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# CURRENT AFFAIRS



## NATIONAL NEWS

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

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

### ✚ G20 member countries reaffirm commitment to ensuring education continuity and safety for all

- Education Ministers of G 20 nations have resolved to work together and share best practices in the area of education so that member countries can ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all, even in times of COVID crisis. A virtual meeting of G20 Education Ministers was held yesterday to discuss and share experiences of member countries in the three identified areas. These are education Continuity in Times of Crises, Early Childhood Education and Internationalization in Education.
- Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said, India will continue the efforts it has taken to reform and transform its education system and mitigate the challenge posed by the Covid 19 pandemic. He also said India is committed to collaborate with G 20 member countries in the area of education.

- The Education Ministers adopted a communique at the end of the meeting. Regarding ensuring education continuity in times of crises, the communique recognizes the value of distance and blended teaching and learning and underscores the importance of enhancing access to high-quality education, professional development for educators, digital infrastructure and content. The importance of research and data to assess the learning outcomes and quality of distance learning has also been stressed.

### ✚ Vodafone Idea to rebrand as 'Vi' as it prepares for telecom battle

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

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

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

#### ✚ Prime Minister to inaugurate Patrika Gate in Jaipur

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will digitally launch the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) on 10th September. Prime Minister will also launch e-Gopala App, a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers. Several other initiatives in the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors in Bihar will also be launched by the Prime Minister on the occasion.
- The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores for its implementation during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories, as a part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package.
- The investment of Rs. 20,050 crores under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector. Out of this, an investment of about Rs 12340 crores is proposed for beneficiary-oriented activities in Marine, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture and about Rs 7710 crores investment for Fisheries Infrastructure.

#### ✚ 5 Petroleum and Gas PSUs to join International Solar Alliance

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

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

- Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan attended the 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Wednesday. The Meeting was held virtually.
- It was attended by the Foreign Ministers of the East Asia Summit participating countries and chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam.
- The Meeting discussed ways and means to strengthen the Leaders-led EAS platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary.
- The Ministers exchanged views on the current regional and international developments including the COVID-19

pandemic and the cooperation to achieve a speedy and sustainable recovery.

- Mr Muraleedharan in his remarks appreciated Vietnam's efforts, as ASEAN Chair, for providing continued stewardship towards a 'Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN' during the pandemic.
- He underlined the key role played by EAS as a leading mechanism of the Indo-Pacific region and reiterated India's support to make it stronger and more responsive.

#### ✚ **First India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue held virtually**

- The first India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue was held virtually. The focus of the dialogue was on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. The outcome oriented meeting was held with the objective of building on the strong bilateral relations that the three countries share with each other.
- The three sides agreed to hold the dialogue on an annual basis.
- The three sides discussed economic and geostrategic challenges and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and domestic responses to it. Cooperation on Marine Commons and potential areas for practical cooperation at the trilateral and regional level were also discussed, including through regional organisations such as ASEAN, IORA and the Indian Ocean Commission.

#### ✚ **Education Minister launches EFLU's free English learning app**

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

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

- A two-day conclave on 'School Education in the 21st Century' commenced virtually. The conclave has been

organised by the Ministry of Education as part of Shikshak Parv 2020.

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

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

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

#### ✚ **Films Division to stream films on Rajbhasha on 'Hindi Diwas -2020'**

- Streaming of well-researched documentaries leading to the historic occasion of adoption of Hindi as an official language of the Union of India on 14th September, 1949, mock enactment of the meeting of the Constituent Assembly by children and travelogues showing growth and popularity of Hindi in different States will mark the celebration of 'Hindi Diwas' by Films Division on 14th September, 2020.
- The pioneering efforts of Beohar Rajendra Simha, a well known Hindi scholar-writer who rallied and lobbied in favour of Hindi along with other stalwarts like Hazari Prasad



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Dwivedi, Maithili Sharan Gupta and Kaka Kalelkar came to fruition on Simha's 50th birth day on 14th September, 1949 when the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi as one of the official languages of the Union of India which was ratified by the Constitution of India that came into effect on the 26th of January 1950.

- Under the Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, Hindi written in Devanagari script was adopted as the official language.

- Today, Hindi is one of the widely spoken languages in the world and the first language of more than 520 million people.

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

- Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has become the world's 40th most valuable firm. The company achieved the feat after it became the first Indian company to cross USD 210 billion in market capitalisation intra-day.

- This is the first time that an Indian company has crossed the USD 200 billion market capitalisation milestone.

- The Reliance Industries Limited is at present the world's 40th most valuable firm, ranked ahead of companies including Oracle, PepsiCo, SAP, Exxon Mobil, Novartis and Pfizer. RIL is, in fact, ranked among Asia's top 10 most valuable companies.

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

- The central government has increased the scholarship amount under 'Pragati and Saksham Scholarship Schemes' for students of Jammu and Kashmir from Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000 per annum. "Pragati and Saksham Scholarship Schemes" being implemented and offered by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to provide financial assistance for advancement of girls pursuing technical education besides supporting specially abled students for technical education respectively.

- Under Pragati scheme, all girls of J&K belonging to families having annual income of Rs. 8 lakh who shall be admitted in the AICTE approved institutions for the session 2020-21 will be eligible for scholarship.

- Under Saksham scheme, all specially abled students with 40 percent disability pursuing technical education at Degree or diploma level belonging to families with annual income less than Rs. 8.00 lakh would be eligible for the scholarship.

#### ✚ **India's Economy to shrink by 9 Pc This Year: ADB**

- The Asian Development Bank announced on September 15, 2020, that India's economy is expected to contract by 9% in

2020-worse than the 4% contraction which the bank had forecasted three months ago.

- In the first quarter of the Current Fiscal Year, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had contracted by a record 23.9% as the COVID-19 lockdown stalled business and consumer spending.
- However, ADB expects India to bounce back with an 8% growth in 2021 as the country begins to emerge from the economic devastation which has been caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ✚ **Rajya Sabha Passes Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020**

- The Parliament passed Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on September 15, 2020 after it was approved by the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill earlier on March 17th.

- The bill seeks to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934 and convert three existing regulatory bodies under the Civil Aviation Ministry including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) into statutory bodies.

- The three regulatory bodies include the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. The bill has proposed each of the bodies to be headed by a Director General who will be appointed by the centre.

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

- The Union Government banned the export of all varieties of onions with immediate effect. The move is aimed at increasing availability and checking the price of the commodity in the domestic market.

- Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification that the export of all varieties of onions is prohibited with immediate effect.

- The DGFT, under the Commerce Ministry, deals with exports and imports-related issues.

- Last year on 29 September, the government had banned exports of onions and imposed countrywide stock limits to bring down prices of onions that had soared ahead of state elections in Maharashtra and Haryana.

- The crackdown followed retail onion prices touching Rs80 a kg in Delhi because of supply disruptions after floods in some states.

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

- The Lok Sabha passed a bill to cut salaries of all MPs by 30 per cent for a year, to meet the exigencies arising out of COVID-19 pandemic. The Salary, Allowances and Pension

of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was unanimously passed by the members of the Lower House.

- The bill was introduced in the Lower House on September 14. Earlier this year, the government had brought the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, which provided a 30 per cent cut in sumptuary allowance payable to each minister for a period of one year commencing from April 1, 2020.

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

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

#### ✚ **PMGKP Insurance Scheme Extended for another Six Months**

- Six months extension have been made to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme. The Scheme was announced for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19 on 30th March 2020 under the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, 2016.
- The scheme provides health insurance to the staff working in Government Hospitals and Health Care Centres. The scheme covers ward boys, safai karamcharis, ASHA workers, nurses, technicians, paramedics, doctors and specialists and other health workers. Any health professional who meet with some accident while treating Covid-19 patients then he/she would be given a compensatory amount of Rs 50 lakh under the scheme. Approximately 22 lakh health workers would be provided insurance cover.
- PMGKY scheme was launched by the Narendra Modi led Government in December 2016. The scheme was launched on

the lines of the Income declaration scheme, 2016. PMGKY is a part of the Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2016. It provides an opportunity to declare unaccounted wealth and black money. It also avoids prosecution after paying a fine of 50% on the undisclosed income.

#### ✚ **Government plans to introduce law to ban crypto currency trading**

- The Central Government has been planning to introduce a new law that will ban the trade in crypto currencies, placing it out of step with other economies of Asia who have chosen to regulate the fledgling market.
- The bill has been expected to be discussed by the federal cabinet before it is sent to the Parliament for approval. Under the law, the federal government will be encouraging the blockchain, the technology underlying crypto currencies, but is not keen on crypto currency trading.
- In 2018, the Indian Central Bank had banned the crypto transactions after a series of frauds. These frauds took place in the months following PM Modi's decision to ban 80% of the nation's currency. Crypto currency Exchanges had responded with a lawsuit in Supreme Court in September and had won respite in March 2020.

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

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

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

- Antique bronze idols of Rama, Sita and Lakshmana, which were reportedly stolen from Nagapattinam in the 1970s, are set to return home due to efforts taken by art enthusiasts, officers of Idol Wing CID, and the High Commission of India (HCI), London.

- It was conveyed to HCI that the idol of Rama was suspected to be in the possession of an individual collector in London.
- “Once the idol was verified by comparison with relevant records, the matter was taken up with the Art and Antique Unit of the London Metropolitan Police as well as the Idol Wing of Tamil Nadu police,” said Rahul Nangare, First Secretary, HCI, London.

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

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

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

- Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Dr P K Mishra chaired the meeting of the High-Level Task Force constituted to improve the air quality in the National Capital Region of Delhi.
- Dr Mishra emphasized that the meeting was called well in advance before the onset of harvesting and winter season to ensure proper precautionary and preventive measures to combat the causes of air pollution are taken well in time.
- A review of the main sources of air pollution, measures taken and the progress made by the State Governments and various Ministries was carried out.
- It was noted that the incidence of stubble burning has reduced by more than 50 per cent in the last two years and the number of Good AQI days have gone up.

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

- Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that eight beaches of the country have been recommended for the

coveted ‘Blue Flag’ international eco-label. Clean beaches are a testimony to good environment in coastal areas and India’s many beaches are among the best in the world.

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

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

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

#### **Govt launches NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyaan in 272 most affected districts**

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated and is implementing a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025.
- The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy.
- The activities under the NAPDDR include awareness generation programmes in schools, colleges, Universities, workshop and provisioning of treatment facilities and capacity building of service providers.

- The Ministry has also launched NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyaan in 272 most affected districts with focus on institutional support, community outreach and awareness generation.
- ✚ **“Swachhta Pakhwara” is being observed all over Indian Railways**
- Indian Railways is observing “Swachhta Pakhwara” from 16th to 30th September 2020. During the inaugural day of Pakhwara, the Swachhta pledge was administered to Railway employees at all Zonal Railway HQs, Divisional Offices, and other establishments.
- During the Pakhwara, intensive cleaning and sanitization of stations, trains, tracks, colonies and other railway establishments is being carried out with special focus on plastic waste management.
- Railway Board through Northern Railway, in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), organised a webinar on “Swachhata and Environment”.
- The Webinar was held to flag off the “SwachhataPakhwada” beginning from September 16 and ending on September 30, 2020.
- ✚ **Tamil Nadu becomes first state to unveil ethical AI, blockchain, cybersecurity policies in country**
- Tamil Nadu became the first state in the country to come out with policies on Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Cyber security policies. The policies go by the names Tamil Nadu Cyber Security Policy, 2020, Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy, 2020, and Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy, 2020.
- In order to promote IT/ITeS industry in the State and to attract more investments, eight Special Economic Zones were established in Chennai and tier-II cities by Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ELCOT) and start-up warehouses were set up in Chennai and Coimbatore.
- State Family Database (SFDB) and Block-Chain Backbone infrastructure will be established in the state for the implementation of these policies.
- ✚ **RajyaSabha Chairman rejects no-confidence motion against RS Deputy Chairman**
- RajyaSabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on September 21, 2020, rejected the no-confidence motion moved by Opposition MPs against the Deputy Chairman Harivansh saying that it is "not admissible under the rules".
- The RS Chairman said that he has received a letter from 46 Opposition MPs against the Deputy Chairman alleging violation of "norms of parliament procedures". M Venkaiah Naidu further said that it was a bad day for RajyaSabha yesterday, when some members came to the well of the House and the Deputy Chairman was physically threatened and obstructed from doing his duty.
- ✚ **India is home to largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros: Prakash Javadekar**
- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world with population in the range of 3000 animals in Assam, West Bengal and UP.
- In his message on the occasion of World Rhino Day, Mr Javadekar said Environment Ministry has launched a National Conservation Strategy for Indian One-Horned Rhino. He added that the conservation initiatives for rhino has also enriched the grassland management which help in reducing the negative impacts of climate change through carbon sequestration.
- The National Rhino Conservation Strategy for India was launched last year to conserve the greater one-horned rhinoceros. This is a first of its kind for the species in India which aims to work for the conservation of the species under five objectives. The objectives include strengthening protection, expanding the distribution range, research and monitoring, and adequate and sustained funding.
- ✚ **No permit requirement for vehicles carrying oxygen till March, 2021**
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued an order on September 21, 2020 waiving off permit requirements for vehicles carrying oxygen tanks or cylinders till March 31, 2021 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The decision was taken in view of certain issues brought to notice of ministry about problems being faced by certain Transport Vehicles operators for the transportation and delivery of oxygen cylinders or oxygen tanks across states or within a state.
- The move will, hence, ensure the smooth movement of vehicles carrying oxygen and further ensuring the supply of oxygen across the country. Oxygen is an important item required for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.
- ✚ **RajyaSabha Passes National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020**
- The Parliament on September 22, 2020 passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 with the RajyaSabha approving it. The Lok Sabha had approved the bill earlier.
- The bill proposes to establish the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar and the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic



Sciences, New Delhi, as a National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat. The Bill declares the University to be an institution of national importance.

- Speaking on the bill's provisions, Minister of State for Home Affairs, G. Kishan Reddy said that forensic science plays an important role in the scientific investigation of crime incidents. He said that the university will work for the capacity building in the field of forensic science and promote research.

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

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

#### ✚ **India registers a Record of Highest Single day recoveries on 22 September**

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

#### ✚ **India, UK to hold Water Partnership Forum on 22 September**

- A virtual India-UK Water Partnership Forum held to discuss ways to collaborate on issues pertaining to water conservation and infrastructure development.

- According to an official note, the inaugural address given by Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Gaitri Issar Kumar. Besides, a memorandum of understanding inked between Ganga and British Water.

- The event highlighted the strategic partnership approaches between the two countries to develop 21st-Century water infrastructure in India.

#### ✚ **Ministry of AYUSH partners with Ministry WCD to control Malnutrition**

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development to control Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan. The MoU will see some time-tested and scientifically proven Ayush-based solutions being adopted for controlling malnutrition in the country.

- The MoU will help in tackling the problem of malnutrition in mothers and children in the country.

- The Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of WCD will work together towards integrating Ayush in POSHAN Abhiyaan and management of malnutrition through the principles and practices of Ayurveda, Yoga and other Ayush systems.

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

- The central government is planning to set up a Neutrino Observatory in the country. This was informed by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh on September 21, 2020 in a written reply in the lower house of the Parliament, Lok Sabha.

- The India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) will be a world-class underground laboratory with a rock cover that will study the neutrinos produced in the atmosphere of the Earth.

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

#### ✚ **PM Modi pushes for digital self reliance, launches 'Ghar Tak Fibre' scheme to connect 45,945 villages across Bihar**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched nine highway projects and Optical Fibre Internet Services in Bihar. The optical fibre services are being provided under the scheme "Ghar Tak Fibre". These services are to be executed along with combined efforts of Common Service Centre.

- The project is to be implemented Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under the scheme "Ghar Tak Fibre".

The project will connect 45,945 villages in the state and will thus enable the Digital revolution to reach the farthest corner of Bihar.

- The scheme aims to provide optical fibre enabled internet connections to every home in the country, concentrating on the village and rural areas. During his 74th independence-day address, PM Modi had said that over 1.5 lakh village panchayats have received optical fibre connections after 2014 under the scheme.

- The CSC Wi-Fi Choupal is an initiative to provide high-speed internet connectivity to rural India. It ensures digital connectivity using Bharat Net.

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

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

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **Railway Minister Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurates Phoolbagan 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

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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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### **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).

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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".

#### ✚ **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

#### ✚ **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)

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

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#### ✚ 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.

#### ✚ 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.

#### ✚ 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.

#### ✚ 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.

#### ✚ 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 Jagdish 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.

#### ✚ 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.



#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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

#### ✚ **Prime Minister pays tribute to Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel on his 145th Birth Anniversary**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to Sardar Patel on his 145th birth Anniversary at the Statue of Unity- the world's tallest statue at Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat.
- Patel served as the first Deputy Prime Minister of India. He is also called the "Unifier of India". The Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, was dedicated to him on 31 October 2018 which is approximately 182 metres (597 ft) in height.
- The Prime Minister also witnessed the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas parade. The Police forces of Gujarat and Central Armed Police Force, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Central Industrial Security Force and National Security Guards took part in the Parade. The Prime Minister also witnessed a Rifle drill by female officers of CRPF.

#### ✚ **KVIC launches 'Happy Diwali' printed face masks**

- Keeping in view the Diwali festival, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched a Limited Edition of two-layered "Happy Diwali" printed face masks made of pure Muslin fabric.
- It is high quality and ultra-fine cotton fabric handmade by traditional Khadi artisans of West Bengal.
- The Diwali Muslin face masks are priced nominally at 75 rupees a piece and are available for sale through the Khadi outlets in Delhi and online through KVIC's e-portal [www.khadiindia.gov.in](http://www.khadiindia.gov.in). Like the other variants of Khadi face masks, the Muslin face masks too are skin-friendly, washable, reusable and bio-degradable and economical that suits all pockets.

#### ✚ **Corbett Tiger Reserve to have women nature guides for the first time in history**

- Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) will have women nature guides for the first time in its history. CTR officials said seven women have been selected by the Corbett administration after holding a guide recruitment test.
- These selected women will be registered as guides and given responsibilities after a training and orientation programme.
- Corbett Tiger Reserve, which is spread across 1,288 square kilometers, is one of the most loved tourist destinations in Uttarakhand.

#### ✚ **206th Session of Governing Council of the IPU to be held from 1st to 4th November**

- The 206th Session of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU will be held from 1st to 4th November this year. It will be an Extraordinary Virtual Session, which is being organised in place of a full-fledged in-person Statutory Assembly of IPU due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.
- The agenda of the Virtual Session includes the election of the new President of IPU through remote electronic secret ballot since the outgoing President of IPU Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron (MP, Mexico) had completed her term on 19th of this month. The term of the new President of IPU will be from 2020 to 2023.
- An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and consisting of Lok Sabha MP Poonamben Maadam and Rajya Sabha MP Swapan Dasgupta will participate in the Virtual Session and cast their votes.

#### ✚ **Rupsi Airport in Assam all set to resume operations**

- In Assam, Rupsi Airport at Kokrajhar district is all set to start commercial operation under Regional Connectivity Scheme.

The airport has been re-developed at an estimated cost of 69 crore rupees and has also received its license by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

- Spread across 337 acres of land, the newly developed airport has a terminal building with an area of 3,500 sqm.
- Equipped with 10 check-in counters, the terminal is designed to process 200 passengers during peak hours.

#### ✚ **India's first 'Tyre Park' to come up in West Bengal soon**

- West Bengal will soon feature "India's first" 'Tyre Park', where artworks made from scrap and defective parts will be on display.
- Asserting that it is a unique concept, and not found anywhere in the country, the official said the idea behind the park is waste can be converted into art.
- The Tyre Park, which will come up at Esplanade area, would have a small cafe where people can sit, relax and enjoy the craftsmanship made from tyres.

#### ✚ **Ganga Utsav-2020 begins virtually with COVID-19 precautions**

- The much-awaited Ganga Utsav-2020 began virtually amidst COVID-19 precautions. The festival will continue till 4th of November.
- Several programmes were also held in districts as a part of Ganga Utsav celebrations.
- Ganga Task Force conducted an afforestation drive with NCC cadets and educational tour for youth in the project area. The Ganga Utsav is being organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrating the 12th anniversary of declaring River Ganges as National river.

#### ✚ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurate the circular dome at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, and Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) inaugurated the 360o video-immersive experience in circular dome and Digital Exhibits on Mahatma Gandhi installed at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, in New Delhi today.
- This was part of two-year long commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Secretary, DST, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma; Secretary Culture, Shri Raghvendra Singh; Director Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri Dipanker Gyan and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

#### ✚ **PM announces change of name of Shipping Ministry to Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**

- The Prime Minister said, Government is changing the name of the Ministry of Shipping and it will be known as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. Mr.Modi has said that to reduce the expenditure on logistics, India is fast developing multimodal connectivity.
- He said that we are trying to interconnect the infrastructure related to road, rail, air and shipping and removing the silos in this process. He said that we are still spending more money on transportation in comparison to the other nation. We can reduce the cost of logistics through water transport.

#### ✚ **Saffron bowl of India extends to the Northeast**

- The saffron bowl, which was so far confined to Kashmir, may soon expand to the North East of India.
- Plants from seeds transported from Kashmir to Sikkim and acclimatized there are now flowering in Yangyang in the Southern part of the North-East state.
- Saffron production has long been restricted to a limited geographical area in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Pampore region, in India, commonly known as Saffron bowl of Kashmir, it is the main contributor to saffron production, followed by Budgam, Srinagar, and Kishtiwari districts.
- Saffron has traditionally been associated with the famous Kashmiri cuisine. It's its medicinal values were considered as part of the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir.

#### ✚ **Hardeep S. Puri inaugurates 13th Urban Mobility India Conference 2020**

- The 13th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It was inaugurated by Hardeep S. Puri, Minister of State (IC) Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The theme of the conference is "Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility".
- The conference focused on innovative measures taken at the national and international level to address the challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic to provide accessible and convenient transport to the people.

#### ✚ **Prime Minister Modi to unveil life-size statue of Swami Vivekanand at JNU Campus on November 12**

- Prime Minister Modi on November 12, 2020, will unveil a life-size statue of Swami Vivekanand via video-conferencing at the campus of Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Delhi. The Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank will also be present during the event.

