office of the Director-General of Police (DGP) of the Himachal Pradesh in August 2006.
- After two years, Kumar was appointed to the sensitive post of CBI Director.
- He was sworn-in as the Governor of Nagaland on March 21, 2013 and as Governor of Manipur on July 29, 2013.

5. First woman chief justice of Kerala KK Usha passes away

- Former Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, Justice KK Usha, passed away.
- She served as a judge from 1991 to 2000. and when she was appointed Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court from 2000 to 2001, Justice Usha became the first woman to join the High Court Judiciary from the Bar and became a Chief Justice.

6. Kaumudi Munshi, The Nightingale Of Gujarat passes away at 93

- Legendary singer Kaumudi Munshi, known as the ‘Nightingale of Gujarat’, passed away. Her contribution to make ‘Sugam Sangeet’ popular to the masses will be remembered by generations of music lovers.
- She tested positive for Covid-19 and was hospitalized
- Some of her songs in Gujarati that are popular even today are ‘Sachi re maari satre bhavani maa’, and ‘koi aghe aghe thi venu vai che’

7. Nagaland Environment Minister C M Chang passes away

- Nagaland Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Justice and Law C.M. Chang passed away.
- State Health officials confirmed that Chang died of COVID-19. He was the sitting MLA of NDPP from 51-Noksen Assembly Constituency.

8. Charlie Moore, 1952 Olympic 400 hurdles champion passed away

- Charlie Moore, the 400-meter hurdles champion at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, has died. Moore died from pancreatic cancer, according to World Athletics.
- Moore won the 400 hurdles in the rain in 1952 in 50.8 seconds to tie the Olympic record he set in the quarterfinals.
- Moore also earned a silver medal in Helsinki on the United States' 1,600-meter relay team.
- After the Olympics, he set a world record of 51.6 in the 440 hurdles at the British Empire Games in London.

9. Joseph Mar Thoma, head of Kerala's Malankara Mar Thoma Church, passes away at 89

- Supreme head of the Mar Thoma Christian church Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan died at the age of 89 in Kerala.
- The 21st metropolitan of the Mar Thoma church was undergoing treatment for cancer for sometime. His conditioned became critical a few days back and he breath his last by early hours of Sunday at a private hospital in Pathanamthitta.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his condolence message that the metropolitan was a remarkable personality who served humanity and worked hard to improve the lives the poor and downtrodden.

10. Founder of UAE state-run WAM news agency dies at 78

- Ibrahim al-Abed, the founder of the United Arab Emirates' state-run WAM news agency and a pioneering media figure as the oil-rich nation grew into a regional power died. He was 78.
- Al-Abed long served as the head of the country's National Media Council, a government regulatory body. He also was a de facto government spokesman, with his phone number the first rang by foreign journalists for decades as Abu Dhabi and Dubai grew into the skyscraper-studded cities they are today.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Animal Welfare Day is celebrated on 4 October

- World Animal Welfare Day is celebrated on 4th October across the world. The day aims to raise awareness about improving the

welfare standards of the animals across the world and also to celebrate the relationship between humankind and animal kingdom. It also aims to educate the world and full regard to their welfare.

- World Animal Day was first organized by Heinrich Zimmermann on 24th March 1925, at Sports Palace in Berlin, Germany. More than 5,000 people attended the first event. Initially, it was scheduled for 4th October to align with Saint Francis of Assisi feast day.
- In 1929, World Animal Day was celebrated on 4th October for the first time. World Animal Welfare Day was first started in 1931 at a convention of ecologists in Florence, Italy, to highlight the importance of endangered species.

2. World Teachers' Day observed on 05 October

- World Teachers' Day is celebrated every year on October 5 globally. It aims to focus on appreciating, assessing and improving the educators of the world and to provide an opportunity to consider issues related to teachers and teaching.
- International Teachers Day is celebrated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Education International.
- The theme for World Teachers' Day 2020 is "Teachers: Leading in Crisis, Reimagining the Future".

3. Indian Air Force proudly celebrates its 88th anniversary on 08 Oct 2020

- Indian Air Force Day is celebrated every year by the Indian Air Force on 8th of October. This year Indian Air Force celebrated its 88th anniversary.
- Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 by the British Empire as the Royal Indian Air Force. The name was changed to Indian Air Force in 1950.

4. World Mental Health Day observed on 10 October

- October 10 is the second Saturday October, 2020 and is celebrated as the World Mental Health Day. The objective of this day is to spread awareness about mental health issues and taking efforts in supporting those.
- It also emphasizes what more needs to be done to make sure that talking about mental health does not remain a taboo in society. This day is organised by the World Federation for Mental Health.
- It is also supported by WHO, the International Association for Suicide Prevention, and United for Global Mental Health.

5. International Day of the Girl Child observed on 11 October

- Every year, International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated by UNICEF. On International Day of the Girl Child, 11 October, amplify the voices and rights of girls everywhere.
- The theme for this year, “My voice, our equal future”, reimagines a better world inspired and led by adolescent girls, as part of the global Generation Equality movement.