- The Vice-Chancellor of JNU stated in a statement that Swami Vivekanand has been one of the most beloved spiritual leaders and intellectuals India has been fortunate to have.
- He always enthused the youth with the message of harmony, peace, freedom, and development of India. Vivekanand always inspired Indian citizens to take pride in Indian culture, civilization, and its industrious spirit.
- ✚ **Government to provide Rs 4000 to six states affected by cyclone, floods & landslides**
- A high-level committee, chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah has approved the release of additional Central assistance worth over Rs 4,381 crore to six states that were impacted by cyclone, floods, landslides during this year. The funds will be provided from the National Disaster Response Fund.
- The centre has approved Rs 2,707 crore for West Bengal and Rs 128 crore for Odisha for cyclone Amphan and Rs 268 crore have been approved for Maharashtra for cyclone Nisarga.
- Besides this, the government has approved Rs 577 crore for Karnataka, Rs 611 crore for Madhya Pradesh and Rs 87 crore for Sikkim for floods and landslides caused during the South-West monsoon season.
- ✚ **PM modi spends Diwali with soldiers in forward areas**
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, continuing his tradition of spending Diwali with the armed forces interacted and addressed the soldiers at the Indian border post of Longewala. He said his Diwali is complete only when he is with the soldiers whether in the snow-clad mountains or in the desert. He took the greetings, blessings and wishes of every Indian to the armed force personnels at the border. He also greeted the brave mothers and sisters and paid tribute to their sacrifice. The Prime Minister conveyed the gratitude of the countrymen to the armed forces and said 130 crore Indians are standing strongly with the forces.
- The Prime Minister emphasized that only that nation is secure which has the capability to face the attackers and intruders. He said irrespective of advances in international cooperation and changes in equations, we simply can't afford to forget that vigilance is the key to security, alertness is the basis of happiness, and strength is the confidence of victory.
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- ✚ **IRCTC to Start Bharat Darshan Yatra from December**
- IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) will be starting 'Bharat Darshan-Dakshin Bharat Yatra' from 12 December this year. Indian Railway initiative will start from Hyderabad and Secunderabad (Telangana) from Dec 12 to 18.
- Indian Railway initiative under this theme : 'Show India to Indians'.
- The facility of boarding and de-boarding this tourist train will be available at Secunderabad (Telangana), Khammam, Nellore (Andhra Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Warangal (Telangana), Ongole (Andhra Pradesh), and Renigunta (Andhra Pradesh).
- ✚ **Ministry of Textiles has launched a "Local4Diwali" Campaign**
- The Union Ministry of Textiles has launched a campaign for Diwali- "Local4Diwali".
- The campaign has been launched to promote the Indian handicraft which is the cultural heritage of the country and also a source of livelihood for many.
- As per the available data, the handicrafts sector is a major sector of women empowerment as almost 55% of the workers and artisans are women.
- The main aim of the #Local4Diwali campaign is to urge people to buy and gift Indian handicraft products on this Diwali.
- The basic aim of the campaign is to give a boost to Indian handicrafts and artisans.
- This campaign will help the handicraft artisans and workers in increasing their sales and promoting their business.
- After the promotion of the idea of "Vocal for Local" by PM Modi, every sector is working towards promoting local businesses and strengthening Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

#### ✚ **Lonar Lake in Buldana district of Maharashtra declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'**

- Lonar Lake in Buldana district of Maharashtra, which was formed by a meteorite impact about 50 thousand years ago, has been declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'. It has been declared as the 41st place in the country and the second 'Ramsar site' in Maharashtra.
- This announcement will lead to better conservation of Lonar Lake, as Ramsar Convention is bound for conservation for wetlands. The importance of the lake's ecosystem and biodiversity is rising due to the algal population and other microorganisms in the lake and flora-fauna around the lake side.

#### ✚ **All religious places in Maharashtra to open from tomorrow**

- In Maharashtra, as all the religious places are opening from tomorrow, many famous temples are doing special arrangements to facilitate the devotees to visit the temples without crowding and following COVID-19 guidelines. Famous Tuljapur temple in Osmanabad has made the provision of free passes for the devotees which will be issued online.
- AIR Correspondent reports, devotees of Tulja Bhavani can seek the blessings of Goddess from tomorrow without crowding the temple premises as the temple authorities have made the provision of free passes to enter the temple. The passes will be available online on the website of the temple and at the same time those who don't have internet access can collect their passes in person from four centres in Tuljapur

#### ✚ **External affairs minister S. Jaishankar Represents India at 15th East Asia Summit 2020**

- The External Affairs Minister DrS.Jaishankar represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) on 14 November 2020 on behalf of PM Modi.
- The Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc because Vietnam is ASEAN Chair in 2020 (ASEAN holds the central role and leadership in the forum).
- All the 18 EA countries participated in the virtual Summit.
- The East Asia Summit (EAS) was established in 2005, as a Leaders-led forum that provides a platform for discussion on important strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It is a regional grouping of 18 participating countries which includes 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), and Australia, China, India, Japan,

Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

- India is a founding member of EAS.
- The 18 members of the EAS together represent 54% of the world population and account for 58% of the global GDP.

#### ✚ **Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan chairs 147th session of WHO Executive Board**

- Health Minister Harsh Vardhan was elected the chair of World Health Organization's Executive Board on Friday.
- "I feel deeply honoured to have the trust and faith of all of you. India, and my countrymen, too, feel privileged that this honour has been bestowed upon us. I will work to realise the collective vision of our organisation, to build the collective capacity of all our Member nations and to build a heroic collective leadership," Harsh Vardhan said addressing the 147th WHO Executive Board session as its Chair. The session was held virtually.
- "WHO is already providing leadership to the entire world in the sphere of public health, engaging with partners for joint actions, shaping the research agenda and stimulating the dissemination of valuable knowledge. The need is to catalyse further change," he said.
- Health is central to enhancing human capabilities. Protecting health of those without wealth should be the core philosophy of our close alliance at the WHO, Vardhan said.

#### ✚ **PM unveils 'Statue of Peace' to mark 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today unveiled 'Statue of Peace' to mark the 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj, via video conferencing. The Statue unveiled in the honour of the Jain acharya, has been named as 'Statue of Peace'. The 151 inch tall statue has been made from Ashtadhatu i.e. 8 metals, with Copper being the major constituent, and is installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Pali, Rajasthan.
- The Prime Minister paid tribute to the Jainacharya and the spiritual leaders present on the occasion. Mentioning two 'Vallabhs', Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel and the Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj, the Prime Minister said that he feels blessed by the fact that after dedicating the world's tallest statue of Sardar Patel- 'Statue of Unity', he is getting opportunity to unveil the 'Statue of Peace' of the Jainacharya Shri Vijay Vallabh.



#### ✚ **Bharat Biotech starts Phase III trials of COVAXIN**

- Bharat Biotech has announced commencement of Phase III trials of COVAXIN yesterday. The Phase III trials will involve 26,000 volunteers across India, conducted in partnership with ICMR. It is the largest clinical trial conducted for a COVID-19 vaccine in India.
- This is India's first phase 3 efficacy study for a COVID-19 vaccine, and the largest phase III efficacy trial ever conducted in India. The trial has been registered at [www.ctri.nic.in](http://www.ctri.nic.in) and approved by the Drugs Controller General of India.
- COVAXIN has been evaluated in 1000 subjects in Phase I and Phase II clinical trials, with promising safety and immunogenicity data. Volunteers who wish to participate in this trial should be adults over 18 years of age.
- COVAXIN, India's indigenous COVID-19 vaccine by Bharat Biotech is developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Virology. This indigenous, inactivated vaccine is developed and manufactured in Bharat Biotech's BSL-3 bio-containment facility.

#### ✚ **Centre govt. launches Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge in 243 cities**

- Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday launched the Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge, aimed to ensure that no person needs to enter a sewer or septic tank, unless absolutely unavoidable in the interest of greater public hygiene. The initiative, that promotes mechanized cleaning, also aims to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of 'hazardous' cleaning.
- The virtual event witnessed participation of representatives from 243 cities across the country, coming together to take a pledge to mechanize all sewer and septic tank cleaning operations by 30th April 2021. The initiative was launched on the occasion of World Toilet Day.

#### ✚ **North Police Station in Kohima receives an ISO certification**

- In a major feat and a first of its kind in the state, North Police Station Kohima in Nagaland has been awarded an ISO certification. The Police station is located in the heart of Kohima Town which was the first established police station under Naga Hills district by the British Regime in the year 1933. Presently, the North Police station is headed by an Inspector rank officer-in-charge and 88 other ranks.
- It has been awarded ISO 9001:2015 certification on meeting the specified parameters of Quality Management System on policing and related scope of activities which includes

maintenance of public peace, law and order, prevention, detection and investigation of crime and criminal activities, emergency response, VIP Security and prevention of human trafficking

#### ✚ **Govt approves 28 Food Processing Projects worth over 320 crore rupees**

- The government has approved 28 Food Processing Projects worth over 320 crore rupees. These projects supported with a grant of over 107 crore rupees by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries were approved under the Scheme for Creation and Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities- CEFPPC in the Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC) meeting.
- These projects spread over 10 states are likely to generate employment for nearly 10 thousand people. Minister of Food Processing Industries . Narendra Singh Tomar chaired the IMAC meeting through video conference to consider projects under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) for necessary Grants-in-aid.

#### ✚ **Lahore becomes world's most polluted city in US Air Quality Index, New Delhi got 2nd rank**

- Pakistan's cultural capital Lahore has once again topped the list of world's most polluted cities.
- "Lahore ranks the most polluted city in the world," according to air pollution data released by the US Air Quality.
- According to the index, Lahore reported a particulate matter (PM) rating of 423. Pakistan's financial capital Karachi ranked at 7 on the AQI. New Delhi came in second with a PM of 229, while Nepal's capital Kathmandu ranked the third-worst city with a PM of 178.

#### ✚ **Arjun Munda E-Inaugurates the first ever virtual Aadi mahotsav in Madhya Pradesh**

- Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda launched the virtual edition of Aadi Mahotsav in Madhya Pradesh. The 10-day long festival, is being hosted on the Tribes India website([www.tribesindia.com](http://www.tribesindia.com)). The main focus is on the tribal craft and culture of Madhya Pradesh.
- It was also announced that the next focus state from the 11th December would be Gujarat, following which the spotlight would shift to Bengal from the 21st December, 2020.
- The Aadi Mahotsav – A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Crafts, Cuisine and Commerce – is a successful initiative that was commenced in 2017. The festival was an attempt to familiarise the people with the rich and diverse craft, culture of the tribal communities across the country, in one place. Held between 16-30 November, 2019 in New

Delhi, the 15-day festival featured an exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings fabric, jewellery. More than 400 tribal artisans and producers from across India enriched the festival with their participation and it received tremendous response.

#### ✚ **India and the US sign MoU on Intellectual Property cooperation**

- India, and the US had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Intellectual Property cooperation. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed the MoU with US Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce of the US.
- Cabinet in its meeting on 19th February this year gave the approval for signing the MoU with USPTO in the field of IP Cooperation. The MoU aims at increasing IP co-operation between the two countries. It will facilitate the exchange and dissemination of best practices, experiences and knowledge on IP among the public, and between and among the industry, universities, research and development organizations, and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

#### ✚ **Winter session of the Maharashtra legislature held in Mumbai instead of Nagpur on 14 and 15 December**

- The winter session of the Maharashtra legislature held in Mumbai instead of Nagpur on December 14 and December 15.
- A decision to this effect was taken during a business advisory committee (BAC) meeting held. Days of the session have been curtailed in light of the novel coronavirus pandemic and precautionary measures.

#### ✚ **Prime Minister virtually inaugurated Agra Metro Rail project on December 7**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was virtually launched the construction work of Agra metro on 7th December. Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation has set a deadline of five years for the completion of two corridors of Agra metro which will connect all the major tourist destinations and the tourists coming from all over the world to see the Taj will get a new experience of green transport.
- MD of UPMRC Kumar Keshav said that Agra Metro will be a boon to tourism and it will take around 3 years for the first metro train on the priority section between Tajmahal to Jama Masjid.

#### ✚ **EU President and British Prime Minister agree to resume Brexit trade talks**

- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen instructed their

negotiators to resume trade talks in a last ditch attempt to bridge significant differences. In a joint statement, the two leaders recognised the seriousness of their differences and said that a further effort should be undertaken by the negotiating teams to assess whether they can be resolved.

- British and EU negotiators paused trade talks on Friday to call in their leaders to try to narrow the gaps and get an agreement after a week of negotiations failed to bridge significant divergences between the two sides.

#### ✚ **Pfizer sought emergency use authorisation for its COVID-19 vaccine in India**

- Pfizer, one of the world's premier biopharmaceutical companies, had sought emergency use authorisation for its COVID-19 vaccine in India. The firm, in its application submitted to the drug regulator, has sought permission to import the vaccine for sale and distribution in the country.
- Pfizer India had become the first pharmaceutical firm to seek from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) an emergency use authorisation for its COVID-19 vaccine in the country, after its parent company secured such clearance in the UK and Bahrain.

#### ✚ **Commerce Ministry and AYUSH Ministry decided to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council**

- Ministries of Commerce and Industry and AYUSH had decided to work together to set up an Export Promotion Council to boost AYUSH exports. This decision was taken in a joint review of AYUSH trade and industry by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik.
- It was also decided that the entire AYUSH sector will work together to achieve price and quality competitiveness to boost exports. The review was held through video conference. It was attended by nearly 50 industry and trade leaders from the AYUSH Sector. More than 2000 stake-holders of the AYUSH Sector also attended the e-event through live streaming on virtual platform

#### ✚ **PM Modi to give inaugural address at virtual IMC 2020 on 8 December**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give the inaugural address at the virtual India Mobile Congress 2020 on 8 December. IMC 2020 is being organised by the Department of Telecommunications, and the Cellular Operators Association of India. It will be held from 8 December to 10th December.
- The theme for IMC 2020 is "Inclusive Innovation - Smart, Secure, Sustainable". It aims to align to the Prime Minister's vision to promote 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', 'Digital

Inclusivity', and 'Sustainable development, entrepreneurship and innovation'. It also aims to drive foreign and local investments, encourage Research and Development in the telecom and emerging technology sectors.

#### ✚ **India invited CLMV countries to join the International Solar Alliance**

- India invited the CLMV countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam to join the International Solar Alliance as well as the Resilient Supply Chain Initiative by India.
- The invitation was extended at the sixth India-CLMV Business Conclave 2020.
- During the conclave, India mentioned that it is ready to share COVID-19 vaccine with the CLMV countries.
- The CLMV countries are Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- The countries act as a gateway for the market access to European Union and China and also other markets due to various trade agreements.

#### ✚ **India and Qatar create special Task-Force to further facilitate investments by QIA into India**

- India and Qatar decided to create a special Task-Force to further facilitate investments by Qatar Investment Authority into India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi while speaking on telephone with Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of Qatar also resolved to explore Qatari investments in the entire energy value-chain in India.
- Both the leaders discussed the robust cooperation between both countries in the fields of investment flows and energy security, and reviewed recent positive developments in this regard. The leaders agreed to remain in regular touch, and looked forward to meeting in-person after the normalisation of the public-health situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ✚ **PM Modi to inaugurate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on 9th of Jan 2021**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was inaugurated the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on 9th of January. In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Convention will be held in virtual format. President Ram Nath Kovind will deliver the Valedictory address to the diaspora.
- The theme this year is Contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat. The winners of 'Bharat ko Janiye' Quiz will also be announced in the Inaugural Session. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards will also be announced to honour eminent

overseas Indians for their contributions to various fields both in India and abroad.

#### ✚ **India and Nepal decided open flights under bilateral bubble arrangement**

- India and Nepal had decided to open flights under a bilateral bubble arrangement, as India had done with several countries.
- India had proposed this to Nepal some time back and Nepal had cleared it now after Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla highlighted the importance of people to people connectivity during recent visit.

#### ✚ **PM to address global climate summit to mark 5th anniversary of Paris Climate Pact**

- Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar had said that climate change is not an overnight phenomenon and it had taken the last 100 years to have an impact on the environment.
- Briefing the media in New Delhi on the eve of completion of five years of the Paris Agreement, Mr Javadekar said, climate change is not a result of recent actions but of historical actions. He said, historically the USA has 25 per cent of all emissions, Europe has 22 per cent whereas China has 13 per cent and India only 3 per cent

#### ✚ **Govt rejected claim of fully privatizing Indian Railways & abolishing facilities like monthly passes, discounts to senior citizens**

- Government had rejected a claim that Indian Railways will be fully privatized and facilities like monthly passes and discounts to senior citizens will be abolished.
- Press Information Bureau of the Government of India said that a video circulating on social media is fake. No such decision had been taken by the central government.

#### ✚ **WHO applauds India's 'Fitness Ka Dose Aadha Ghanta Roz' campaign**

- The clarion call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to all Indians of Fitness Ka Dose, Aadha Ghanta Roz has received praise from the World Health Organisation.
- In a tweet, WHO said, it applauds India's initiative on promoting physical activity through this fitness campaign. The campaign launched as part of the nation-wide Fit India Movement by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijju has gained the support of celebrities from different fields including Bollywood, sportspersons, writers, doctors and fitness influencers. They have enthusiastically urged Indians to follow the basic mantra of 30 minutes of fitness every day.

## STATE NEWS

### ✚ Punjab Govt Launches 'I Rakhwali' App

- The State Forest Department of Punjab has launched a mobile application named 'I Rakhwali' to strengthen its drive to preserve and maintain the environment in Punjab
- The app was launched by the Punjab Forest Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot.
- The main aim of 'I Rakhwali' app is to ensure greenery and protect the environment in Punjab as well as inspire people to plant more trees to safeguard the state forest area.

### ✚ Tamil Nadu govt releases policy for electronics & hardware manufacturing

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

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

- With 96.2 percent literacy, Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country, while Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 percent, showed a report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) survey. The report on 'Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of the 75th round of National Sample Survey – from July 2017 to June 2018' provides for state-wise detail of literacy rate among the persons aged seven years and above.
- According to the study, after Kerala, Delhi has the best literacy rate at 88.7 percent, followed by Uttarakhand's 87.6 percent, Himachal Pradesh's 86.6 percent, and Assam's at 85.9 percent.

- On the other hand, Rajasthan is the second-worst performer with a literacy rate at 69.7 percent, followed by Bihar at 70.9 percent, Telangana at 72.8 percent, Uttar Pradesh at 73 percent, and Madhya Pradesh at 73.7 percent. The study has pegged the overall literacy rate in the country at about 77.7 percent.

### ✚ Telangana, Haryana states take several activities under Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat programme

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

### ✚ Punjab Govt rolls out Smart Ration Card Scheme

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

### ✚ Rajasthan govt and SIDBI sign pact to develop MSME ecosystem

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



#### ✚ Arrest, search without warrant under UP's new special security force rules

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

#### ✚ Chhattisgarh to set up specialised police unit to counter Maoists in Bastar

- A specialised unit of Chhattisgarh Police's 'Bastar Special Force' may soon be introduced for Maoist-affected districts which will comprise of local youths from the interiors of insurgency-hit Bastar division.
- Chief minister Bhupesh Baghel directed the senior officers of the police department to raise 'Bastar Special Force' by recruiting local boys from sensitive areas.
- The Bastar division comprises seven districts - Bastar, Kanker, Kondagaon, Dantewada, Narayanpur, Sukma and Bijapur and each one of them has been facing Maoist problems since the 1980s.
- Earlier in 2016, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) raised the Bastariya Battalion, to counter insurgency in which local tribals were recruited.

#### ✚ Delhi airport now has India's first exclusive terminal for private jets

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

the Indian billionaires, who have been since long seeking friendlier skies with a network of airports just for private jets.

#### ✚ Cricketer Suresh Raina to set up cricket schools in J&K

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

#### ✚ Lok Sabha passes Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020

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

#### ✚ 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.



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- 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.
- ✚ **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."
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **3Kerala Ranked as Best Governed State by Public Affairs Index**

- The Public Affairs Index-2020 released by the Public Affairs Centre in Bengaluru declared Kerala the best governed state in the country, while Uttar Pradesh ended at the bottom in the large states category.
- In its annual report released, the city-based not-for-profit organisation said the states were ranked on governance performance based on a composite index in the context of sustainable development. The organisation is headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K. Kasturirangan.
- Four southern states, Kerala (1.388 PAI Index point), Tamil Nadu (0.912), Andhra Pradesh (0.531) and Karnataka (0.468) stood in the first four ranks in the large state category in terms of governance, it said. Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar were at the bottom of the ranking, scoring negative points in the category. They got - 1.461, -1.201 and -1.158 points respectively.

#### **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister launches special campaign to identify people suffering from TB**

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a special 10-day campaign to identify people suffering from tuberculosis (TB) in the state.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to make India TB-free by 2025.
- Under the door-to-door campaign, which will end on November 11, health workers will reach out to 81 lakh people, identify those suffering from TB, screen them and help them avail treatment at no cost.

#### **Rajasthan assembly passed bill to make wearing mask mandatory**

- Rajasthan assembly had passed the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases (Amendments bill 2020) making it mandatory to wear masks.

- The bill prohibits the movements of any person in public place, public transport, workplace or at any Social, Political, general function or gathering.
- The bill, however, does not specify the penalties if someone is caught without masks.
- Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Alwar, Nagaur and Ajmer districts are most affected by the infection.
- ✚ **Bombay HC hears Arnab Goswami's habeas corpus plea**
- A division bench of Bombay High Court heard Habeas Corpus plea of senior journalist Arnab Goswami. Arnab was arrested in a connection with abetment to suicide case by Raigad Police.
- Goswami is currently under judicial custody till November 18th along with other two accused in this case.
- A writ of habeas corpus (which literally means to "produce the body") is a court order demanding that a public official deliver an imprisoned individual to the court and show a valid reason for that person's detention. Both the Supreme Court (under Article 32) and the high courts (under Article 226) can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and also the quo-warranto.
- ✚ **UP govt to hold grand annual Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya on Diwali**
- Uttar Pradesh government will celebrate the annual Deepotsav in Ayodhya on Diwali in a grand manner and this time it is planning to break its own last year record by lighting around 6 lakh diyas, earthen lamps on the ghats of Saryu. The celebration will not be scaled down due to the coronavirus pandemic, even though there will be minimal public participation.
- The deepotsav will be celebrated from 11 to 13 november and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also take part in it. Around 10 thousand volunteers of Ram Manohar Lohiya Swasth University will be involved in the attempt of another world record of lighting 6 lakh earthen lamps. These diyaas will be lit on 24 Ghats of holy river Saryu.
- The order of such a large number of earthen lamps has Potter Families in Shishya are also happy with numbers since a large part of the earthen lamps are purchased from them under national livelihood mission. This is also the first Deepotsav after the start of Ram temple construction in Ayodhya.
- ✚ **Delhi to adopt Dungarpur's model of rainwater harvesting**
- The Delhi government will adopt the cost-effective model of rainwater harvesting currently being implemented in the tribal-dominated Dungarpur district of Rajasthan.
- A seven-member delegation was on an official visit to witness the rainwater-harvesting system that costs just Rs 16,000 as compared to the conventional one, which costs between Rs 50,000 and Rs one lakh per household.
- Dungarpur model was an innovative idea that was centred on routing the rainwater to a bore well, instead of a regular rainwater-harvesting pit.
- rainwater collected on the rooftop is being routed to the casing of already existing bore wells in households. They have created sand filters in the conduit pipe itself and included a way of backwash too.
- ✚ **UP to develop Vindhyavasini Temple Corridor in Vindhyachal**
- The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government has decided to develop the Vindhyavasini Mandir Corridor at Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district. The Vindhyavasini corridor is modelled on the lines of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi.
- It will have a 50-feet wide parikrama path, or circumambulation route, around the shrine of Goddess Vindhyavasini. The UP cabinet had on October 30 approved the decision to develop the religious corridor.
- The Yogi Adityanath-led government seeks to develop religious tourism in the eastern UP region. The Vindhyavasini temple is surrounded by buildings and narrow lanes and pilgrims have to walk through them while circumambulating the temple.

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#### ✚ Haryana State Govt. passed Right to Recall Panchayat Member Bill

- The Haryana State Assembly passed a Right to Recall Panchayat Member Bill. The Haryana Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020 was tabled by Deputy Chief Minister DushyantChautala.
- With this Bill, the people in rural areas will get the right to remove a sarpanch or members of the two bodies even before their tenure is over.

#### ✚ Haryana Chief Minister launches 'Project Air Care' in Gurgaon to fight air pollution

- Haryana Chief Minister (CM), Manohar Lal Khattar has virtually unveiled 'Project Air Care' to combat rising Air Pollution in Gurgaon.
- 65 Wing Augmentation Air Purifying Units (WAYU) would be set up at areas with high Air Quality Indices (AQI) in Gurgaon to improve the air quality.
- The Air Purifiers have been developed by CSIR-NEERI (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute), IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Bombay.
- The project is a result of a public-private partnership between Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and GSK (GlaxoSmithKline) Consumer Healthcare.

#### ✚ Keetham lake in Uttar Pradesh added to Ramsar sites

- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has expressed happiness that India has added one more Ramsar sites. Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake in Agra of Uttar Pradesh added to the Ramsar sites. In a tweet, Mr Javadekar said that wetlands are the world's natural water filters and one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet.
- The Ramsar Convention signed on 2nd February, 1971, is one of the oldest inter-governmental accord signed by member countries to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.
- The aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits. Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines of the convention.

#### ✚ MP govt announces formation of 'Gau Cabinet' for cow protection

- A day after announcing the introduction of a bill against 'Love Jihad' in the next session of Vidhan Sabha, the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday said that it has decided to set up a 'Gau Cabinet' for cow protection.
- In a tweet, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said: "It has been decided to constitute a Gau Cabinet (cow cabinet) for cattle conservation and promotion. It will comprise animal husbandry, farmers' welfare, forest, panchayat-rural development, home and revenue departments. The first meeting of the cow cabinet will be held at the cow sanctuary in Agar-Malwa district on Gopashthami festival on November 22."

#### ✚ Maharashtra's first 'child-friendly police station' inaugurated in Pune

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative in Maharashtra, Pune City Police started the 'Balsnehi (child-friendly) police station' on the premises of the Lashkar police station in Pune.
- The police station had been set up in accordance with guidelines laid down by the National Commissioner for Protection of Child Rights.
- The aim of the initiative was to provide an environment that will enable children to report cases without fear.
- This initiative will help in eliminating the prejudice against police among the public.

#### ✚ West Bengal launched massive 'Duare Sarkar' outreach campaign

- The Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal had launched a massive outreach programme named "Duare Sarkar" (Government at your doorstep) on December 1, 2020 to make schemes of the state government more accessible to the public.
- "Duare Sarkar" aims to bring 11 schemes of the state government, including Swastha Sathi (health scheme), Khadya Sathi (public food distribution scheme), Jai Johar and Kanyashree (a cash transfer scheme aimed at retaining girls in schools and preventing their early marriage) to the doorsteps of the people.

#### ✚ Odisha tourism launched its flagship Eco-Retreat program at 5 locations

- Odisha Tourism launched its flagship Eco-Retreat program at 5 locations in the State. The event, inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through virtual mode, aims at boosting tourism in the State.

- The five locations, namely Konark, Satakosia, Bhitarkanika, Daringibadi and Hirakud under the scheme are open to the tourists till February next year. Under the programme, accommodation facilities and services will be provided to tourists in luxury cottages in the identified locations.
- ✚ **Ladakh LG virtually inaugurated second edition of Ladakh Literature Festival 2020**
- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur virtually inaugurated the second edition of Ladakh Literature Festival, 2020, in Leh. The three Day festival will host a series of talks, importance of the region, ancient knowledge of Ladakh, Folk music, cultural Dance, geology and wildlife of Himalayas and several interesting topics on YouTube and Facebook streaming.
- Lieutenant Governor appealed to the students to participate in the Literature Festival. He said that the knowledge of the different worlds will bring a new perspective which is useful for the local youth to develop a sense of cultural rootedness and identity.
- ✚ **Lakshadweep declared as first UT to become 100% organic**
- Lakshadweep after Sikkim had become the first Union Territory to become 100% organic as all the farming in the region is carried out without the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.
- The step to opt for organic farming was taken to provide access to safer food choices as well as for making agriculture a more environment-friendly activity. Secretary, agriculture, Lakshadweep, OP Mishra stated that UT can benefit much from marketing organic products such as coconut milk and desiccated coconut.
- ✚ **Tamil Nadu granted permission to hold Jallikattu event, with certain restrictions**
- Tamil Nadu government has granted permission to hold Jallikattu event, with certain restrictions. The number of players should be not to be more than 150 at an event. It will be mandatory for the players to provide Covid-19 negative certificate.
- The state government has also specified that the number of spectators at the Jallikattu event should not be more than 50% of the gathering.
- ✚ **35 Karnataka unveiled “FRUITS” portal for farmers**
- The Karnataka government had unveiled the Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System (FRUITS), an e-governance portal, to create a repository of farmland information and farm loan details on a single platform.
- All farmers will be registered and given an identification number on the portal. Using this number, banks and other lending institutions can access the land details of farmers as well as details of their existing borrowings and take a quick decision on lending. Canara Bank has agreed to run FRUITS on a pilot basis, according to an official statement.
- ✚ **Madhya Pradesh cabinet approved Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020**
- The Madhya Pradesh cabinet approved the Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020. Under the provisions of the bill, forced conversion of a woman will be punishable for a term up to 10 years and minimum fine of Rs 50,000.
- Specific provisions are also made in the cases of religious conversion of minors, groups, or of those belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Blood relatives, including parents of victims of such religious conversion, can file complaints under the proposed Act.
- ✚ **39 UP Govt to include history of Sikh gurus in school curriculum**
- The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to include the history of Sikh gurus in the school curriculum in the state.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also announced that 27th of December will be celebrated every year as Sahibzada Diwas in all schools of state.
- The Chief Minister said this at a Gurbani Kirtan held at his residence on the occasion of 'Sahibzada Diwas'.
- The Chief Minister said that the Sikh society is known for its hard work. The Sikh gurus sacrificed their lives to defend the Hindu religion. The country will always remember this.
- ✚ **Donald Trump announces Wilmington as first World War II Heritage City**
- US President Donald Trump announced Wilmington in southern US state North Carolina as the first World War II Heritage City at a ceremony held to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.
- During the war, Wilmington was the site of the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, which built 243 ships in five years as part of the federal government's emergency shipbuilding program, according to a The Hill report.
- The President signed legislation last year directing the secretary of the interior to each year designate at least one city as an American World War II Heritage City based on contributions made to secure victory in the war.

#### ✚ Typhoon Haishen wreaks havoc in South Korea

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

#### ✚ Bangladesh launches campaign against fake information & rumours

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

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

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

#### ✚ Bahrain becomes latest Arab nation to recognise Israel

- Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation to agree to normalise ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by President Donald Trump.
- Trump announced the agreement following a three-way phone call he had with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

- The three leaders also issued a brief six-paragraph joint statement, attesting to the deal.

- Like the Abraham accord with the UAE, a peace deal between Israel and Bahrain would normalise diplomatic, commercial, security and other bilateral relations.

#### ✚ Yoshihide Suga picked by Japan's governing party to succeed Shinzo Abe

- Yoshihide Suga was elected as the new head of Japan's ruling party, virtually guaranteeing him parliamentary election as the country's next prime minister. Suga received 377 votes in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party election to pick a successor to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who announced last month that he would resign due to health problems.

- The other two contenders received a combined 157 votes.

- Suga is actually known for his iron-fist approach to getting jobs done as a policy coordinator and influencing bureaucrats by using the centralised power of the prime minister's office.

#### ✚ Bangladesh govt allows limited export of Hilsa fish to India

- Bangladesh Commerce Ministry has given special permission for traders to export Hilsa fish to India on a limited scale in view of the forthcoming Durga Puja. The Commerce Ministry has allowed nine exporters to send a total of approximately 1,500 tonnes of Hilsa to India.

- The export will be allowed till 10th of October.

- Bangladesh had imposed a ban on the export of Hilsa in 2012.

- However, as a special measure, last year also export of 500 tonnes of Hilsa to India was permitted by the government around the time of Durga Puja.

- Hilsa or 'Ilish' is considered a delicacy in Bangladesh and West Bengal.

- Bangladesh has a share of close to 75 per cent in the production of Hilsa fish in the world.

#### ✚ Nepal plans to resume passenger railway services after 7-year suspension

- Nepal is planning to resume passenger railway services after a 7-year suspension after it received two sets of rails from India. The Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit rail sets that Kathmandu had purchased from India arrived in Janakpur city yesterday.

- Director General at the Department of Railway Balram Mishra said, it would take at least one and half months to restart the services, as it was currently working to recruit necessary human resources. The Department has planned to recruit over 200 staff gradually. It will be the country's first ever broad-gauge passenger railway service. The service will

start from Kurtha, an area close to Janakpur town to Jayanagar, a town bordering India.

- There was an operation of Janakpur-Jaynagar railway service in the past but on a narrow gauge line. The service was completely halted seven years ago.

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

- TikTok and WeChat will be banned from US app stores, unless President Donald Trump agrees to a last-minute deal. The Department of Commerce said it would bar people in the US from downloading the messaging and video-sharing apps through any app store on any platform.
- The Trump administration says the companies threaten national security and could pass user data to China. But China and both companies deny this.
- WeChat will effectively shut down in the US, but people will still be able to use TikTok until 12 November, when it could also be fully banned.

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

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

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

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

COVID-19 cases. The Ministry informed that India also has the highest share of global recoveries, almost 19.5 percent.

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

- Former rebel military commander Ishmael Toroama has been elected president of Bougainville, an autonomous part of Papua New Guinea, electoral officials say, and is set to lead talks seeking independence.
- The general election was the first since Bougainville voted overwhelmingly for a separation from PNG at the end of last year, with Mr Toroama defeating an open field, the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner.
- Bougainville, a mineral-rich and lush group of islands in the South Pacific, has developed little since a decade-long civil war that claimed as many as 20,000 lives came to an end in 1998.

#### **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.

#### **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.



#### ✚ 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

#### ✚ India, Chile hold first joint commission meeting

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- 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.

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- 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 that at any time in at least 50 years.

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- 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.

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- 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.
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- His appointment comes after King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Omar al Razzaz.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

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#### ✚ **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”.

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#### **United States reports record over one lakh COVID-19 cases in single day**

- The United States reported over 100,000 new infections of Covid19 on 30 October to surpass the record total of 91,000 posted a day earlier. The daily caseload of 100,233 is also a world record for the global pandemic.
- The United States has crossed 9 million cumulative cases, representing nearly 3% of the population.
- 16 U.S. states reported their highest one-day coronavirus infections while thirteen states were at record levels of hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

- The number of daily infections reported during the past two days indicates that the Country is now reporting more than one new case every second.
- ✚ **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal lays foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation**
- The Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Vegetables Protected Cultivation at Khetri on the outskirts of the Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation is estimated to be set up at an investment of Rs 10.33 Crore.
- The CoE will provide exposure to the latest Israeli technologies to the farmers of Assam and help them in maximizing their production and income. It would also boost agricultural and horticultural production in Assam leading to greater economic rewards to state's farmers
- ✚ **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launches Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge in India**
- The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, held a kick-off event for the 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge' in collaboration with the Netherlands-based Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and with the technical support of WRI India.
- By focusing on the needs of young children aged 0 – 5 years and their caregivers in the public realm, the initiative marks an important step towards making Indian cities sustainable, inclusive, and family-friendly. The programme will support a pan-India challenge, inviting applications from November 4, 2020. All Smart Cities, capitals of States and UTs, and other cities with population above 5 lakhs are eligible to participate
- Under its prime objective of inclusive development, the Government of India is committed to enhancing opportunities in urban areas for all vulnerable citizens, especially young children. The Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge is an open call to Indian cities to propose and pilot neighbourhood-level improvements in public space, mobility, access to services, and data management to enhance the physical and psychological health of young children and their caregivers.
- ✚ **WHO chief in self-quarantine after being identified as contact of COVID-19 positive person**
- World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that he had been identified as a contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19, but added that he was feeling well and did not have any symptoms.
- "I have been identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive for #COVID19. I am well and without symptoms but will self-quarantine over the coming days, in line with @WHO protocols, and work from home," Mr. Tedros said in a tweet.
- ✚ **India Firmly Rejects Pakistan's Move to Accord Status of Province for Gilgit-Baltistan**
- India slammed Pakistan for its attempt to accord provincial status to the "so-called Gilgit- Baltistan", saying it is intended to camouflage the "illegal occupation" of the region by Islamabad.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said India "firmly rejects" the attempt by Pakistan to bring material changes to a part of Indian territory which is under Islamabad's "illegal and forcible occupation" and asked the neighbouring country to immediately vacate such areas.
- ✚ **Magufuli wins re-election in Tanzania; opposition cries foul**
- Tanzania's President John Magufuli has won the presidential election, the National Electoral Commission said, a contest dismissed by the opposition as a "travesty" because of widespread irregularities.
- Magufuli received 12.5 million votes in Wednesday's election – or 85 percent – while his main challenger, Tundu Lissu of the Chadema party, got 1.9 million votes, or 13 percent, the electoral commission said.
- ✚ **Abu Dhabi's SWF is first notified fund to get 100% income-tax exemption**
- Finance Ministry announced that Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) - MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited - has become the first foreign SWF that has been notified and granted 100% income-tax exemption for the long-term investments to be made in the specified priority sectors in India.
- Finance Ministry said that India has gradually opened up the economy for FDI, except very few sectors and has also extended a lot of tax concessions for sovereign funds to attract long-term investments in India's infrastructure sector.
- ✚ **India and Italy hold virtual bilateral summit on 6 November**
- A Virtual Bilateral Summit would be held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Italy Giuseppe Conte on November 6, said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).



- The summit is to explore possibilities of Italian investments in India especially in defence. Also, the leaders will discuss on hosting G20 summit. Italy agreed to host G20 summit in 2021 on India's request. India is to host the G20 summit in 2022.
- The summit was preceded by the Indo Italian High-Level Dialogue. During the dialogue, the Italian firm Fincantieri enhanced its presence in India. The long-standing partnership of the firm with the CSL (Cochin Shipyard Limited) of GoI was further deepened. The firm had signed contracts with CSL under which it delivered the tankers Shakti and Deepak to the Indian Navy.
- Italy is the fifth largest trading partner of India in the European Union after Germany, Belgium, UK and France. In 2019, the bilateral trade between India and Italy stood at 9.52 billion Euros.
- ✚ **Shaktikanta Das Chairs 40th SAARC Finance Governors' Group Meeting**
  - The 40th Meeting of the SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group was held virtually under the Chairmanship of Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, RBI.
  - The meeting was attended by the Governors from SAARC central banks. SAARC FINANCE is a network of central bank governors and finance secretaries of the SAARC region.
  - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the current chair of SAARC FINANCE.
- ✚ **Vice President launched event 'International Satavadhanam' a unique literary feat**
  - The Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the 'International Satavadhanam' program virtually.
  - 'Avadhanam' is like a test of the poet's literary prowess and involves solving tricky literary posers, improvising poems and tests a person's capability of performing such multiple tasks simultaneously.
  - The event was organized by Dr. Medasani Mohan under the auspices of Sri Krishnadevaraya Satsang in Tirupati. Avadhanam is a literary performance popular from the very ancient days in India.
- ✚ **US formally exits Paris pact aiming to curb climate change**
  - The US formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement amid election uncertainty. Donald Trump announced his intent to remove the country from participating in the landmark global pact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions three years ago.
  - President Trump originally announced his intention to withdraw from the agreement in 2017 and formally notified the United Nations last year. The historic accord seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, the value that climate scientists have determined will have disastrous consequences if exceeded.
- Trump has repeatedly criticised the agreement as economically detrimental and claimed it could cost the country 2.5 million jobs by 2025. The US is the only country to withdraw from the global pact. The US is the second leading producer of all carbon dioxide emissions globally, behind China.
- ✚ **Lockdown named as the word of the year by Collins Dictionary**
  - Lockdown, the noun that has come to define so many lives across the world in 2020, has been named word of the year by Collins Dictionary.
  - Lockdown is defined by Collins as "the imposition of stringent restrictions on travel, social interaction, and access to public spaces", and its usage has boomed over the last year.
  - The 4.5bn-word Collins Corpus, which contains written material from websites, books and newspapers, as well as spoken material from radio, television and conversations, registered a 6,000% increase in its usage. In 2019, there were 4,000 recorded instances of lockdown being used. In 2020, this had soared to more than a quarter of a million.
- ✚ **Marathi film 'Karkhanisanchi Waari' only Indian entry at Tokyo International Film Festival**
  - Marathi film 'Karkhanisanchi Waari' (Ashes On A Road Trip) directed by Mangesh Joshi is the lone Indian entry at the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival
  - The movie was directed by Mangesh Joshi. The movie will have its world premiere at the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival. It is the only Indian entry at the festival.
- ✚ **Armenia declares no-fly zone in Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh**
  - Armenia has declared a no-fly zone in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh except for military aircraft. The announcement was made by the Armenian defence ministry on November 12, 2020.
  - The move comes after Armenia agreed to a ceasefire deal with Azerbaijan, which was brokered by Russia.
  - Following this, thousands of protesters had gathered in Armenia's capital, Yerevan on November 11, demanding the resignation of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.
- ✚ **Second World Health Expo kicks off in Wuhan**
  - The second World Health Expo was inaugurated on November 11, in Wuhan, the capital city of Central China's Hubei Province.

- of global health industry". This year's Expo will focus on displaying the most cutting-edge science and technology in the global health industry, and help Wuhan build "city control, and the Global University Leaders Forum, will be organized. normalized a summit forum, academician forum and the roundtable dialogue on epidemic prevention and During the Expo, more than a hundred high-end forums including
- ✚ **Indian-American Kash Patel named as the Chief of Staff to acting US Defence Secretary**
- Indian-American Kash Patel has been named as the Chief of Staff to the Acting US Defence Secretary Chris Miller. The new appointment comes a day after Donald Trump fired Defence Secretary Mark Esper and designated Chris Miller, as the Acting Secretary.
- Kash Patel, currently on the National Security Council staff. He replaces Jen Stewart, who resigned earlier in the day.
- Kashyap Pramod Patel, popularly known as Kash Patel, had previously served as senior counsel for counter-terrorism at the House Permanent Select Committee.
- In June 2019, Patel, 39, was appointed as senior director of Counter-terrorism Directorate of the National Security Council (NSC) in the White House
- ✚ **India announces additional \$1 million aid to ASEAN Covid-19 Response Fund**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday announced a contribution of USD 1 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund at the 17th ASEAN-India Summit, which was held virtually.
- In his address to leaders from the 10 ASEAN countries, PM Modi also highlighted India's response and broader support to the international community and welcomed the association's initiatives to fight the pandemic.
- ✚ **World's first tram library for children launched in Kolkata, West Bengal**
- World's first tram library for children launched in Kolkata
- short by Shreyasi Banerjee / 05:44 pm on 14 Nov 2020, Saturday
- The West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) and Apeejay Anand Children's Library launched the world's first tram library for children on Saturday in Kolkata on Children's Day.
- "The tram would run on Shyambazar-Esplanade and Esplanade-Gariahat routes, spanning across North and South Kolkata, every day from morning to evening. The Oxford Bookstores has curated the selection of books," WBTC MD said.
- ✚ **Japan and Australia poised to sign defence pact to counter China**
- Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and his Australian counterpart, Scott Morrison, agree to sign a defence agreement on Tuesday in a bid to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations.
- South China Morning Post reported PM Morrison's arrival in Japan on Tuesday where security experts expect him to wind up a Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) with Suga to establish a legal framework for their troops to visit for to conduct military joint operations and training.
- This defence agreement has taken six years to negotiate and would need to be ratified by lawmakers of both countries.
- Tokyo and Canberra are seeking closer ties as they worry about Chinese activity in the region, including militarisation in the South China Sea.
- ✚ **Second phase of Malabar exercise begins in northern Arabian Sea**
- The navies of India, the US, Australia and Japan on Tuesday began the second phase of the Malabar naval exercise in the northern Arabian Sea involving two aircraft carriers and a number of frontline warships, submarines and maritime reconnaissance aircraft, officials said.
- The major highlight of the four-day exercise is participation of Indian Navy's Vikramaditya carrier battle group and the Nimitz strike group of the US Navy. The USS Nimitz is the world's largest warship.
- The first phase of the Malabar exercise took place in the Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6 and featured a number of complex drills including anti-submarine and anti-air warfare operations.
- ✚ **India-Luxembourg virtual summit to be chaired by PM Modi & his counterpart**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said there is a lot of potential for increasing economic exchanges between India and Luxembourg.
- Addressing the India Luxembourg virtual summit this evening, Mr Modi said steel, financial technology, and digital domains are several sectors where both nations have good cooperation, but there are more possibilities in these sectors.
- He congratulated his Luxembourg counterpart Xavier Bettel's skillful leadership in this difficult time of the COVID pandemic. He expressed condolences on behalf of all Indians

for the loss of lives in COVID in Luxembourg. He said this is the first stand-alone Summit meeting between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades.