6. Prime Minister Modi bows to Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan on his Jayanti on 11 october

- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has bowed to Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan and Nanaji Deshmukh, on their Jayanti today.
- The Prime Minister said, “I bow to Loknayak JP Narayan on his Jayanti. He valiantly fought for India’s freedom and when our democratic ethos was under attack, he led a strong mass movement to protect it. For him, there was nothing above national interest and people’s welfare.
- The great Nanaji Deshmukh was one of Loknayak JP’s most devout followers. He worked tirelessly to popularise JP’s thoughts and ideals. His own work towards rural development motivates us.

7. World Arthritis Day is observed globally on 12th October every year

- World Arthritis Day is observed globally on 12th October every year.

- The day is celebrated to raise awareness about arthritis, an inflammatory condition which causes pain and stiffness in joints which can worsen with age.
- There are more than 100 different types of arthritis, with different causes and treatment methods. The most common types are osteoarthritis (OA) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).
- This day was started by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) in 1996 in order to spread awareness about arthritis and encourage policymakers to help reduce the burden of arthritis.

8. International Day for Disaster Reduction observed on 13 October

- The United Nations International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed annually on 13 October since 1989. The day is celebrated to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction and also celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.
- Theme of 2020 International Day for Disaster Reduction is ‘Disaster risk governance’.

9. World Standards Day: 14 October

- World Standards Day or International Standards Day is observed globally on 14 October every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of standardisation to the global economy among the consumers, regulators and industry.
- 14 October was specifically chosen to mark the date, in 1946, when delegates from 25 countries first gathered in London and decided to create an international organization focused on facilitating standardization.
- The 2020 theme is “Protecting the planet with standards”.

10. World Students’ Day: 15 October

- World Students’ Day is observed every year on 15 October to mark the birth anniversary of former President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- This year marks the 89th birth anniversary of the former president and ‘Missile Man’ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

- In 2010 the United Nations declared 15 October “World Students’ Day”, due to Kalam’s love for students and who himself was a dedicated teacher and identified himself foremost in that role before anything else.

11. World Statistics Day observed on 20 October

- The World Statistics Day is observed globally on 20 October. The celebration of World Statistics Day 2020 is a global collaborative endeavour, organized under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission.
- At its 41st Session in February 2010, the United Nations Statistical Commission proposed celebrating 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day (Decision 41/109).
- 2020 theme “Connecting the world with data we can trust.”

12. National Police commemoration Day is observed on October 21

- Every year National Police commemoration Day is observed on October 21. The day is observed to pay homage to the CRPF personnel who lost their lives during an ambush by the Chinese troops in 1959 in the hot spring area of Ladakh region.
- On October 21 1959, at a height of 10500 feet, a small CRPF petrol was ambushed by the Chinese army. The Chinese army threw grenades and opened fire at twenty CRPF personnel. 7 were taken as prisoners and ten of them died. The day is commemorated to honour these personnel. Since 1961, around 33000 police personal have sacrificed their life in their service to the country.
- In order to honour the police personnel, police commemoration parade is held at the National Police Memorial located in in Chanakya Puri. This is being conducted since 2012.

13. International Stuttering Awareness Day is observed 22 October

- International Stuttering Awareness Day is observed globally on 22nd October every year.
- The day is intended to raise public awareness of the millions of people who have a speech disorder of stuttering or stammering.
- Stuttering is a speech disorder that involves frequent and significant problems with normal fluency and flow of speech.

People who stutter know what they want to say, but have difficulty saying it.

- 2020 theme “Journey of Words – Resilience and Bouncing Back”.

14. World Snow Leopard Day observed on 23 October

- World Snow Leopard Day is observed globally on 23rd October. The main purpose of this day is to show the importance of snow leopard conservation and raise awareness about this incredible animal.
- The day also emphasizes the importance of taking measures to stop poaching, as well as consolidating efforts in terms of an environmental organization in the countries of the snow leopard range.
- The day was initiated by the countries that encompass the snow leopard’s range. They include Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Russia, Pakistan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, India, China, Bhutan, and Afghanistan.

15. World Polio Day is observed on 24 October

- The World Polio Day is celebrated annually on October 24, to raise awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio. World Polio Day provides an opportunity to highlight global efforts toward a polio-free world and honour the tireless contributions of those on the frontlines in the fight to eradicate polio from every corner of the globe.
- The Day was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. 2020 theme for World Polio Day is “A win against polio is a win for global health.”As of August 2020, Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two nations which remain with the continued transmission of wild poliovirus.

16. ITBP observed its 59th Raising Day on 24 October

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) observed its 59th Raising Day on 24 October 2020.
- ITBP is India’s primary border patrol organization with its border with Tibet (China).
- It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of India.

- ITBP was formed on 24 October 1962, under the CRPF Act, in the wake of the Sino-Indian War of 1962.
- In 2020, a budget of Rs 7,223 crore has been allocated for the ITBP and more than Rs 15 crore has been sanctioned for management.



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