#### ✚ **India ranks 77 in the global bribery risk matrix**

- India is at 77th position with a score of 45 in a global list that measures business bribery risks of 2020.
- The list by TRACE, an anti-bribery standard-setting organisation, measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.
- According to this year's data, North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea present the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.
- In 2019, India's rank stood 78 positions with a score of 48 while in 2020 the country was ranked 77 with a score of 45.

#### ✚ **Oxford Economics revises downwards its India growth forecast**

- Global forecasting firm Oxford Economics on Thursday revised downwards its India growth forecast over the medium term to an average 4.5% over 2020-25, from its pre-pandemic projection of 6.5%.
- In a research note, it said India's post-COVID-19 scars could be among the worst in the world. "We forecast India's growth equilibrium to worsen substantially over the medium term, with potential growth averaging just 4.5% over 2020-2025 in our latest baseline, as opposed to our pre-virus forecast of 6.5%," Oxford Economics said.
- It said an adequate and well-designed fiscal stimulus would halve this impact by limiting deterioration in pre-COVID-19 headwinds.

#### ✚ **US imposed sanctions on Chinese firm over Venezuela internet curbs**

- The United States had imposed sanctions on Chinese firm China National Electronics Import & Export Corporation (CEIEC), accusing it of supporting President Nicolas Maduro's efforts to undermine democracy in Venezuela.
- While slamming China, US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo has said that CEIEC provides cyber support and technical experts to state-run telecommunications providers which frequently blocks online independent newspapers and speeches by opposition members.
- The US Department of Treasury had said that CEIEC has been supporting the Maduro regime's malicious cyber efforts since 2017 and providing technical expertise to Venezuelan government entities, against the people of the country.

#### ✚ **Nagaland hosted first virtual celebration of Hornbill Festival 2020**

- Nagaland was hosting the first virtual celebration of Hornbill Festival 2020 from 01 December till 5th December.
- Dubbed as the "Festival of Festivals", the Hornbill Festival is celebrated every year showcasing the rich cultural heritage and tradition of the Nagas in one platform at Naga Heritage Village Kisama under Kohima District.
- However, due to Coronavirus pandemic, the state is holding its 21st edition of Hornbill festival 2020 completely in virtual mode.
- The festival will be telecast on Doordarshan Kohima.

#### ✚ **UK became first country to approve Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for use**

- Britain became the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine December 2, 2020 for use and said that it will be rolled out. The British regulator Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) declared that the vaccine offers protection of up to 95 per cent and is safe to be used for immunisation against Covid-19.
- The Government had accepted the recommendation from the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to approve Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for use..
- The UK has ordered up to 40 million doses of the vaccine, which is being organised to vaccinate 20 million people with two shots each. Immunisation is expected to start within days and will be delivered to high-priority groups first. The company expects to produce globally up to 50 million vaccine doses in 2020 and up to 1.3 billion doses by the end of 2021.

#### ✚ **US imposes visa curbs on members of Chinese Communist Party**

- US President Donald Trump's administration has issued new rules to restrict travel to the United States by members of China's ruling Communist Party (CCP) and their families. According to a State Department spokesman, the new policy, which took immediate effect, limits the maximum duration of travel visas for party members and their families to one month from 10 years.
- Previously, party members, like other Chinese citizens, could obtain visitor visas for the US that were valid for up to 10 years. Travel visas for party members will also be limited to a single entry rather than multiple entries as was possible before.

- ✚ **Biden officially secures majority of Electoral College votes with California certification**
  - US President-elect Joe Biden has formally secured a majority of Electoral College votes with California certified his victory in the state.
  - California appointed 55 electors pledged to vote for Democrat Joe Biden, officially handing him the Electoral College majority needed to win the White House.
  - Secretary of State Alex Padilla's formal approval of Biden's win in the state brought his tally of pledged electors so far to 279, which is just over the 270 threshold for victory.
- ✚ **China Becomes 2nd Country to Unfurl Its Flag on Moon, as Chang'e-5 Probe Takes Off For Earth**
  - China has become the second country to plant its national flag on the moon's surface. Before China's Chang'e-5 probe took off from the moon to return to earth, a Chinese national flag unfurled from the lander-ascender combination.
  - The Chinese spacecraft carrying the country's first lunar samples has started its return journey from the moon, according to the country's space authority.
  - Chang'e-5 probe, comprising an orbiter, a lander, an ascender, and a returner, was launched on November 24, and its lander-ascender combination touched down on the north of the Mons Rumker in Oceanus Procellarum, also known as the Ocean of Storms, on the near side of the moon on December 1.
- ✚ **US Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad hold talks with Taliban leader**
  - The US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad held a meeting with Taliban's deputy leader Mullah Baradar and chief negotiator Abdul Hakim.
  - As per reports, they discussed the future US-Taliban peace process and release of the remaining prisoners.
  - Notably, the first meeting of the Leadership Committee of the Afghanistan High Council for National Reconciliation was held in Qatar.
  - The United States has welcomed the formation and the first Leadership Committee meeting of the Afghanistan High Council for National Reconciliation.
- ✚ **In Hongkong, Authorities freezed bank accounts of former pro-democracy lawmaker Ted Hui Chi-fung**
  - In Hong Kong, authorities freezed bank accounts of former pro-democracy lawmaker Ted Hui Chi-fung after he fled to Britain with his family.
- Briefing a news agency via social media today the pro democracy activist said that bank accounts belonging to him, his wife and his parents at Bank of China Hong Kong, HSBC and Hang Seng Bank were frozen.
- Reports said, conditions have worsened in Hong Kong after China imposed security legislation in June, making anything Beijing regards as subversion, secession, terrorism or colluding with foreign forces punishable by up to life in prison.
- ✚ **Indonesia receives first COVID vaccine from China's Sinovac from 6 December,2020**
  - Indonesia received its first shipment of coronavirus vaccine from China on 6 December, 2020, President Joko Widodo said, as the government prepares a mass inoculation programme.
  - Jokowi, as the president is widely known, said in an online briefing that the Southeast Asian country received 1.2 million doses from China's Sinovac Biotech Ltd., a vaccine Indonesia has been testing since August.
  - He added that the government plans to receive another 1.8 million doses in early January.
  - Indonesia is also expected this month to receive shipments of raw materials to produce 15 million doses and materials for 30 million doses next month, the president said.
- ✚ **China to take decisive measures to effectively stop major accidents in coal mines**
  - China had ordered Chongqing provincial government to take decisive measures to effectively stop major accidents in coal mines. 23 workers in southwest China were killed after being trapped underground in a coal mine in the city of Chongqing this weekend. The miners were among the total 24 people who have been exposed to unsafe levels of carbon monoxide at the Diaoshuidong coal mine which is a high-gas mine with a capacity of 120,000 tpa of coal. One person has been rescued. The mine was suspended and shut down over two months ago. The cause of the accident is being further investigated.
  - The latest incident is the region's second such accident in just two months, as reported by state news agency. At least 16 people died in late September after high levels of carbon monoxide trapped miners at the Songzao coal mine in Chongqing. Chongqing government officials were summoned by the State Council's Work Safety Committee after two fatal accidents at coal mines in the southwestern region.
- ✚ **Singapore host World Economic Forum in May 2021**



- Singapore will host the World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual meeting next May, which will see top political, business and academic leaders gather to discuss pressing global issues.
- "The Special Annual Meeting 2021 will be a place for leaders from business, government and civil society to meet in person for the first time since the start of the global pandemic. Public-private cooperation is needed more than ever to rebuild trust and address the fault lines that emerged in 2020."
- ✚ **Mt Everest declared 86 cm taller by Nepal and China**
- Nepal and China on 8 December, 2020 jointly announced that the revised height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest was 8,848.86 metres, about 86 centimetres more than the previous measurement done by India in 1954.
- The Nepal government decided to measure the exact height of the mountain amid debates that there might have been a change in it due to various reasons, including the devastating earthquake of 2015.
- ✚ **US President-elect Joe Biden vows 100 million COVID vaccinations in first 100 days of his administration**
- US President-elect Joe Biden has set a goal of 100 million Covid vaccinations in his first 100 days in office. Attending a press conference in Delaware Mr Biden said, he can't promise that his first 100 days would end the Covid-19 but the course of the disease will be changed and life in America will also be changed for the better.
- The President-elect introduced his health team during the press conference. Mr Biden gave few details of how the largest vaccination programme in US history would be carried out. He said that getting children back to school would also be a priority for him.
- ✚ **PwC, UNICEF and YuWaah partner to redefine education**
- Consulting firm PwC India announced a collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and YuWaah (Generation Unlimited in India) on Monday to upskill 300 million young Indians over the next 10 years. The announcement is part of PwC's global collaboration with UNICEF and Generation Unlimited, a global multi-sector partnership that seeks to upskill and provide about 1.8 billion youngsters with socio-economic opportunities to navigate education and career trajectories.
- According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), India is staring at a 29 million skill deficit by 2030. As of October 2020, the unemployment rate in India is at 6.97 percent, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). Urban areas had an unemployment rate of 7.15 percent, while the number stood at 6.9 percent in rural areas.
- ✚ **Israel establishes diplomatic ties with Bhutan**
- Israel has established diplomatic relations with Bhutan. In a statement, Israeli foreign ministry said that the agreement follows several years of secret contacts between Israel and Bhutan with the aim of establishing relations.
- The foreign ministry said that a signing ceremony was held between the Israeli and Bhutanese ambassadors to India yesterday. It also added that the countries agreed to formulate a joint work plan in the areas of water management, agriculture, healthcare and other areas.
- ✚ **U.K, EU say talks will continue on post-Brexit trade deal**
- The European Union and Britain said they will "go the extra mile" to clinch a post-Brexit trade agreement that would avert New Year's chaos and cost for cross-border commerce.
- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had set as the deadline for a breakthrough or breakdown in negotiations. But they stepped back from the brink because there was too much at stake not to make an ultimate push.
- ✚ **Israel heads to new elections as government collapses**
- Israel's divided government collapsed early, triggering the country's fourth election in under two years and bringing an unprecedented threat to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's lengthy grip on power.
- Mr. Netanyahu, who is used to labeling his opponents as weak leftists, finds himself confronted by a trio of disgruntled former aides who share his hard-line ideology, led by a popular lawmaker who recently broke away from the prime minister's Likud party.
- ✚ **UN Women and Kerala govt collaborated for India's first Gender Data Hub**
- The Kerala government and UN Women have collaborated to establish India's first Gender Data Hub. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in this regard on Monday in the presence of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- The Gender Hub builds on the goals established through the International Conference on Gender Equality held in November 2015, to collect, analyse and use more nuanced data and inform policy formulation in a manner that centres women's rights.

#### ✚ **UK, EU reach post-Brexit trade deal to avert chaotic New Year's split**

- European Union and United Kingdom have struck a post-Brexit trade deal, after months of negotiations over future business rules, just a week before the deadline. The British government has announced that the deal is done.
- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson declared that they have completed the biggest deal yet worth 668 billion pounds a year.
- Once ratified by EU leaders, the European parliament, and the UK government, the agreement will ensure Britain and the 27-nation bloc can continue to trade in goods without tariffs or quotas after the UK breaks fully free of the EU on 1st of next month.
- The UK is set to exit EU trading rules by 31st of this month - a year after officially leaving the bloc.

#### ✚ **India, Croatia reiterate commitment to open, free and stable Indo-Pacific region**

- India and Croatia had reiterated their commitment to an open, free and stable Indo-Pacific region. During the virtual interaction, Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan and Croatian State Secretary for Political Affairs Frano Matusic have exchanged views on developments in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The meeting set a broad-based agenda for mutual cooperation in 2021 which will provide substance for celebrations of three decades of establishment of diplomatic relationship between the two countries in 2022.

#### ✚ **21 Japan bans entry from all countries to block new strain's spread**

- Japan will suspend entry for foreigners to contain the spread of a new strain of COVID-19 first discovered in the UK.
- Japan registered its first cases of the new strain of the coronavirus.

- The country is also witnessing record daily infections of the original coronavirus.
- All Japanese nationals will be required to submit negative COVID-19 test results received within 72 hours before their departure from any country that has confirmed cases of the mutant virus.
- The entry ban will not apply to the businessmen and students from 10 countries, including Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea and Taiwan, with which Japan had reached an agreement regarding the issue.

#### ✚ **Saudi Arabia host Gulf Summit on January 5**

- Saudi Arabia will host the 41st Gulf summit on January 5, 2021, in Riyadh, a state media report has confirmed.
- Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud requested the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf to invite the leaders of the member states.
- The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar.
- Topping the agenda of the coming summit will be ending a dispute that erupted in 2017 between a Saudi-led quartet and Qatar, according to the sources.

#### ✚ **Argentina became the first major country in Latin America to legalise abortion**

- Argentina became the first major country in Latin America to legalize abortion when the Senate voted early to allow it through the 14th week of pregnancy, in the face of opposition from the influential Catholic Church.
- The fiercely contentious vote – passed with 38 in favor, 29 against and one abstention – came after a marathon debate that began at 4 p.m. on Tuesday.
- As the result was read out, a crowd of thousands erupted in cheers outside the Senate building in Buenos Aires, waving the green flags that represented their campaign as green smoke rose above the crowd.

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## BANKING NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

App. The customers will also be able to track their service requests through these mediums.

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

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

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

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

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

- Bandhan Bank has set up a new vertical called "Emerging Entrepreneurs Business (EEB)".
- The new vertical has been launched to support the emerging needs of the unbanked and underbanked segment of customers.
- The vertical will focus on supporting this segment of customers in their journey to becoming entrepreneurs.
- In addition to micro loans, the vertical will also manage micro home loan, micro bazaar loan and micro enterprise loan.

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

- For the seventh straight year, HDFC Bank remained the top-ranked brand in India with a total brand value of more than \$20.2 billion, according to the 2020 BrandZ Top 75 Most

Valuable Indian Brands ranking released by WPP and Kantar. According to the report, the total value of the BrandZ India Top 75 fell by 6 percent in 2020, shedding \$13 billion in value for a total brand value of \$215.608 billion.

- LIC is ranked second while Tata Consulting Services has been ranked at no.3.

#### **IDFC Mutual Fund launches 'SIP in Fixed Income' campaign**



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

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

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

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#### ✚ 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.

#### ✚ 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, Sanitation 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.

#### ✚ 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.

#### ✚ 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.
- #### ✚ 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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **TransUnion CIBIL partnered with MoSPI to launch MSME Credit Health Index**
- In a bid to help measure growth and strength of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), TransUnion CIBIL has partnered with Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to build and publish quarterly MSME Credit Health Index.
- The MSME Credit Health Index will provide the Government, policy makers, lenders and other stakeholders, insights and analysis on various aspects of health of the MSME industry, thus enabling them to make better policy and business decisions with respect to MSME lending. The

ease of access of such comprehensive information with a single MSME Credit Health Index will facilitate better risk management and inclusion of MSMEs in Indian banking and financial system.

- The Index will also help to educate the general public about the credit health of the MSME sector and thereby instil confidence.

#### **ICICI Bank launches 'Mine' for millennials**

- ICICI Bank announced the launch of India's first comprehensive banking programme for millennials.
- Inspired by 'Millennial Network', the proposition is called 'ICICI Bank Mine'.
- It offers an instant savings account, a feature driven iMobile application, curated credit and debit card, instant personal loans & overdrafts, and even an experiential branch with social engagement space.

#### **WhatsApp Pay goes live in India with some riders**

- WhatsApp has finally launched services on the United Payments Interface (UPI) in a major boost for the Facebook-owned app in its biggest market. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), India's flagship payments processor, permitted WhatsApp to go live on UPI.
- WhatsApp can expand its UPI base in a graded manner starting with a maximum number of registered users at 20 million, the NPCI said in a statement. The NPCI runs the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) used for real-time payments between peers or at merchants' end while making purchases. The UPI channel has rapidly grown to become India's most favoured mode of digital transactions since its launch in terms of volumes.

#### **SEBI increases Overseas Investment limits for Mutual Funds**

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has enhanced the investment limits for Mutual Fund companies for overseas investments.
- Mutual Funds can make overseas investments subject to a maximum of US \$ 600 million per Mutual Fund, within the overall industry limit of US \$ 7 billion. Earlier it was USD 300 million.
- Mutual Funds can make investments in overseas Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) subject to a maximum of US \$ 200 million per Mutual Fund, within the overall industry limit of US \$ 1 billion. Earlier it was Rs 50 million.

#### **DDB Chairman Dilip Rath elected to International Dairy Federation board**

- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Chairman Dilip Rath has been unanimously elected to the board of global dairy body International Dairy Federation (IDF).
- The announcement came during the the General Assembly of the IDF held on Monday.
- IDF is an international non-governmental, non-profit association having members from national committees constituted by dairy organisations in each country.
- "It is a privilege for me to represent the world's largest milk-producing nation and contribute to promoting sustainable goals of dairying and also meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals. I keenly look forward to furthering IDF Board's mandate," Rath stated in a statement.
- Rath has been associated with IDF for the last 10 years as Member Secretary of Indian National Committee and as a member of the Standing Committee on Dairy Policy and Economics.

#### **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attends 1st BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today participated in the 1st BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting under the Russian Chairmanship to discuss the BRICS Economic and Financial Cooperation agenda for 2020.
- Finance Ministry said, Ms. Sitharaman talked about outcomes and initiatives of G-20 Saudi Arabia in 2020 on the Finance Track and highlighted role of BRICS members in reflecting Emerging Market Economies concerns in these initiatives.
- During the meeting, the Finance Minister also presented India's views on discussions related to infrastructure investments and New Development Bank membership expansion.

#### **India's 15th Finance Commission submits its report to President Ram Nath Kovind**

- The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC), led by Chairman NK Singh submitted its report for the fiscal period 2021-22 to 2025-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind on November 9, 2020. The commission was mandated to submit its recommendations for the fiscal period by October 30, 2020.
- The Commission had submitted its report comprising recommendations for fiscal year 2020-21 last year. The recommendations were accepted by the centre and later tabled in the Parliament on January 30, 2020.
- The Finance Commission had been asked to give its recommendations on many unique and wide-ranging issues in its terms of reference including performance incentives for

states in areas such as power, adoption of direct benefit transfer system and solid waste management.

#### **Paytm introduces Payout Links for businesses, enables money transfer sans collecting bank details**

- Fintech major Paytm launched 'Payout Links' for businesses, enabling them to instantly process payouts to customers, employees and vendors without collecting their bank details.
- Payout Links offer seamless payment integration for businesses to quickly send incentives and refunds to customers through a simple payout link, a statement said.
- The sender can create Paytm Payout Links and share with the receiver. The receiver needs to open the link and is then provided a list of saved accounts such as Paytm Wallet, Paytm UPI and connected bank accounts that can be chosen to receive money instantly.

#### **Finance Minister announces Economic Stimulus Package 4.0**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that a few indicators were showing a distinct recovery in the economy. She went on to announce a new set of stimulus packages under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0' a few days ahead of Diwali.
- To boost employment, the government launched the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana to incentivise the creation of new employment opportunities. The new announcements aim to benefit companies and individuals who lost their jobs due to Covid-19 induced lockdown.
- Under the scheme, if EPFO-registered companies bring in new employees or hire those who lost their jobs between March 1 and September 30 this year will be entitled to benefits under the new announcement.
- In addition, the government announced relaxations in income-tax rules to push sale of primary residential units of up to Rs 2 crore value below circle rates. Till now, only 10 per cent difference between the circle rate and the agreement value was allowed. To boost residential real estate sector, Sitharaman said the differential had now been increased to 20 per cent till June 30, 2021, for only primary sale of residential units of value up to Rs 2 crore.

#### **India Post Payment Bank launches doorstep service to submit digital life certificate**

- India Post Payments Bank, IPPB have successfully launched the initiative of doorstep service for submission of Digital Life Certificate through Postman. The facility to submit life certificate online through Jeevan Pramaan Portal was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November, 2014 with the objective to provide a convenient and

transparent facility to pensioners for submission of Life Certificate.

- In order to make this facility available across the country, Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare roped in the India Post Payments Bank to utilise its huge network of Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks in providing doorstep facility to pensioners for submission of life certificate digitally.

#### **HDFC Bank launches SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0 for SMEs**

- HDFC Bank has announced the launch of "SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0" for Small and mid-size enterprises.
- This solution allows merchants and self-employed professionals to instantly open a current account and start accepting payments in-store, online, and on-the-go.
- The Bank plans to reach out to more than 20 million small and medium merchants and professional services like doctors, pharmacies, salons and laundry services across the metro, semi-urban and rural India in the next three years.

#### **DIPAM inks agreement with World Bank for advisory services on asset monetization**

- Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) signed an agreement with World Bank on Monday. Under the agreement, World Bank is to provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization, said Ministry of Finance in an official release. DIPAM is mandated with facilitating monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of the value of Rs 100 crore and above. DIPAM has a framework for monetizing non-core assets.
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#### **SBM Bank India and PayNearby collaborateto launch the neo banking platform 'Nivesh'**

- The SBM Bank India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of State Bank of Mauritius, has announced to launch a 'neo banking platform' to reach its customers in the country with the help of technology.
- The neo banking service launched is called 'Nivesh' and is a unique Goal-Based Recurring Deposit Platform.



- A neo banking (also known as online banking, internet-only banking, virtual banking, or digital banking) is a type of direct bank that operates exclusively online without traditional physical branch networks.

#### **Goldman Sachs projects India GDP to shrink 10.3%, less than September forecast, in FY21**

- Investment bank Goldman Sachs expects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to contract by 10.3 percent in the financial year 2020-21, expecting an uptick in the economy from its previous estimate in September of a 14.8 percent contraction.
- The American firm projected India's GDP to rebound to 13 percent in the succeeding fiscal, FY22.
- Goldman Sachs said that the developments on the vaccine front — were two candidates, Pfizer and Moderna, have posted satisfactory progress — will be very helpful in the recovery.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects India's GDP to contract by 9.5 percent on a real basis during the ongoing fiscal due to the impact suffered by the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Reserve Bank places Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd under moratorium**

- In view of its weak financials, the Reserve Bank has placed the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited under moratorium with immediate effect. In a statement issued today, RBI said the moratorium will be effective for thirty days with a view to protecting depositors' interests.
- Accordingly, RBI has capped all cash withdrawals from the bank to twenty-five thousand rupees.
- According to the banking regulator, the private sector lender has seen a steady decline in its financials with it incurring losses over the last three years. It may be recalled that the Karur-based bank was placed under the Prompt Corrective Action framework in September 2019 and yet there was no improvement in its position with declining advances and mounting non-performing assets.

#### **NFDB confers four awards to Assam for success in the fishery sector**

- The National Fisheries Development Board has conferred four awards to Assam for the success in the fishery sector. Assam has got the best state award under the category of best hilly and North-Eastern state. Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Limited (FISHED) has been selected under the category of best hilly and Northeastern government organization.

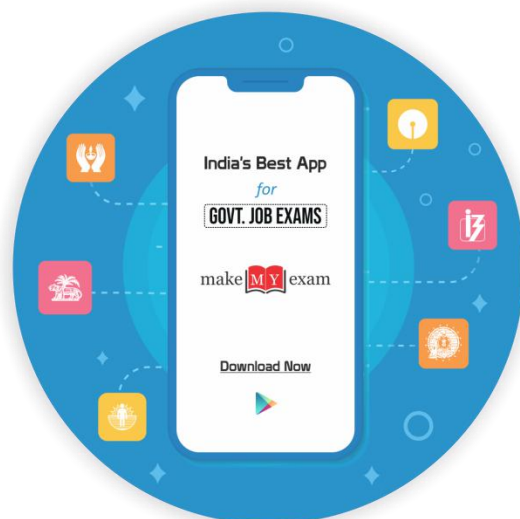
- On the other hand, Nagaon district has been selected under the best hilly and North Eastern district category while a Nalbari based farmer Amal Medhi is selected under the hilly and North Eastern fish farmer category. The awards will be given on the 21st of this month in New Delhi.

#### **RBI creates Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to boost financial inclusion**

- The Reserve Bank of India has created a Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH). The aim of Innovation Hub is to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging on technology and creating an environment that would facilitate and foster innovation. RBIH will collaborate with financial sector institutions, the technology industry, and academic institutions and coordinate efforts for the exchange of ideas and the development of prototypes related to financial innovations.
- Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) would be managed by a Governing Council (GC) consisting of 10 members (including a chairperson). Shri Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-Chairman, Infosys, has been appointed as the first Chairperson of the RBIH.

#### **Karnataka Bank launches Current & Savings Account campaign of FY 2020-21**

- Karnataka Bank has launched CASA campaign of FY 2020-21, nationwide savings and current account mobilization campaign starting from 17th November, 2020 to 04th March 2021. During this campaign, Bank intends to mobilize more than 4,10,000 Current & Savings accounts with an accretion of Rs 650 Crores of business by the active involvement of its 8000+ work force in all the 859 branches across India.
- Karnataka Bank is pioneering the new age of digital banking.



With this campaign, the Bank aims to introduce its attractive and superior line of digitally powered savings and current account products to its prospective customers. Bank has opened a Digi Branch at Bengaluru, using technologies like Robotic Process Automation and Biometrics which enables a prospective customer to open an account online and self generate a debit card within 20 minutes without the physical intervention of the banker. Further, TAB banking for on-boarding of SB-NTB customers (New to Bank) will also be extensively utilized during the said campaign so as to have a seamless account opening and customer delight.

#### **NCRTC and NDB sign USD 500m for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Rapid Transit System Project**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited and the New Development Bank today signed a loan agreement for lending 500 million dollars for the 'Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project'. The Rapid Transit System will provide a fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in the National Capital Region.
- Due to lack of efficient public transport options, the number of private vehicles in NCR has increased. It can take about 3 to 4 hours to travel between Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh by road during peak hours. Rapid growth in vehicular traffic has made NCR one of the most polluted regions in the world.

#### **PM Modi, Bhutan PM jointly launch RuPay card Phase-II**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering on Friday launched RuPay card Phase-II that will allow Bhutanese card holders to access the RuPay network in India.
- The prime ministers of the two countries had jointly launched Phase-I of the project during Mr. Modi's state visit to Bhutan in August last year.
- In his speech via video conferencing, PM Modi spoke about the deep cooperating between the countries in a gamut of fields, including ISRO's preparation to launch Bhutanese satellites into space and BSNL's agreement with Bhutan regarding third international internet gateway.

#### **Mastercard & USAID Partners to launch "Project Kirana"**

- Mastercard and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have collaborated under Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP) to launch 'Project Kirana' in India, to help women entrepreneurs grow and thrive.
- Project Kirana is a two-year programme, and initially, it will be rolled out in select cities of Uttar Pradesh, including

Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi. The programme will be implemented by DAI Digital Frontiers and ACCESS Development Services.

#### **India signed \$133 million loan agreement with ADB for Meghalaya's power distribution sector**

- The government signed a \$133 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to strengthen the power distribution sector in Meghalaya.
- The loan will be supplemented by a \$2 million grant from the ADB's Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction to finance renewable energy projects and for supporting income generation activities for women and other disadvantaged groups, said a finance ministry statement.
- The loan will be used to modernise Meghalaya's power distribution network and improve the quality of power supplied to households, industries, and businesses, the statement said.
- The agreement was signed by CS Mohapatra, additional secretary, department of economic affairs and Takeo Konishi, country director of ADB's India Resident Mission.

#### **RBI directs HDFC bank to stop issuance of new credit cards**

- The Reserve Bank of India has advised HDFC Bank to temporarily stop launch of the digital business activities planned under its Digital 2.0 program
- RBI has also directed not to issue of new credit cards to customers
- This step has been taken by RBI in view of repeated outages in the HDFC bank's internet banking/ mobile banking/ payment utilities over the past two years.
- The reason given by HDFC bank for this was power failure in its primary data centre.
- RBI in its order to HDFC bank, has advised the Bank's Board to examine the lapses and fixes accountability

#### **Sensex touches 45,000 mark for the first time**

- Domestic stocks climbed one percent to hit fresh record highs. Key indices surged amid positive global cues. The 30 share index, Sensex, at Bombay Stock Exchange achieved 45,000 mark while the Nifty-50 at National Stock Exchange finished above 13,250 level for the first time.
- The Sensex rose 447 points or one percent to end at 45,080 while the Nifty closed 125 points or 0.95 percent up to settle at 13,259.
- The broader market at BSE underperformed the Sensex as the BSE Mid-Cap index gained 0.44 percent while the BSE Small-Cap index appreciated 0.42 percent.

**Yes bank and four more stocks to switch from mid cap to large cap in Amfi list**

- By 5th Jan'21, AMFI is expected to release a fresh list for categorisation of stocks into large caps, mid caps, and small caps, based on average market cap for H2CY20. ICICI Securities expects 4-5 switches between large caps and mid caps.
- According to their list, there is a high probability for Yes Bank to switch from mid cap to large cap category. With current market cap of ₹ 333 bn, Yes bank holds 88th rank in the Indian stock market.

**Axis Bank launched 'Axis Bank Rupif Business Credit Card' for MSMEs**

- Axis Bank Ltd in partnership with Rupifi and Visa launched 'Axis Bank Rupifi Business Credit Card' for MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises).
- This Contactless Co-Branded credit card, powered by Visa is applicable only to the MSMEs businesses that transact on the aggregator platforms partnered with Rupifi PAN (Permanent Account Number) India for their business purchases.
- The card offers credit solutions to such MSMEs. It is only for domestic transactions.

**RTGS system available on 24\*7 basis from December 14, 2020**

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced that the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system will be made available round the clock on all days of the year with effect from 00:30 hours on December 14, 2020.
- Presently RTGS system is available for customers between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM.
- RTGS shall continue to be governed by the RTGS System Regulations, 2013.
- RTGS shall be available for customer and inter-bank transactions round the clock, except for the interval between 'end-of-day' and 'start-of-day' processes, whose timings would be duly broadcasted through the RTGS system.
- Intra-Day Liquidity (IDL) facility shall be made available to facilitate smooth operations.

**ADB approves USD 2.5 mn technical assistance for advanced biofuel development in India**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) had approved a USD 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore) technical assistance to support advanced biofuel development in India.
- The grant is funded from the Asia Clean Energy Fund, financed by the Government of Japan under the Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility, and the Republic of Korea's e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund.

**Cabinet Approves Rs 23,810 crore for Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana To Boost Employment**

- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday gave a nod for Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) to boost employment in the formal sector and incentivise creation of new employment opportunities during the COVID-19 recovery phase under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0, said Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- The Cabinet has approved an expenditure of Rs.1,584 crore for the current financial year and Rs.22,810 crores for the entire scheme period from 2020 to 2023.
- The scheme will provide subsidy for two years in respect of new employees engaged on or after October 1, 2020 and upto June 30, 2021, Prasad said in a press briefing here.
- The government will pay both 12 percent employees' contribution and 12 per cent employers' contribution.

**Fitch revises India's GDP forecast to -9.4% for FY21**

- Fitch Ratings raised India's GDP forecast to -9.4 per cent in the current fiscal year to March 2021 from a previously projected contraction of 10.5 per cent after the economy staged a sharper rebound in the second quarter.
- In its Global Economic Outlook, Fitch said the coronavirus recession has inflicted severe economic scarring and the country needs to repair balance sheets and increase caution about long-term planning.

**RBI has issued draft circular on declaration of dividend by NBFCs**

- Reserve Bank of India has issued draft circular on declaration of dividend by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in pursuance to the announcement made in the monetary policy declared Accordingly, deposit-taking NBFCs and systemically important non-deposit-taking NBFCs must have their net non-performing assets below six percent and a capital adequacy ratio of at least 15 percent for the last three years, including the accounting year for which it proposes to declare dividend.

**EXIM Bank and SIDBI plan to set up an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).**

- EXIM Bank and SIDBI plan to set up an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) in partnership.
- The fund will be set up to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by providing equity and loans.
- In the Budget for Financial Year 2020-21, the government announced that a fund would be set up by SIDBI and EXIM Bank to support SMEs in pharmaceuticals, auto components and other sectors.

- The aim of the scheme is to find Indian enterprises currently underperforming but having the potential to grow.

#### **Department of Posts & India Post Payments Bank unveil new digital payment app 'DakPay'**

- Department of Posts and India Post Payments Bank today unveiled a new digital payment app DakPay.
- The App is launched as part of its ongoing efforts to provide Digital Financial inclusion at the last mile across India.
- DakPay is not just a digital payment app but a suite of digital financial and assisted banking services provided by India Post and IPPB through the trusted Postal network across the nation to cater to the financial needs of various sections of the society.

#### **Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired 23rd Meeting of FSDC through video conference**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 23rd Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council, FSDC through video conference in New Delhi.
- The meeting reviewed the major macro-economic developments and Financial Stability issues with special reference to vulnerability related issues.
- It noted that the policy measures taken by the Government and the financial sector regulatory authorities have ensured faster economic recovery in India as reflected in the reduced contraction of GDP in second quarter of 2020-21.

#### **Crisil revises GDP forecast to -7.7% for fiscal 2021**

- India's fiscal 2021 real gross domestic product (GDP) is now expected to contract 7.7 per cent compared with a contraction of 9 per cent forecast in September, according to Crisil.
- The credit rating agency reasoned that a faster-than-expected revival in activity in the second quarter, which continues into the festival season, is one of the reasons for the revision.

#### **Bank of Baroda signed MoU with defence forces for new Baroda Military Salary package**

- Public sector lender Bank of Baroda NSE 2.98 % (BoB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard under which the bank would offer customised services along with a host of facilities to account holders. The bank has also renewed its existing MoU with the Indian Army to offer specially customised banking services through 'Baroda Military Salary Package'.
- The package offers very attractive benefits including free Personal Accidental Insurance cover, Permanent Total Disability cover, Partial disability Cover and Air Accident Insurance Cover of sizeable amounts, as well as Higher Education Cover and Girl Child Marriage Cover on death in

case of serving personnel, BoB Executive Director Vikramaditya Singh Khichi said.

#### **Centre govt and World Bank signed USD 500 million project to build Green National Highway Corridors**

- The Centre and the World Bank signed a USD 500 million project to build safe and green national highway corridors .The project will also enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in mainstreaming safety and green technologies.
- The Green National Highways Corridors Project will support the Road Transport and Highways Ministry to construct 783 kilometres of highways in various geographies by integrating safe and green technology designs such as local and marginal materials, industrial byproducts and other bioengineering solutions. The project will help reduce GHG emissions in the construction and maintenance of highways.

#### **NCAER projects GDP contraction of 7.3% in FY21**

- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) had estimated that India's GDP is likely to contract by 7.3 per cent in the current financial year.
- In its mid-year review of the Indian economy, the NCAER said that the long-term effects of the pandemic will last for years.
- "Following the steep decline in GDP in 2020 Q1, the recovery in Q2 was surprisingly sharp. Accordingly, we have revised our growth forecasts for Q3, Q4 and the full year 2020-21 to 0.1 per cent, 2 per cent and (-) 7.3 per cent respectively," the economic think tank said.
- In the June-September quarter, India's GDP on a year-on-year basis contracted by (-) 7.5 per cent from (-) 23.9 per cent in the preceding quarter.

#### **Cabinet approves 100% FDI in DTH services**

- The Union Cabinet approved revised guidelines for Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcasting services, allowing 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) as well as increasing the licence period to 20 years.
- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Prakash Jaavdekar said, "Due to our I&B guidelines, this field was not getting the benefit of 100 per cent FDI.

#### **US financial body to invest USD 54 million in India to support critical infrastructure projects**

- An American financial corporation has announced to invest USD 54 million in India to support the development of critical infrastructure projects in the country in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



- India is one of the fastest-growing countries in the previous three decades, but it suffers from a significant infrastructure deficit, holding back further growth for the country especially in the wake of COVID-19.

#### **India Ratings and Research revises India's FY21 GDP contraction to 7.8% from 11.8% earlier**

- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) had revised India's GDP estimate for the current financial year to -7.8 per cent from -11.8 per cent earlier, primarily due to the easing of COVID-19 curbs and better-than-expected growth numbers in the second quarter.
- However, it remains to be seen how sustainable the Q2 recovery is, considering most of the impetus was due to festival and pent-up demand, says the ratings agency.
- Ind-Ra says the COVID-induced challenges will unlikely go away till mass vaccination becomes a reality but economic agents and activities seem to have adjusted to the post-COVID-19 world.

#### **RBI cancelled the Licence of the Maharashtra-based Subhadra Local Area Bank**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of Maharashtra-based Subhadra Local Area Bank. The central bank had cancelled the lender's licence with effective from close of business on December 24, 2020, citing that banking affairs were "conducted in a manner detrimental to the interests of its present and future depositors".
- "The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, vide order dated December 24, 2020 cancelled the banking licence issued to Subhadra Local Area Bank Ltd., Kolhapur, Maharashtra under Section 22 (4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry on banking business in India. The order is made effective from close of business on December 24, 2020," the apex bank notified.

#### **Rajasthan became 6th State to complete ease of doing business reforms**

- Rajasthan has become the 6th State in the country to successfully undertake "Ease of Doing Business" reform

stipulated by the Finance Ministry. The State has now become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of 2 thousand 731 crore rupees through Open Market Borrowings.

- In addition to Rajasthan five other States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have already achieved this feat. On completion of reforms facilitating ease of doing business, these six States have been granted additional borrowing permission of 19 thousand 459 crore rupees.

#### **China ordered Jack Ma's Ant Group to rectify businesses**

- Chinese regulators had ordered Ant Group, the world's largest financial technology company, to rectify its businesses and comply with regulatory requirements amid increased scrutiny of anti-monopoly practices in the country's internet sector.
- The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, summoned Ant executives on Saturday and ordered them to formulate a rectification plan and an implementation timetable of its business, including its credit, insurance and wealth management services.

#### **Dubai ruler approved \$15.5 bn budget for 2021 as economic recovery seen**

- Dubai, the business and financial hub of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has approved a 57.1 billion dirham (\$15.55 billion) budget for 2021, when the economy is expected to recover from a contraction this year, its ruler said.
- The statement did not give a comparison to actual spending in 2020, but was slightly higher than a revised spending figure of nearly 56.16 billion dirhams quoted in Dubai's sukuk prospectus seen by Reuters in August.

#### **India to become 5th largest economy in 2025, 3rd largest by 2030**

- India, which appears to have been pushed back to being the world's sixth biggest economy in 2020, will again overtake the UK to become the fifth largest in 2025 and race to the third spot by 2030, a think tank said on Saturday. India had overtaken the UK in 2019 to become the fifth largest

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economy in the world but has been relegated to 6th spot in 2020.

- The CEBR forecasts that the Indian economy will expand by 9 per cent in 2021 and by 7 per cent in 2022.

#### **Centre released 9th weekly installment of Rs. 6,000 crore to States to meet GST compensation shortfall**

- The Ministry of Finance has released the 9th weekly instalment of Rs. 6,000 crore to the states to meet the GST compensation shortfall.
- Out of this, an amount of over Rs. 5516 crore had been released to 23 States and an amount of over Rs. 483 crore has been released to the three Union Territories with Legislative Assembly, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry who are members of the GST Council.
- The remaining five states, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim do not have a gap in revenue on account of GST implementation.

#### **Tax tribunal upholds tax-exempt status of Tata Trusts**

- The ITAT's Mumbai bench comprising its President Justice P P Bhatt and vice president Pramod Kumar passed three separate orders on December 28, upholding the tax-exempt status of Ratan Tata Trust, JRD Tata Trust and Dorabji Tata Trust.
- It said the March 2019 revision order of the Income Tax department that sought to cancel tax exemption to the three trusts was "devoid of any legally sustainable merits".
- The three trusts collectively hold about 66 per cent in Tata Sons - the holding company of Tata Group.
- The commissioner of income tax (exemption) (CIT-E) had threatened to upend the decades-old ownership of Tata Sons by the trusts by alleging that such shareholdings are in violation of the income tax laws.

#### **Centre issued Rs 5,500 cr worth of zero-coupon bonds for P&SB Bank**

- The Centre, in a first move of its kind, has issued Rs 5,500 crore in zero-coupon bonds for recapitalising Punjab and Sind Bank (P&SB) and allowed it to park the paper in its held-to-maturity (HTM) category at face value rather than the discounted market rate. Zero-coupon bonds do not bear any interest and are traded at a discount to the face value.
- The move is seen as raising concern in the accounting fraternity and bank auditors though the banking regulator, the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has cleared it for now after much internal deliberation.

#### **ICICI Bank to acquire 9.09% stake in Myclassboard Educational Solutions**

- Private sector lender ICICI Bank said it will acquire 9.09 per cent stake in online school management platform Myclassboard Educational Solutions. The acquisition will be done through a cash consideration of ₹ 4.5 crore.
- "ICICI Bank has entered into an agreement dated December 28, 2020, in relation to an investment in Myclassboard Educational Solutions Private Limited (MESPL)," the lender said in a regulatory filing. The acquisition is expected to be completed by end of February 2021.

#### **YES Bank appointed Niranjana Banodkar as new CFO, Adlakha to be new HR head**

- Yes Bank promoted two key senior management personnel as the chief financial officer and head of human resources. Both the appointments will be effective 1 January, the lender added.
- The private sector lender had promoted Niranjana Banodkar as the group chief financial officer (CFO) and Anurag Adlakha as the group chief human resources officer.
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#### **UNDP and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation to co-create India's first Social Impact Bond (SIB)**

- Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) recently signed an MoU with UNDP India to co-create India's first Social Impact Bond (SIB).
- "As part of this unique investment tool, the PCMC administration will only have to bear the costs of a public welfare project associated with the bond if the pre-defined project targets are fulfilled," an official release said.
- This type of bond lays down outcome-based targets to be achieved at the start of the contract. "This feature allows for tracking the progress of the outcomes, thus ensuring transparency for investors.
- This mechanism also ensures that funds are used effectively and efficiently towards the project. This SIB will support the PCMC in improving healthcare services for its citizens, especially with respect to the pandemic while incurring minimum investment risks," the release said.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND DEFENCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Document Scanner app is developed by Rohit Kumar Chaudhary and Kavin Agrawal.

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

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

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

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

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

- A formal induction ceremony of the five high-profile Rafale fighter aircraft into the Indian Air Force's (IAF) 'Golden Arrows' Squadron will be held at the Ambala airbase in Haryana on September 10. Earlier, sources had said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is most likely to attend the ceremony.
- French Defence Minister Florence Parly will take part in the induction ceremony and during the visit, other than having a

bilateral with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, she will also meet National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.

- The first batch of five Rafale jets, which arrived at the Ambala airbase on July 29, have already proven their mettle with successful weapons firing at a test range after arrival. When the first batch of Rafales arrived at Ambala, the IAF had said that efforts are focused on operationalisation of the aircraft at the earliest.

**Oxford COVID-19 vaccine trial paused after participant falls ill**

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


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

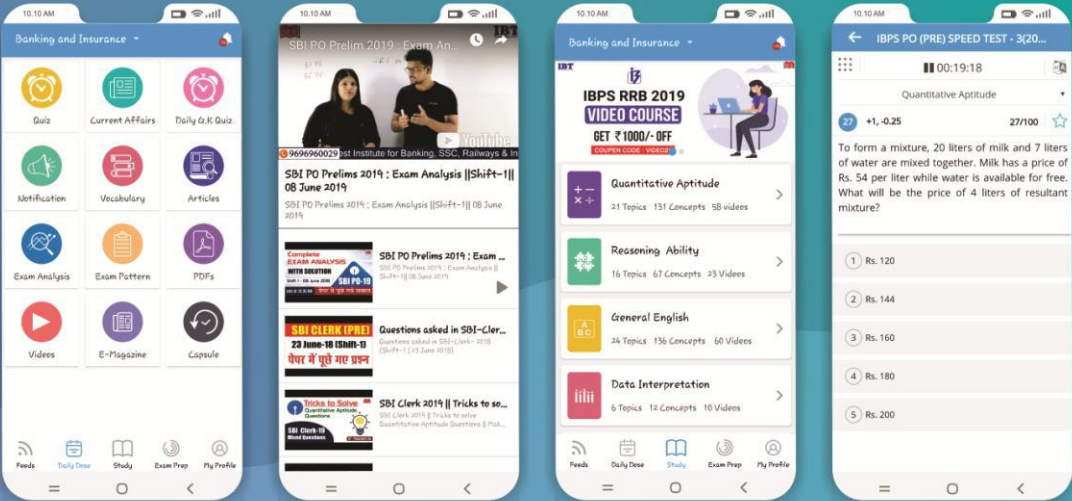
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- An official from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is likely to be part of Indian delegation. This is the first time that an MEA official will be present in this meeting, people aware of the developments said.
- In the previous five meetings, the Corps commander-ranked officers have failed to break the deadlock. This will be the first meeting since the foreign ministers of the two countries agreed on a five-point roadmap to take forward the disengagement and de-escalation process.

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

- Fifteen Shikaras participated in the annual 'Shikara Race' organised by 20 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) of Indian Army for the

people in Srinagar. The aim behind the race was to promote tourism in the newly formed Union Territory.

- This event is organised by Indian Army every year along with boat races and other races for children but could not do the same this year due to COVID-19 outbreak.
- The tourists who came to Srinagar to enjoy the race said that events like this should be organised more often as they help in developing good bonds with the locals.

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

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

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

- Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh will become the first woman pilot to fly the multi-role fighter aircraft Rafale after finishing her conversion training, according to reports.
- Commissioned into the Indian Air Force in 2017 as part of the second batch of women fighter pilots, Singh currently flies the force’s oldest jet MiG-21 Bison. Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who shot down a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) fighter on 27 February last year near the Line of Control before being shot down himself and taken captive, was Singh’s flying instructor.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) currently has 10 women fighter pilots, who have undergone the arduous training to fly the supersonic jets. Reportedly, it takes around Rs. 15 crores to train a single fighter pilot.

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

- Google Pay announced the rollout of tokenisation across its platform that will enable users to safely transact with their debit or credit cards. Through tokenisation, Google Pay Android users can use their debit or credit card to make payments through a secure digital token attached to their phone without having to physically share their credit or debit card details.
- The feature also works with online merchants, delivering

more native and seamless OTP experiences without any redirects to 3D secure sites. This feature is now available to all users of Axis, SBI Card and Kotak.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, students have launched a free-of-cost mobile scanner application "AIR Scanner".

- The app saves the scanned document in PDF format and stores directly in the device.
- The AI (Artificial Intelligence) based Reading Assistant and Document Scanner app is developed by Rohit Kumar Chaudhary and Kavin Agrawal.

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

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

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

- A formal induction ceremony of the five high-profile Rafale fighter aircraft into the Indian Air Force's (IAF) 'Golden Arrows' Squadron will be held at the Ambala airbase in Haryana on September 10. Earlier, sources had said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is most likely to attend the ceremony.



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- French Defence Minister Florence Parly will take part in the induction ceremony and during the visit, other than having a bilateral with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, she will also meet National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.
- The first batch of five Rafale jets, which arrived at the Ambala airbase on July 29, have already proven their mettle with successful weapons firing at a test range after arrival. When the first batch of Rafales arrived at Ambala, the IAF had said that efforts are focused on operationalisation of the aircraft at the earliest.

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

- The last phase of clinical trials of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca has been put on hold after one of the participants fell ill in the United Kingdom. AstraZeneca described the pause as a "routine" pause in the case of "an unexplained illness".
- The AstraZeneca-Oxford COVID vaccine is one of the leading COVID-19 vaccine candidates, whose trials are being conducted in multiple nations including India and the United States. The outcome of vaccine trials is being closely watched across the world.
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### **Tata Technologies to modernise Karnataka ITIs into tech hubs with outlay of Rs 4,600 crore**

- Engineering services company Tata Technologies has signed an agreement with Karnataka government to modernise 150 state-run ITIs with an outlay of Rs 4,600 crore.
- The project cost will include investment from the state government as well as from a consortium of 20 companies led by Tata Technologies.
- The project is expected to bring qualitative improvements in the field of industrial training and education to create an enhanced learning environment for training youth to cater to industry requirements.

### **AAI Signs MoU With NTPC Subsidiary, NVVN to set up solar power plants in Airports**

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with an NTPC subsidiary on Thursday to promote usage of electric vehicles and set up solar power plants at its airports. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), a subsidiary of NTPC, will be provided adequate land and rooftop space free of cost at identified AAI airports to set up solar power plants.
- The AAI owns and manages more than 100 airports across India. The airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mangaluru and Lucknow are managed by private companies and not by the AAI.

### **India's special forces carry out a 'Bull Strike' triservice exercise in Andaman Nicobar Islands**

- A military exercise involving special forces was carried out in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands between November 3 and 5 as the Army, Navy and Air Force got together for the war games amid the India-China standoff to test synergy in joint operations.
- Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) conducted a joint services exercise code-named 'Bull Strike', involving the three Services components of Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- Elements of Indian Army's Parachute Brigade, marine commandos or MARCOS and Special Forces carried on the exercise at the remotely located Teresa Island, in the strategically important Nicobar Group of Islands.
- "The exercise was carried out to validate and rehearse operational plans and contingencies in a realistic tactical

setting under the overall command and control of Andaman and Nicobar Command, the only joint services operational command of the defence forces of India," a statement from the Army said.

### **Telemedicine service 'eSanjeevani' completes 7 lakh consultations**

- eSanjeevani, the national telemedicine service set up by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has completed 7 lakh consultations today. The last one lakh consultations have come up in 11 days. This novel digital modality to deliver OPD services virtually has been gaining popularity. With over 10 thousand consultations being recorded on eSanjeevani per day, it is shaping into the largest OPD services set up in the country.
- An innovative intervention to deliver health services, eSanjeevani has started making impact in smaller towns and rural areas. While telemedicine is beneficial for the patients, it also is favourable for the doctors practicing telemedicine as it limits the contact with patients who are present virtually.
- eSanjeevani has removed the requirement of doctor to be at a specific location to provide services. Patients desirous of seeking medical consultations are placed in a virtual queue and upon their turn can see a doctor who is available virtually but present in another city. Each online OPD consultation generates an ePreion which can be used to buy medicines or go for diagnostic investigations.

### **Two-Day Joint Coastal Security Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' Begins in Odisha**

- A two-day joint coastal security exercise, "Sagar Kavach" was launched at Paradip Coast, Odisha. The exercise is being carried out by a joint effort of the state of Odisha and West Bengal governments.
- The main purpose of the exercise is to carry out the exercise on the coast of Paradip this year, just like every year after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. The exercise is being carried out to prevent a repeat of the Mumbai attacks by sea.
- More than 10 such departments, including the Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard, the Odisha Police, the local fishermen, the forest department, and the port marine department, have joined the joint exercise. It will run for two days, with red and green forces being formed to infiltrate and prevent attacks. This year for coastal security the exercise was named "Sagar Kavach".



**World famous Tourism spot Pangong Tso route gets 4G services at Tangtse**

- World famous Tourism spot Pangong Tso route now gets 4G services at Tangtse. This first-ever Jio mobile tower in the entire Changthang region, connects Tangtse sub division with the rest of the world digitally.
- Mr.Tashi congratulated the people of Tangtse area for having a Jio mobile tower facility for the first time which was one of the pending demands of the area.Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake is an endorheic lake spanning eastern Ladakh and West Tibet.

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

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

**Ex-SPG officer Sasindran Kallinkeel pens novel on transgenders**

- Ex-SPG officer, Sasindran Kallinkeel's has penned a novel named "Rasaathi: The Other Side of a Transgender".
- The main character in the novel, published by Book Mitra, is a transgender named Rasaathi born in a well-to-do family in South India.
- Rasaathi, meaning princess, is in the late 40s who wants people to treat transgenders like human beings by showering love, affection, sympathy and recognise their pathetic and horrible life.

**Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveils A-SAT missile model at DRDO Bhawan**

- A model of Anti-Satellite Missile installed inside the DRDO Bhawan premises was unveiled by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- 'Mission Shakti' was the country's first ever Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) Missile Test successfully conducted on 27th March

2019 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, where a fast-moving Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit was neutralised with pinpoint accuracy.

- This was a highly complex mission, conducted at extremely high speed with remarkable precision.
- The successful conduct of Mission Shakti made India the fourth nation in the world with the capability to defend its assets in outer space.

**Indian Army Gifts 10 Mine Detection Dogs & 20 Trained Military Horses to Bangladesh**

- The Indian army gifted 20 horses and 10 dogs to the Bangladesh army. These equines and canines were trained by the Remount and Veterinary Corps of Indian Army.
- The fully trained military horses and mine detecting dogs were gifted to Bangladesh in order to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.
- The Indian Army has also trained Bangladesh Army personnel for training and handling these specialist dogs and horses.

**IFSCA approves Draft Banking Regulations for International Financial Services Centres**

- IFSCA Approves Draft Banking Regulations for International Financial Services Centres. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) on Wednesday approved draft banking regulations for banking operations at IFSCs.
- Banking constitutes one of the major focus areas of IFSCs (International Financial Services Centres) and is expected to drive and facilitate the other constituent operations in IFSCs in due course, IFSCA said in a statement.
- "A self-contained regulation laying down the major principles of banking operations at IFSCs is thus an important step in the IFSC reaching its desired potential," it said. The authority approved the draft banking regulations at its meeting held on Wednesday, as per the statement.

**Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine Vagir launched**

- Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine Vagir, having superior stealth features like the advanced acoustic absorption technique, was launched on Thursday at the Mazagon Dock in south Mumbai.
- Vijaya, wife of Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik, launched the submarine through video conferencing. The

minister was the chief guest at the event and attended it via video link from Goa.

- Vagir is part of the six Kalvari-class submarines being built in India. The submarines, designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS, are being built as part of Indian Navy's Project-75.

#### **China sends 'world's first 6G' test satellite into orbit**

- China has successfully launched what has been described as "the world's first 6G satellite" into space to test the technology.
- It went into orbit along with 12 other satellites from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the Shanxi Province.
- The telecoms industry is still several years away from agreeing on 6G's specifications, so it is not yet certain the tech being trialled will make it into the final standard. It involves use of high-frequency terahertz waves to achieve data-transmission speeds many times faster than 5G is likely to be capable of. The satellite also carries technology which will be used for crop disaster monitoring and forest fire prevention.

#### **Google Photos will end free unlimited storage from June 2021**

- Google said starting June 1, 2021, it will no longer offer unlimited free backup for high quality photos, after providing the free service for five years.
- The search-giant will start charging for storage once 15GB on the account has been used. If users wish to add photos beyond the 15GB limit, they must pay for additional storage on Google One.
- Google is exempting all high quality photos and videos that users back up before June 1. It estimated that 80% of people should take at least three years to reach 15GB.

#### **CSIR-SERC, Chennai Develops Indigenous Emergency Retrieval System (ERS) for Power Lines**

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) constituent laboratory Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC) based in Chennai has developed an indigenous technology, Emergency Retrieval System (ERS), for quick retrieval of power transmission in the event of failure of transmission line towers. CSIR-SERC has signed an agreement for licensing of the ERS technology with M/s Advait Infratech, Ahmedabad.
- At present, the ERS systems are imported. There are very few manufacturers across the world and the cost is relatively high.

This technological development will enable the manufacturing in India for the first time, which will be an import substitute and will cost about 40% of imported systems. ERS has huge market requirement in India as well as in SAARC and African countries. Hence, this technological development is a big leap forward towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Make in India.

- ERS is a lightweight modular system that is used as temporary support structure to restore power immediately after the collapse of transmission line towers during natural calamities such as cyclone/earthquake, or manmade disruptions. ERS can be assembled quickly at the disaster site for restoration of power in 2-3 days, whereas the permanent restoration may take several weeks. This development is very significant as failure of transmission lines severely impact lives of common people and causes huge monetary loss to the power companies. As the total losses/damages are directly proportional to the outage duration, time is a crucial factor in reinstating or remediating the damaged/fallen structures.

#### **Stanford University lists world's top 2% scientists, 14 from IIT-BHU**

- At least 14 scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Banaras Hindu University have figured among the top two per cent scientists in a global list compiled by the prestigious Stanford University.
- The US-based Stanford University has recently released a list that represents the top 2 per cent of the most-cited scientists in various disciplines. The exhaustive list has 1,59,683 persons with nearly 1,500 scientists, doctors and engineers in India.
- "The list includes the name of 14 professors of Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University). All these have been selected on the basis of their research paper's international evaluation," IIT BHU Director Pramod Kumar Jain said.

#### **India successfully test fires Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles in Odisha**

- India has successfully test-fired the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system off the coast of Balasore in Odisha. The missile hit its target directly during the test.
- The missile launch took place from ITR Chandipur at 3:50 PM off the Odisha coast. The missile is propelled by a single-stage solid-propellant rocket motor and uses all indigenous subsystems. The missile is canisterised for transportation and

launch using a mobile launcher capable of carrying 6 canisterised missiles, the defence ministry said in a release.

- All QRSAM weapon system elements like Battery Multifunction Radar, Battery Surveillance Radar, Battery Command Post Vehicle and Mobile Launcher were deployed in the flight test. The system is capable of detecting and tracking targets on the move and engaging target with short halts. The system is designed to give air defence coverage against strike columns of the Indian Army.
- The radar tracked the Banshee target from the farthest range and the missile was launched when the target was within the kill zone and achieved the direct hit with terminal active homing by RF Seeker guidance. Various DRDO labs DRDL, RCI, LRDE, R&DE(E), IRDE, ITR have participated in the test.

#### 8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial meeting unanimously adopts BRICS STI Declaration 2020

- The 8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial meeting unanimously has adopted BRICS STI Declaration 2020. The meeting was held yesterday through a virtual platform. Science and Technology cooperation among the member countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa was discussed in the meeting.
- During the meeting, Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan highlighted that the COVID 19 pandemic has been a test, demonstrating that multilateral cooperation is the key to overcoming such global challenges. He informed that India has initiated an integrated response to overcome this pandemic. From the development of indigenous vaccines, novel point-of-care diagnostics and therapeutic formulations based on traditional knowledge, Indian Research and Development are working relentlessly to develop effective interventions for combating the pandemic. The Minister said, more than 100 startups have developed innovative products for COVID-19.

#### All religious places in Maharashtra to open from tomorrow

- In Maharashtra, as all the religious places are opening from tomorrow, many famous temples are doing special arrangements to facilitate the devotees to visit the temples without crowding and following COVID-19 guidelines. Famous Tuljapur temple in Osmanabad has made the provision of free passes for the devotees which will be issued online.
- AIR Correspondent reports, devotees of Tulja Bhavani can seek the blessings of Goddess from tomorrow without crowding the temple premises as the temple authorities have

made the provision of free passes to enter the temple. The passes will be available online on the website of the temple and at the same time those who don't have internet access can collect their passes in person from four centres in Tuljapur

#### High Commission of India launches Special Edition wrist watches for Mujib Centenary year in Dhaka

- A limited series of special edition wristwatches was released in Dhaka today for the Mujib Centenary year 'Mujib Borsho'. The special edition watches was released by the Minister of Road Transport and Bridges Obaidul Quader and the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami
- The wrist watches in this limited edition series bear the images of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his signature representing the timelessness of the message of Bangabandhu and its eternal relevance.
- Bangladesh is celebrating the birth centenary year of its founder president and Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The government of Bangladesh has declared the period from March 17, 2020, to March 26, 2021 as the Mujib Borsho marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu.

#### IIT Guwahati formulates efficient "pincer" catalytic systems that transform biomass wastes into valuable chemicals

- A research team of IIT Guwahati has formulated efficient "pincer" catalytic systems that transform biomass wastes into valuable chemicals. Tiny amounts of these "pincer catalysts" repeatedly convert large amounts of industrial waste such as glycerol into lactic acid and hydrogen
- Official sources said that such catalysts also efficiently convert bioethanol, a low-energy density fuel, into high-



energy density butanol. The conversion of valuable intermediates such as glycerol and ethanol, produced during the processing of biomass, into industrially useful chemicals has elicited much interest worldwide.

#### **SpaceX Crew Dragon launches 4 astronauts to space station in 1st operational flight for NASA**

- SpaceX successfully launched its first operational space taxi flight for NASA Sunday, as a shiny white Falcon 9 rocket took to the skies above Kennedy Space Center here in Florida.
- The rocket lifted off from NASA's historic Pad 39 here at 7:27 p.m. EDT (0027 GMT on Nov. 16) carrying four astronauts in a Crew Dragon capsule to orbit, and then returned to Earth for a drone-ship landing in the Atlantic Ocean.
- SpaceX's Crew-1 Dragon, called Resilience, is bound for the International Space Station (ISS), but instead of the traditional crew supplies and research experiments its cargo variant normally carries, this spacecraft carried a different type of cargo into space: three NASA astronauts, Mike Hopkins, Victor Glover, Shannon Walker and Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi.

#### **First solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia to come up in Parbhani district**

- In Maharashtra, the first solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia is coming up in Parbhani district. The project, once functional, will provide jobs to many women in the district.
- The Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill will be the first in Asia that will operate on solar power. Spread across thirty acres of land the mill will process cotton to the cloth.
- Ginning, pressing, weaving and spinning of cotton will be done in the mill. Dr. Patil said the cost of the project is 100 crore rupees and the operationalization of the mill it will certainly give momentum to the industrial sector in the district.

#### **India's AI supercomputer Param Siddhi 63rd among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in world**

- India's Artificial Intelligence supercomputer Param Siddhi has achieved 63rd rank among the top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world. Ministry of Science and Technology in a statement said that the AI system will strengthen application development of packages in areas such as advanced materials, computational chemistry and astrophysics.
- It said several packages are being developed under the National Supercomputing Mission for drug design and

preventive health care system, flood forecasting package for flood prone metro cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Patna, and Guwahati. This will accelerate Research and Development in the war against COVID-19 through faster simulations, medical imaging, genome sequencing, and forecasting and will be a boon for Indian masses and for start-Ups and MSMEs in particular.

#### **Himachal Pradesh CM flags off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara**

- In order to provide a complete range of health care services for people living in remote and inaccessible areas of Himachal Pradesh, the state government today flagged off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara, from the Ridge in Shimla.
- While flagging off this Mobile Health and Wellness Unit, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said the van would function as a Mobile Primary Health Centre. He said free medical consultancy and screening would be provided to the patients through Jeevan Dhara Mobile Health and Wellness Centre. Jai Ram Thakur also flagged off TB Detection Vans on the occasion.
- Today, 10 such mobile vans were pressed into service to provide free health care to the people. Out of these vans, two each would be provided in Kangra, Mandi and Shimla districts and one each for Chamba, Kullu, Sirmaur and Solan districts.

#### **30th India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol took place between Nov 18-20**

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies are participating in the CORPAT.
- "As part of Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indian Navy has been involved in assisting countries in the Indian Ocean Region with EEZ Surveillance, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and other capacity building and capability-enhancement activities on their request," said the release.
- The release further stated that both countries have enjoyed a friendly relationship, covering a wide spectrum of activities and interactions.
- To reinforce maritime links, the navies of both nations have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line twice a year since 2005, with the



aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade.

#### **Indian Naval Ship Airavat arrives at Port of Mombasa, Kenya under mission Sagar II**

- In continuation of the ongoing humanitarian mission ‘Sagar-II’, Indian Naval Ship Airavat today arrived at Port of Mombasa, Kenya. The Government of India is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic, and towards the same INS Airavat is carrying food aid for the people of South Sudan.
- The Mission Sagar-II is aligned with Prime Minister’s vision of SAGAR -Security and Growth for All in the Region. It reiterates India’s position as a dependable partner in Indian Ocean Region with Indian Navy as the principal maritime agency and first responder in the maritime domain. The mission also highlights the importance accorded by India to relations with South Sudan and further strengthens the existing bond.

#### **New Zealand declares climate emergency, promises carbon neutral govt by 2025**

- New Zealand promised its public sector would become carbon neutral by 2025 as it declared a climate emergency on December 2, 2020, a symbolic move that critics said needed to be backed with greater actions to reduce emissions.
- Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the climate emergency declaration was based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s findings that to avoid more than 1.5 degree Celsius rise in global warming, emissions would need to fall by around 45% from 2010 levels by 2023 and reach zero by around 2050.

#### **The 7th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting held virtually on December 2, 2020**

- The 7th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting was held virtually on December 2, 2020. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of warmth against the backdrop of friendly India - Suriname relations. The JCM was co-chaired by Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan and Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, Albert R. Ramdin
- Both Ministers underscored the importance of this mechanism in deepening political dialogue, reviewing bilateral ties, and exchanging views on regional and multilateral cooperation
- The two Ministers acknowledged the importance of undertaking developmental projects under concessional

conditions, including through Lines of Credits, in the spirit of South-South cooperation.

#### **RIL Tops Fortune 500 List Of Indian Companies, IOC at Second Spot**

- Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd topped the Fortune 500 list of Indian companies, Fortune India announced on 3 December, 2020.
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, bagged the second spot, followed by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at the third, it said.
- The country's largest lender State Bank of India was in the fourth position, while India's second-biggest fuel retailer Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) took the fifth spot.
- The list was published by Fortune India, which is part of the Kolkata-based RP Sanjiv Goenka Group.
- Tata Motors was ranked sixth, followed by gold refiner Rajesh Exports at the seventh spot.
- India's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services took the eighth spot, while ICICI Bank was at ninth, and Larsen and Toubro at tenth.

#### **HAL-IISc Skill Development Centre launches its first training programme**

- HAL-IISc Skill Development Centre in Challakere of Chitradurga district in Karnataka launched its first training programme offering five courses in virtual mode.
- The programmes offered are in the niche engineering areas of aerospace, mechanical, electrical and electronic sectors, and in line with the “Make in India” mission. The experienced engineers, supervisors and faculty members of various technical institutes will be trained in the Centre. The trainees will spend more than 50 per cent of the course duration in labs, conducting experiments. Faculty members will be selected from Indian Institute of Science and other leading organisations including HAL.

#### **China successfully activated nuclear-powered ‘artificial sun’**

- China has successfully activated its so-called “artificial sun,” a nuclear fusion reactor that could fuel its energy ambitions for years to come — if they can make it more sustainable.
- China’s Atomic Energy Authority fired up its HL-2M Tokamak reactor for the first time on Friday, state-controlled media report. The brief test is being hailed as an important scientific achievement amid a global effort to develop safer, cleaner forms of nuclear energy.
- “The development of nuclear fusion energy is not only a way to solve China’s strategic energy needs, but also has great

significance for the future sustainable development of China's energy and national economy.”

#### **AYUSH Ministry and AIIMS set up Department of Integrative Medicine at AIIMS**

- The Ministry of AYUSH and AIIMS had decided to initiate work on setting up a Department of Integrative Medicine at AIIMS. This was decided in a joint visit and review by Secretary, AYUSH Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha and Director, AIIMS, New Delhi Dr. Randeep Guleria.
- It was decided that the Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research, CIMR, AIIMS may develop an integrated protocol with Ayurveda and Yoga for study on Post COVID treatment. Secretary AYUSH assured that the Ministry of AYUSH will strive to continue its support to CIMR till the dedicated Department is developed.

#### **UN food agency World Food Programme received Nobel prize in online event**

- The World Food Programme was received its Nobel Peace Prize on 10 December, 2020, in an event very different from the traditional pomp-filled celebration in the Norwegian capital because of the coronavirus outbreak.
- This year, 12 laureates were named across the six categories. All but the Peace Prize have been awarded over the past days at low-key ceremonies across Europe and the United States in the places where the winners live.
- A Nobel prize comes with a 10-million krona (USD 1.1 million) cash award — to be shared in some cases — diplomas and gold medals. Traditionally, the lavish Nobel ceremonies are all held December 10, the anniversary of the death of prize founder Alfred Nobel, in Stockholm, except for the Peace Prize that is held in Oslo, in neighboring Norway.

#### **325 cadets pass out from Indian Military Academy to serve the country**

- Indian Military Academy gave another batch of bravehearts to the Indian Army as 325 cadets passed out from the prestigious institute December 12, 2020 in Dehradun. After the final step the cadets became an integral part of the armed forces. 70 cadets from the nine friendly countries also passed out from the portals of IMA.
- The entire ceremony was conducted with due COVID precautions. While being conducted in a scaled down backdrop on account COVID, the Passing Out Parade retained ceremonial grandeur and regalia symbolic of this once in a lifetime moment for the proud Gentlemen Cadets.

#### **Karnataka CM unveils manure making machine Bhusiri and Bhu Mitra**

- The manure-making machine 'Bhu Siri' and soil testing equipment 'Bhu Mitra' developed by Hi-Tech Agriculture Chairman Dr. Nagaraj Hegde was unveiled by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa in Bengaluru. Our Correspondent says that both Bhu Siri and Bhu Mitra machines will be promoted by the state agriculture department to prevent farmers from burning stubble and other crop residue and benefit from organic farming.
- Bhu Siri machine uses farm waste to convert it into organic manure thereby preventing stubble burning by farmers. Instead of 40 to 60 days, the machine converts farm waste into organic manure instantly. The machine is mobile and can be taken to farmers' fields easily.

#### **1st service of Pawan Hans MI 17 Helicopter between Kargil to Srinagar starts**

- In Kargil, the first service of Pawan Hans MI 17 Helicopter between Kargil to Srinagar started on December 13 and lifted 13 passengers from Kargil to Srinagar and 14 from Srinagar to Kargil.
- The service will ease the issue of transportation during the winter season.
- The fare of this helicopter service is Rs 9,000 per passenger and anyone willing to avail the service can contact the Liaison officer Naib Tehsildar Kargil.

#### **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari lays foundation stone for NAEC Pvt Ltd in Hingna industrial area of Nagpur**

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on laid the foundation Stone for Nagpur Auto & Engineering Cluster Pvt Ltd (NAEC) in Hingna industrial area of Nagpur.
- The cluster approved under Cluster Development Plan of MSME comprises Micro Small Enterprises in Auto & Engineering Sector. Gadkari said, electric vehicles, CNG and LNG are the future of Automobiles in India, this cluster should play a pivotal role in making Nagpur an automobile hub.

#### **Maharashtra govt all set to launch 'MahaSharad' platform**

- Maharashtra's Department of Social Justice is all set to launch an ambitious scheme for distribution of assistive devices to lakhs of persons with disabilities through MahaSharad Digital Platform today to coincide with NCP chief Sharad Pawar's 80th birthday. It will be available on Play Store by March 2021.
- Maharashtra System for Health and Rehabilitation Assistance" or MahaSharad platform has been created to provide various devices to persons with disabilities free of cost through the Commissionerate for persons with Disability.

**ISRO launched communication satellite CMS-01 on December 17**

- The launch of communication satellite CMS-01 onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C50), is scheduled on December 17 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, the Indian Space Research Organisation
- "PSLV-C50, which is the 52nd mission of PSLV, will launch CMS-01 from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) of SatishDhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota. The launch is tentatively scheduled at 15:41 Hrs IST on December 17, 2020 subject to weather conditions," the space agency said.

**NITI Aayog released a white paper "Vision2035 Public Health Surveillance in India"**

- NITI Aayog released a white paper Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India. The white paper lays out India's vision for public health surveillance through the integration of the three-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat.
- It also spells out the need for expanded referral networks and enhanced laboratory capacity. The building blocks for this vision are an interdependent federated system of governance between the Centre and states.

**GRSE Kolkata launched 'Himgiri', its 1st Ship of Project 17A**

- Himgiri, which is the first of the three Project 17A ships being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata was launched.
- She made her first contact with the waters of Hoogly River
- In keeping with Naval traditions, Madhulika Rawat, spouse of the CDS launched the ship to the chanting of invocations from the Atharva Veda.
- Under the Project 17A program, a total of seven ships, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three ships at GRSE are being built with enhanced stealth features, advanced indigenous weapon and sensor fit along with several other improvements.

**Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla released book on 19th anniversary of Parliament attack**

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla released a book on occasion of 19th anniversary of the Parliament attack.
- He released the book 'The Shaurya Unbound' (English Version) and 'Samundar Samawe Boond Mein' (Hindi Version).
- A series of books has been planned to chronicle the life stories of CRPF bravehearts.
- The first book in this series is a collection of 13 most exemplary acts of valour of the force personnel.

**Ola to invest Rs.2,400 crore to set up largest e-scooter factory in the world**

- It has signed a memorandum of understanding with the government of Tamil Nadu in India to set up what it claims would be the "world's largest scooter manufacturing facility" in the South Indian state as the Indian ride-hailing firm begins a new push with electric vehicles.
- The Soft Bank-backed Indian ride-hailing firm said it will invest about \$327 million in setting up the factory, which it says would create almost 10,000 jobs and have an initial capacity to produce 2 million electric vehicles in a year.

**PM Modi to inaugurate 6th edition of India International Science Festival 2020**

- Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan also present at the event. According to the website narendramodi.in, launched in 2015, the IISF is a festival to encourage science and technology. The goal is to connect the public with research, celebrate the joy of science and demonstrate how Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) will offer solutions for improving lives.
- The aim of the IISF 2020 is to help young people build skills in the 21st century with an emphasis on science awareness, innovation, critical thought, problem-solving and teamwork. The long-term goal is to inspire students to research and work in the science field.
- Minister said that the International Science Festival will begin on 22 December and will end on 25 December.

**12th GRIHA Summit concludes with awards ceremony and valedictory session**


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- The second day of the 12th GRIHA Summit witnessed the presentation of the rating and exemplary performance awards to SVAGRIHA, GRIHA and GRIHA LD projects.
- The theme of the Summit was “Rejuvenating Resilient Habitats”. It is the annual flagship event organized by GRIHA Council in association with ‘key stakeholders in the construction industry’ to discuss and deliberate on the furtherance of Sustainable Habitat Development in India.
- Shri Habeeb Khan congratulated the initiative by GRIHA and TERI, stating that the pandemic has not broken the world, but shown us how broken it actually was, making the theme of the Summit valid and pertinent in the current time and context. He went on to add that it was time to introspect and consider what the way forward should be and that conferences like the GRIHA Summit help fuel thought in the right direction.

#### **ISRO opened Regional Academic Centre for Space at IIT Varanasi**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will establish a Regional Academic Centre for Space at IIT-Varanasi to facilitate short and long term projects at the institute.
- ISRO and the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Wednesday and the move can help propel the culture of research and development among students, the statement said.

#### **Centre started contest for strengthening digital network platform 'CoWIN' for Covid-19 vaccine distribution**

- The government launched a technology contest to invite solutions from IT companies and start-ups to strengthen the digital platform CoWIN, which will be used for rolling out and scaling up Covid vaccine distribution across the country
- The government is enhancing use of the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) system, which provides real-time information on vaccine stocks and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country to address the needs for distribution and tracking of Covid-19 vaccine.

#### **Niti Aayog Launched Made-in-India Cloud Storage Service 'DigiBoxx'**

- NITI Aayog has launched indigenously developed India's first Digital Asset Management and Storage platform, called 'DigiBoxx'.
- The home-grown DigiBoxx was launched by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on 22 December.

- The initiative will give a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', as India now has its own cloud storage platform.
- This cloud storage and file sharing service will be available for desktop, iOS, and Android users, including both regular users as well as businesses.
- DigiBoxx offers free 20GB cloud storage space, and 100GB space per month at just Rs 30.

#### **Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched E-Sampada web portal and mobile app on Good Governance Day**

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched E-Sampada, a new web portal and mobile app on Good Governance Day.
- The new application provides a single window for all the services including allotment for over one lakh government residential accommodations, office space allotment to government organisations in 45 office complexes in 28 cities and booking of 1,176 holiday home rooms.
- The portal provides online facility to users across India to lodge complaints, submit documents and appear for virtual hearing.

#### **Indian humanitarian assistance ship arrives at Vietnam's Nha Rong Port as a part of Mission Sagar-III**

- Naval Ship Kiltan, carrying humanitarian assistance, arrived at Vietnam's Nha Rong Port, Ho Chi Minh City yesterday to deliver 15 tonnes of relief material for flood-affected people.
- The assistance is as a part of Mission Sagar-III, India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries during the ongoing pandemic.
- The ship will deliver 15 Tons of HADR Stores for the flood-affected people of Central Vietnam, which will be handed over to Vietnam's Central Steering Committee for National Disaster Prevention and Control.

#### **Punjab Government launches mobile app and web portal 'PR Insight'**

- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh launched Mobile Application and web portal called 'PR Insight' on 23 December 2020, to improve the delivery of citizen centric services, based upon the feedback of its citizens on government policies.
- The basic objective of PR Insight is to re-orient the existing schemes and programmes of the state government to the people's satisfaction after meticulously monitoring their feedback.



- The app will monitor the citizens feedback and subsequently ensure responsive and transparent administration in the State.
- The 'PR Insight' app has been developed by the Information & Public Relations Department.

#### **FASTag mandatory for all vehicles from January 1**

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced on December 24, that FASTag will be mandatory for all vehicles in the country from January 1.
- Enumerating its benefits, he said, FASTag is useful for commuters as they will not need to stop at toll plazas for cash payments, adding that it will also save time and fuel.
- The FASTags were launched in 2016, and four banks together issued nearly a lakh of them. By 2017, their numbers went up to seven lakh.
- Over 34 lakh FASTags were issued in 2018. The Road Transport Ministry had in November this year issued a notification also making FASTag mandatory from January 1, 2021, for old vehicles or that were sold before December 1, 2017.

#### **India's first Lithium refinery to be set up in Gujarat**

- India's first Lithium refinery is soon going to be set up in Gujarat.
- Manikaran Power Limited, one of the country's largest power trading and renewable energy company will invest around Rs 1,000 crore to set up this refinery.
- The refinery will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material.
- The company will import Lithium ore from Australia and will be processing in Gujarat.
- Lithium is a rare element and is usually not found in India.

#### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate India's first-ever driverless train in Delhi Metro**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first-ever driverless train operations on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line on Monday through video conferencing.
- The driverless trains will be fully automated, which will eliminate the possibility of human error. After the start of driverless services on the Magenta Line between Janakpuri West to Botanical Garden, the Pink Line of Delhi Metro is expected to have driverless operations by the mid of 2021
- The Prime Minister will also inaugurate the fully operational National Common Mobility Card service on the Airport Express Line. This will enable anyone carrying a RuPay Debit Card issued from any part of the country to travel on the Airport Express Line using that card. This facility will become available on the entire Delhi Metro network by 2022.

#### **Road Transport and Highways Ministry extends validity of vehicular documents like DLs, RCs, Permits etc till 31st March 2021**

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had extended the validity of vehicular documents like DLs, RCs, Permits etc till 31st March 2021 in the light of need to prevent spread of COVID -19. The Ministry has today issued a directory to the States and Union Territory administrations in this regard.
- The Ministry had earlier issued advisories on 30th March, 9th June and 24th August this year regarding extension of validity of documents related to Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. It was advised that the validity of Fitness, Permit (all types), License, Registration or any other concerned documents may be treated to be valid till 31st December this year.

#### **Indian submarine INS Sindhuvir inducted into Myanmar navy**

- Myanmar on December 25 officially inducted submarine handed over by India in the month of October. INS Sindhuvir was commissioned as UMS Minye Theinkhathu and inducted on the 73rd anniversary of the Myanmar Navy. During the commissioning ceremony, Indian ambassador to Myanmar Saurabh Kumar was also present along with top brass of Myanmar's Navy.
- The kilo class submarine has a displacement of 3000 tonnes, a diving depth of 300 meters and top speed at 20 knots. UMS Minye Theinkhathu is named after an ancient warrior and can operate for 45 days. It is equipped with 40 km range wire-guided torpedoes and 3M-54 Klub anti-ship cruise missiles. Myanmar has built a submarine base for it in a highly classified location.

#### **PM Modi inaugurated country's first ever driverless metro train in Delhi**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had stressed that rapid urbanisation must be seen as an opportunity rather than as a challenge.
- He said, this opportunity can provide the platform to build better infrastructure in the country and improving the ease of living.
- Mr. Modi today flagged off India's first ever driverless train operations on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line which will connect Janakpuri West to Botanical Garden metro stations.
- He also inaugurated the fully operational National Common Mobility Card service on the Airport Express Line.

- The National Common Mobility Card will enable the passengers to travel on the Airport Express Line using the RuPay-Debit Card issued from any part of the country.

#### **Delhi airport Terminal 3 gets passenger tracking system to manage movement, waiting time amid COVID-19**

- The aircraft movement is currently being handled only by Terminals 2 and 3 of the Delhi due to reduced flight operations as compared to pre-COVID levels.
- Keeping in mind the threat from the coronavirus pandemic, Terminal 3 at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi has introduced a new passenger tracking system or PTS. According to a report by news agency PTI, the PTS would aid in better management of the flow of passengers, while also ensuring social distancing and reducing the waiting time. The terminal has introduced a queue management system called Xovis PTS which would display waiting time at various places like security check and check-in in real-time. This would be displayed on various screens set up across the terminal, the report cited DIAL, the operator of the Delhi airport, as saying.

#### **International Blue Flag hoisted at 8 beaches across the Country.**

- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar today virtually hoisted the international blue flags in 8 beaches across the country. India secured the International Blue Flag Certification for these beaches on 6th October 2020.
- Blue Flag certification is a globally recognised eco-label accorded by "Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark" based on 33 stringent criteria.
- The Environment Minister further informed that hundreds more such beaches will be made Blue Flag in coming 3-4 years and highlighted that cleaning beaches needs to be made a "Jan Andolan" not only for its aesthetic value and tourism prospects, but more importantly towards reducing the menace of marine litter and making coastal environment sustainable.

#### **Skyroot Aerospace becomes first Indian company to successfully test fire solid-fueled rocket engine**

- Indian Space startup, Skyroot Aerospace had successfully test fired a solid propulsion rocket engine, named Kalam-5

- With this, it had become the first private company of India to successfully design, develop and test a full solid-fueled rocket stage.
- This crucial propulsion technology will be used for their maiden rocket Vikram-1, which is under active manufacturing and is targeted to be launched in December 2021 with the help of ISRO.
- Kalam is a series of five solid-fueled rocket engines with a thrust ranging from 5kN to 1000kN (approx 100Tons).
- The remaining four motors are in various stages of manufacturing and will be tested in 2021.

#### **Union Territory of Ladakh gets its own meteorological centre**

- A meteorological centre was inaugurated in the Union Territory of Ladakh which would provide localised weather forecasts thus strengthening weather-related early warning system for the region. At 3,500 metres, this meteorological centre is the highest such facility in India, Union Earth Sciences Minister Harsh Vardhan said at the inauguration of the facility.
- He said it will provide short range (three days,) medium range (12 days) and long range (one month) forecast for the two districts -- Leh and Kargil -- of the Union Territory.
- The region is unique in terms of weather, climate, culture, topography with extreme temperatures, ranging from minus 40 degrees Celsius in Drass to scanty average precipitation of 10 centimetres annually, which makes the region a distinct cold desert, he said.

#### **Union health minister Harsh Vardhan launches India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine 'Pneumosil'**

- Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated India's first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine "Pneumosil", which has been developed by the Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIPL) in collaboration with partners like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- As per an official release, recognizing SIPL as the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines by number of doses and its contribution to India's economy, Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that Serum Institute's vaccines are used in 170 countries and every third child in the world is immunized with the manufacturer's vaccine.

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### Turkey, U.S. in talks to discuss sanctions imposed over Turkey's purchase of S-400s

- Turkey and the United States are engaged in talks to form a joint working group that would take up the issue of sanctions that Washington imposed on its ally over its purchase of an advanced Russian air defense system, Turkey's foreign minister said Wednesday.
- In a year-end news conference assessing Turkish foreign policy, Mevlut Cavusoglu also told journalists that Turkey wants "healthier" relations with the United States under President-elect Joe Biden's administration.
- The U.S. announced sanctions earlier this month to penalize Turkey over its procurement of Russia's advanced S-400 system, under a U.S. law known as CAATSA which aims to push back on Russian influence. It was the first time that CAATSA had been used to penalize a U.S. ally.

### Govt approves export of indigenous Akash missile system

- The government had approved the export of the indigenous Akash missile system. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had welcomed the move and said it will help India increase its revenue from defence export. Mr Singh said, under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat, India is growing in its capabilities of manufacturing wide variety of Defence platforms and missiles.
- The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister approved the export of Akash Missile System and a Committee for faster Approvals has been created. Mr Singh said the Akash missile system is an important defence asset for the country with over 96 per cent indigenization.
- Developed by DRDO, it is India's first indigenously designed missile system and can target fighter jets, cruise missiles, drones and other aerial assets.
- Mr Singh said, the export version of Akash will be different from System currently deployed with Indian Armed Forces.

### PM to laid foundation stone of AIIMS at Rajkot on 31st December

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS at Rajkot, Gujarat tomorrow morning through video conferencing.
- For the project, 201 acres of land has been allotted. It will be built at an estimated cost One thousand One hundred 95 crore rupees and is expected to be completed by mid of 2022.
- The state-of-the-art 750 bed hospital will also have a 30 bed AAYUSH block. It will have 125 MBBS seats and 60 nursing seats.

### Indian and French Rafales to carried out SKYROS wargames in Jodhpur

- In a major development amid the ongoing border conflict with China, Rafale fighter jets of India and France will carry out wargames codenamed Exercise SKYROS in Jodhpur in the third week of January next year.
- "The French Air Force Rafale fighters would be coming to Jodhpur for the SKYROS wargames which would see them flying with Indian Rafales from the 17 Squadron and the Su-30MKI fighters deployed there."
- This would be the first major wargame of the Indian Air Force (IAF) involving the Rafale fighters which were inducted into the service in August 2020 by the Narendra Modi-led Government.
- The wargames being conducted are different from the routine Garuda series exercises that the two sides have been carrying out for more than a decade now and would see some complex manoeuvres being carried out by the fighters of both sides, the sources said. India had last carried out a major exercise with the French Air Force in July 2019 where the Indian Sukhois had flown with the French Rafales.

### Govt launched Global Pravasi Rishta portal & mobile App to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world

- Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan launched the Global Pravasi Rishta portal and mobile App, to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world.
- In a tweet, the Minister yesterday said, the portal will act as a dynamic communication platform between our pravasis, the Ministry of External Affairs and missions abroad and will help in engaging Indian diaspora more intensively.

### DRDO and Indian Navy conducted successful maiden trial of SAHAYAK-NG air-droppable container

- The DRDO along with the Indian Navy has conducted a successful maiden trial of the SAHAYAK-NG air-droppable container from an IL-38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa, an official statement said on Wednesday. SAHAYAK-NG is India's first indigenously designed and developed air-droppable container, said the Defence Ministry's statement.
- It is aided by GPS, can carry a payload of up to 50 kg and can be dropped from a heavy aircraft, the ministry said.
- Two labs of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and private company Avantel were involved in its design and development.
- It reduces the requirement of ships to come close to the coast to collect spares and stores, the ministry stated.

## SPORTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- In US Open Tennis, Japan's Naomi Osaka defeated Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in the Women's Singles final to clinch her third Grand Slam title. The fourth seed, Osaka, overcame her unseeded opponent 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in one hour 53 minute inside Arthur Ashe Stadium at Flushing Meadows in New York.
- It brought 22-year old Osaka's haul of tennis major trophies to three after her victories at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open.

- With this, the Japanese has become the first Asian player to win three Grand Slam singles titles and also moved up to number 3 in the world rankings.

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### **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.

### • **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).

### • **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.

### • **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **BCCI announces Jio as title sponsor of Women's T20 Challenge 2020**
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced Reliance Jio as the title sponsor of the Women's T20 Challenge 2020.
- This is the first time a sponsor is partnering with the BCCI exclusively for the women's counterpart to the IPL.
- The women's T20 challenge is scheduled to run from November 4-9 in Sharjah.
- **Indian boxers Amit Panghal, Sanjeet and Ashish Kumar win gold at the Alexis Vastine International 2020**
- Indian boxers Amit Panghal, Sanjeet and Ashish Kumar have claimed gold medals at the 2020 Alexis Valentine International Boxing Tournament held in Nantes, France. This was the first international tournament in which Indian boxers were a part, since the lockdown.
- Amit Panghal won the gold in the 52 kg-weight category, Sanjeet won in the 91 kg final bout Ashish Kumar won the gold medal in the 75 kg weight category. Apart from this, Kavinder Singh Bisht, won silver in the 57 kg weight category.
- Three Indian boxers namely Shiva Thapa (63 kg), Sumit Sangwan (81 kg) and Satish Kumar (Over 91 kg) had secured the bronze medals for India
- **Shane Watson retires from all forms of cricket**
- Australian all-rounder, Shane Watson has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

- The 39-year-old will hang up his boots after an illustrious career during which he won two ICC Men's Cricket World Cups and two ICC Champions Trophy titles.
- He played 59 Tests, 190 ODIs and 58 T20Is.

#### **West Indies batsman M. Samuels retires from all forms of cricket**

- West Indies batsman, Marlon Samuels has announced his retirement from professional cricket.
- The 39-year-old had informed Cricket West Indies (CWI) about his retirement in June this year, having last played for his country in December 2018 against Bangladesh.
- He has played 71 Tests, 207 ODIs, and 67 T20s at the international level, has scored 11,134 international runs including 17 centuries across all formats. He also has 152 international wickets to his name.

#### **Women's T-20 Challenger gets underway in Sharjah**

- The Third Season of the Women's T20 Challenge began with defending champions Supernovas taking on Velocity in Sharjah. India T20I captain Harmanpreet Kaur led defending champions the Supernovas and take on Mithali Raj-led Velocity.
- This tournament, like previous editions, will take place during the IPL playoffs. The three teams - Supernovas, Velocity and Trailblazers - are set to play three matches in Sharjah, with the final scheduled on 9th of November at the same venue.
- Following the Corona virus pandemic, the Indian Women's team hasn't played any competitive cricket since the T20 World Cup final against Australia which was played on 8th of March.

#### **Novak Djokovic equals Pete Sampras' year-end World No. 1 record**

- Tennis star Novak Djokovic yet again clinched year-end world number one ranking, his record sixth time after the Sofia Open draw was published on November 6, 2020.
- With this, the 33-year-old player has equaled the record of American Tennis great Pete Sampras, who ended with world number one ranking for six straight years between 1993 and 1998.
- Pete Sampras was somebody Djokovic looked up to when he was growing up and so to match his record is a dream come true for the Serbian player. Djokovic was the year-end world no.1 champion previously in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2018.

#### **Russian Daniil Medvedev wins Paris Master 2020**

- Russian, Daniil Medvedev has won Paris Master 2020 title in tennis when he beat Alexander Zverev 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 in Paris. He became the fourth Russian to capture the Rolex Paris Masters title.

- The World No. 5 earned his first service break at 4-4 in the second set and charged to the title from that point by winning eight of the final nine games.
- Medvedev joins countrymen Marat Safin, Nikolay Davydenko and Karen Khachanov on the Paris honour roll.

#### **Mumbai Indians clinch 5th IPL title by beating Delhi Capitals**

- Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by five wickets in the final of Indian Premier League 2020.
- With this win, Mumbai added a fifth IPL title to their kitty, more than any other team in the 13-year history of the league.

#### **Sports Ministry announces new incentive structure to fund 500 private academies**

- In a first-ever move, the Sports Ministry has introduced an incentivisation structure to extend monetary support to 500 private academies, through the Khelo India Scheme over the next four years starting FY 2020-21.
- In this model, private academies shall be graded into different categories based on quality achievement of players trained by the academy, level of coaches available at the academy, quality of Field of Play and allied infrastructure, availability of sports science facilities and staff. The 14 priority disciplines identified for excellence in 2028 Olympics will be eligible for receiving support in the first phase.
- Speaking of the decision, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri. Kiren Rijiju said, "It is important for the government to extend support to these institutions so that sporting talent can be groomed even in the most remote areas of the country. There are a lot of small academies in various parts of the country that are doing very good work in identifying and training athletes. This move aims to encourage all academies, especially the private academies to continue improving the level of infrastructure, resources and sports science support so that athletes can get best in class training."

#### **Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Turkish Grand Prix 2020**

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Turkish Grand Prix 2020 at Istanbul Park, Turkey. Sergio Perez (Racing Point-BWT- Mexico) secured the second position and Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari finished third.
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- This was Hamilton 10th victory of the season and 94th F1 win of his career. With this win, he claimed the seventh Formula One championships title of his career to equal the record of Michael Schumacher.

#### **Sports Ministry sanctions Rs 10 lakh for the treatment of hockey Olympian Mohinder Pal Singh**

- Sports Ministry has sanctioned Rs 10 lakh towards the treatment of hockey Olympian Mohinder Pal Singh, who is suffering from a chronic kidney ailment and is currently on dialysis.

- The money, sanctioned under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons, was given to his wife Shivjeet Singh.
- Mr. Singh, who was the coach of the Indian Hockey team, was an outstanding hockey player who represented India at various international events, including the 1988 Summer Olympics.
- He was also a member of the Indian Hockey team that won the Asian Cup in 2007.

#### **FIFA cancels Women's Under-17 football World Cup; India to host 2022 edition**

- The Women's Under-17 football World Cup in India, which was initially postponed to next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was canceled by FIFA yesterday, but India was handed the hosting rights of the 2022 edition.
- The FIFA canceled both the women's U-17 World Cup and U-20 World Cup which were scheduled to be held in India and Costa Rica respectively but handed both the countries the hosting rights of the 2022 editions.
- All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel said the local organizing committee is ready to start afresh for hosting the 2022 edition.
- In light of the current global COVID-19 pandemic and its continuing impact on football, the Bureau of the FIFA Council has taken a number of decisions related to FIFA competitions.

#### **Sudeep Tyagi announces retirement from all forms of cricket**

- Cricketer Sudeep Tyagi on Tuesday announced his retirement from all forms of the game.
- Tyagi represented India in four ODIs and a T20I. Announcing his decision to hang up his boots, the 33-year-old said he achieved every player's dream by playing for the country.
- "I want to thank each one of you who has supported me. I have achieved what is every player's dream to represent the country and wear the Indian flag is a dream I lived. I now announce my retirement from all formats of cricket and will continue to play as and where opportunity rises," Tyagi said in a Twitter post.
- "I want to thank MS Dhoni under whom I played my first ODI. I thank my role models Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina,

RP Singh alongside whom I had the opportunity to debut my career for UPCA, my first coach Sir Vipin Vats who laid my foundation, and my first Ranji Trophy coach Gyanendra Pandey," he added.

- The former pacer later thanked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), his coaches, and support staff. "I thank each and every BCCI official, my coaches, teammates, team management, and support staff," Tyagi said.

#### **BCCI announces MPL Sports as Official Kit Sponsor**

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced its partnership with Mobile Premier League (MPL) Sports, the athleisure wear and sports merchandise brand from Mobile Premier League, India's largest esports platform, as the new kit sponsor and official merchandise partner for the Indian Cricket Team.
- MPL Sports has entered into a three-year agreement from November 2020 to December 2023.
- MPL Sports' association with the BCCI begins with upcoming India's tour of Australia, 2020-21, which will see Team India sporting the new jerseys.

#### **Lewis Hamilton's win at Bahrain Grand Prix overshadowed by Grosjean's huge crash**

- Newly-crowned seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton had taken his 11th victory of the 2020 season, winning out over the Red Bull pair of Max Verstappen and Alex Albon at the Bahrain Grand Prix – in a race whose start was overshadowed by a horror crash for Haas' Romain Grosjean.
- Grosjean's Haas car plunged into the barriers at Turn 3 on Lap 1, the Frenchman emerging from the fiery remains of his cockpit before being airlifted to hospital with suspected broken ribs and minor burns – but thankfully nothing more serious than that – with a lengthy red flag period ensuing as the barriers were repaired after what had been a horrible incident

#### **England's Dawid Malan achieves highest-ever rating points in T20I**

- England's Dawid Malan had accomplished the highest-ever rating points for batsmen in the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings following a tremendous performance against South Africa in the recently concluded T20I series.

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- Malan finished the three-match leg as the leading run-scorer (173 runs). The left-handed batsman has now reached 915 points to become the first-ever player to cross the 900-point mark after Australian skipper Aaron Finch who achieved 900 points in July 2018.
- Malan is ahead with 44 points over Pakistan's Babar Azam, whom he surpassed to become number one T20 batsman in September this year.

#### **Kiren Rijiju launched 2nd edition of Fit India Cyclothon**

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju had launched the second edition of Fit India Cyclothon via social media. The mega cycling event which started yesterday will run for 25 days till 31st December.
- The event will be held across the country in each district and citizens can participate by registering on Fit India website, cycle daily a distance of their choice, and share their images and videos on social media. They may tag @FitIndiaOff and use the hashtag - FitIndiaCyclothon and #NewIndiaFitIndia.

#### **New Zealand all-rounder Corey Anderson retires from international cricket**

- New Zealand all-rounder Corey Anderson, has announced his retirement from New Zealand cricket, as he confirmed to quit from international cricket.
- Anderson rose to fame after scoring fastest 100 in the history of One Day International cricket (ODI), in 36-ball against West Indies in January 2014.
- However this record was broken by AB de Villiers, in January 2015 who scored the fastest ODI century against the West Indies in Johannesburg in 31 balls.
- The 29-year-old, Anderson has played 13 Tests, 49 ODIs and 31 T20Is for New Zealand, scoring 2277 runs with two hundreds and 10 half-centuries and 90 wickets.
- Anderson has signed a 3-year contract with Major League Cricket (MLC) in the USA, where he will serve in the Major and Minor League Cricket and coaching ventures at the cricket academies that come under the MLC.

#### **Govt to start 1000 Khelo India small centres to encourage sports culture in country**

- Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, said that the government had made various policy changes and taken up initiatives to encourage and support sportspersons and the sporting community even after they retire.
- Addressing the 10th Global Sports Summit, TURF 2020, organized by FICCI, Mr.Rijiju said, that we are also starting 1000 Khelo India small centres across the country that will help retired sports persons get employment or some role in shaping the sports culture of the country.

#### **Max Verstappen won F1 season finale in flawless drive at Abu Dhabi GP**

- After a gruelling 17-race season, Formula One came to a close with Max Verstappen's win at the Abu Dhabi Grand

Prix and Lewis Hamilton wanting to complete one final piece of business before Christmas.

- The world champion has yet to renew his contract with Mercedes but the deal that will take the sport's most successful driver into 2021 is expected to be completed in the next two weeks.

#### **Rourkela gears up to host FIH Men's Hockey World Cup India 2023**

- After the stupendous success of Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup in 2018 and the scale at which it was hosted, FIH had announced last year that the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup will be hosted in Odisha, for a second consecutive time, at two venues, Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.
- After the Olympics, the Hockey World Cup is the most important tournament in hockey and there is already excitement galore amongst hockey lovers especially from Sundergarh and Rourkela region.

#### **Mate Pavic, Bruno Soares won men's doubles title at 2020 US Open**

- Croatia's Mate Pavic and Brazil's Bruno Soares captured the US Open men's doubles crown with a 7-5, 6-3 win over eighth seeds Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands and Nikola Mektic of Croatia on Thursday.
- In their first Grand Slam men's doubles final as a team, Pavic did damage with his powerful serve while Soares did well to force their opponents into difficult shots and they sealed the win when Mektic sent a backhand volley into the net.

#### **MS Dhoni captain of ICC's white-ball teams of decade, Kohli voted skipper of Test side**

- The legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni was named captain of ICC's ODI and T20 International teams of the decade while Virat Kohli stamped his pre-eminence in world cricket after being voted the skipper of the Test team.
- Indians dominated the limited-over teams by having three and four players in the ODI and T20I respectively while England have maximum number of players (4) in the Test side.

#### **FIFA cancelled next year's U-20, U-17 World Cups**

- FIFA has cancelled men's U-20 and U-17 World Cup tournaments in 2021 for the novel coronavirus.
- As a result the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of the FIFA Council has decided to cancel the 2021 editions of the men's FIFA U-20 World Cup and FIFA U-17 World Cup, and to appoint Indonesia and Peru respectively, who were due to host the tournaments in 2021, as the hosts of the 2023 editions.
- So Peru will host the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2023. In the same year, the FIFA U-20 World Cup will be held by Indonesia.



## AGREEMENTS AND MOU

### September 2020

Signed between	Date signed	Purpose	Venue
IIT Guwahati and University of Pardubice, Czech Republic	2nd September 2020	To work together towards data protection project. Under the project, both the institutes will develop indigenous algorithms to protect country's digital data from cyber-attacks.	
IIT Roorkee with NIUA	4th September 2020	To work in the areas of universal design principles and to have the development of BASIIC (Building Accessible SafeInclusive Indian Cities), which is the initiative programme of NIUA.	
Himachal Pradesh Government and the World Bank	7th September 2020	\$82 mn loan deal for HP State Roads Transformation Project. The project aims to strengthen road safety and transport institutions in the state.	
National Skill Development Corporation and LinkedIn	9th September 2020	To impart digital skills to youth using free learning resources of LinkedIn.	
India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) (GOI), Government of West Bengal and AIIB	9th September 2020	\$500 mn agreement for Delhi-Meerut Corridor.	West Bengal
India and Japan	10th September 2020	Mutual logistics support arrangement for Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Armed Forces of India and The Self-Defense Forces of Japan.	
IFSCA with IGPC of IIM Ahmedabad	12th September 2020	To establish IBE in India and IGPC-IIMA will be the knowledge partner in this establishment of IBE in India.	
SBI General insurance and Yes Bank	15th September 2020	To distribute SBI General Insurance Company's products to the customers of Yes Bank.	
Titan and SBI	16th September 2020	For the launch of Titan Pay which will be first contactless payment watches in the country.	

Common Service Centers and Whatsapp	17th September 2020	For a Whatsapp Chatbot to empower rural communities through digital literacy.	
Ministry of Women and Child Development	20th September 2020	To combat malnutrition under POSHAN Abhiyan. Thus they will integrate AYUSH into POSHAN Abhiyan and will control malnutrition through Ayurveda, Yoga and AYUSH mechanisms.	
India's National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Singapore Exchange Ltd (SGX)	22nd September 2020	Agreement to confirm key points to operationalize NSE International Finance Service Centre and SGX Connect.	
West Bengal Government and UK India Business Council (UKIBC)	25th September 2020	To strengthen industrial development and business in West Bengal.	Virtual Meeting

**October 2020**

Signed between	Date signed	Purpose	Venue
NITI Aayog and Embassy of Netherland	1st October 2020	To support Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda for utilising and accommodating cleaner and more energy.	-
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with Swiggy	5th October 2020	They will be offered with training related to hygiene packing system, technology and menu digitization.	-
ISLRTC and NCERT	6th October 2020	To the students having difficulty in speaking or hearing and will thus lead to educate and empower differently abled students.	-
IFFCO and Prasar Bharti	6th October 2020	To make Indian Farmers self-reliant and to make them aware about latest innovation.	Prithi Bhavan, New Delhi
NABARD signs 3 MoU with SBI	7th October 2020	To offer finance for joint liability group, SHG ,Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) and Watershed development projects.	-
Telangana Gov. and GlobalLinker	19th October 2020	To support MSMEs in Telangana in order to raise equity funds.	-
Cochin Shipyard Ltd signed MoU with Fincantieri S.P.A.	28th October 2020	To achieve the cooperation in the areas of Design, Shipbuilding, ship repayments, marine equipment manufacturing, training and skills development to manpower.	-
ICSSR signs pact with European	28th October	To perform research activities in collaboration with	-

Commission	2020	European researchers who are supported by the European Research Council (ERC).	
India and Japan	7th October 2020	MoC in the field of cyber security.	-
India and Australia	14th October 2020	For collaboration in research and development, capacity building, and making impact for sustainable groundwater management.	-
Institute of Chartered Accounts of India (ICAI) and CPA PNG (Certified Practising Accountants, Papua New Guinea)	21st October 2020	For working together in capacity to build and strengthen the Accounting, Audit Knowledge and Financial base in Papua New Guinea.	-

**November 2020**

Signed Between	Date Signed	Purpose	Venue
IISc signs MoU with Indian Oil	1st November 2020	To optimize both biomass gasification and hydrogen purification processes.	-
Prasar Bharti signed MoU with BISAG-N	4th November 2020	To launch DTH educational TV channels to all DD free dish viewers.	-
AAI signed MoU with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN)	5th November 2020	To promote the use of electric vehicles and setting up solar power plants at airports of AAI.	-
Four Agreements signed between India and Maldives	10th November 2020	The four MOUs were signed for cooperation in sports and youth affairs; connectivity project, setting of plant and soil testing labs.	--
EESL signed MoU with DNRE, Goa	17th November 2020	To discuss and plan the implementation of India's first 100 MW decentralized solar convergence project.	-
GOI signs MoU for Compressed Bio-Gas Plants	20th November 2020	To set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) Plants all over India.	-
FICCI FLO signs MoU with IESC of IIM Shillong	22th November 2020	To build initial startup cost and will thus help to establish a business in a short time span.	-
India signs MoU with Finland	26th November 2020	To develop technological, scientific and management based capabilities which will conserve the biodiversity and will enhance environmental protection.	-
India and Israel	4th November 2020	For cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.	-

India's CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organization) and the United Kingdom Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (UK MHRA)	4th November 2020	For cooperation in medical Product Regulation.	-
Ministry of Communications, India and UK Government's Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS)	4th November 2020	For cooperation in the area of Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).	-

**December 2020**

Signed Between	Date Signed	Purpose	Venue
Government of Punjab with International Digital Health-Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative (I-DAIR)	29th November 2020	To develop digital technologies and infrastructures in the health sector.	-
India and the United States of America	2nd December 2020	To enhance cooperation in Intellectual Property (IP).	New Delhi
Karnataka Regional Office of NABARD with SBI	2nd December 2020	To provide finance facility for watershed development projects and tribal development projects.	Bengaluru
Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) with NABARD	3rd December 2020	To work collaboratively to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors to bring better value to the stakeholders.	-
Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) with SJVN Limited	7th December 2020	To build renewable energy projects for the next five years.	Delhi
NTPC Ltd (National Thermal Power Corporation) with Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)	7th December 2020	To implement the Narmada Landscape Restoration Project.	Bhopal
National Backward Classes	7th December	To provide the Interest subvention to the holders	New Delhi



Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) with Central Bank of India	2020	under VISVAS Yojana.	
India and Uzbekistan	11th December 2020	Signed nine agreements in a virtual summit held to discuss bilateral relations of both nations.	New Delhi
MoRTH With Austria	9th December 2020	To develop bilateral cooperation in areas like Road Transportation, Road/Highways infrastructure development, management and administration, Road safety and Intelligent Transport Systems.	New Delhi
Ola With Tamil Nadu Government	14th December 2020	To set up Ola's first factory in the state. Ola will be setting up its largest electric scooter manufacturing unit in the world.	Chennai
Norway Signs MoU With Clean Ganga Mission	14th December 2020	To develop the sludge management framework in India.	Delhi
India & Austria	19th December 2020	To have Technology Cooperation in Road Infrastructure Sector.	New Delhi
India and ADB	18th December 2020	For preparation of infrastructure development projects in order to develop urban amenities and for developing tourism infra in the state.	Tripura

## COMMITTEES IN NEWS

### Committee (September 2020)

Committee	Headed by	Purpose
<b>Government gives one-year extension to Company Law Committee</b>	Rajesh Verma	Functioning of the <b>National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)</b> and make recommendations on various issues pertaining to implementation of the <b>Companies Act as well as the Limited Liability Partnership Act.</b>
<b>National Cyber Security Coordinator to study the revelations in China Watching</b>	Rajesh Pant	<b>The expert committee, led by Lt Gen (retd) Rajesh Pant, India's chief coordinator on cyber security,</b> will evaluate the "implications" of the digital surveillance by Data Information Technology Co. Limited and "assess any violations of law and submit its recommendations within thirty days."
<b>Assessment of relief to bank borrower</b>	Former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi	Will measure the impact on the national economy and financial stability of waiving of interest and COVID-19 related

		<p>moratorium.</p> <p>It will also give suggestions to mitigate financial constraints of various sections of society in this respect and measures to be adopted in this regard.</p>
<b>NITI Aayog preparing Multidimensional Poverty index</b>	Ms Sanyukta Samaddar	<p>“<b>Global Indices to Drive Reforms and Growth (GIRG)</b>” exercise is to fulfil the need to measure and monitor India’s performance on various important social and economic parameters and enable the utilisation of these Indices as tools for self-improvement, bring about reforms in policies, while improving last-mile implementation of government schemes.</p>
<b>4G internet services in J&amp;K</b>	<b>Ministry of Home Affairs</b>	<p>SC A bench comprising Justices <b>N V Ramana, Justices R Subhash Reddy and B R Gavai</b> said the committee would also include the Chief Secretary of the UT and the Secretary of Ministry of Communications to look into the demands by petitioners seeking restoration of 4G internet speed there.</p>
<b>Parliament’s Public Accounts Committee</b>	<b>Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury</b>	<p>Members of the public accounts committee are elected every year. <b>The 22-member panel includes 15 members from the Lok Sabha and seven from the Rajya Sabha.</b></p> <p><b>Works:</b> The PAC examines accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by Parliament for the expenditure of the Government of India, the annual financial accounts of the Government, and others.</p>
<b>Examine the comments received on the consultation paper floated</b>	<b>The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has constituted a seven-member committee to examine the comments received on the consultation paper floated</b> by it for enhancing audit independence and accountability in the country.	<p><b>Purpose:</b> The committee will examine the comments and make recommendations requiring any amendments in law, rules and standards to achieve the objective of enhancement of audit independence and accountability. The panel has been asked to submit its report by 30 June 2020.</p>

**Committee (October 2020)**

Purpose	Constituted by	Chairperson
<b>IBBI advisory committee on service providers</b>	<b>T V Mohandas Pai</b>	<p>The 12-member panel would advise and provide professional support on regulation and development of the service providers dealt with by the IBBI, according to an order.</p> <p>The service providers include insolvency professionals, insolvency professionals agencies, insolvency professional entities and information utilities.</p>
<b>MSME loan scheme implementation</b>	<b>Defence Minister Rajnath Singh</b>	To resolve any problem in the implementation of the <b>Rs 3 lakh crore collateral-free loan scheme for MSMEs.</b>

<b>Welfare of freedom fighters</b>	<b>G Kishan Reddy</b>	The ministry has a separate division to serve freedom fighters who are alive and their families. It disburses pension to about 30,000 freedom fighters and their families.
<b>Review private bank shareholding norms</b>	<b>RBI executive director PK Mohanty</b>	The group will examine the existing licensing guidelines and regulations on ownership and control of private sector banks.
<b>Trustees of PM CARES</b>	<b>Sunil Kumar Gupta</b>	Trustees of the PM CARES Fund have appointed <b>SARC &amp; Associates</b> as auditor of the fund.
<b>IBBI reconstitutes advisory panel on corporate insolvency resolution process</b>	<b>Uday Kotak</b>	<b>This Advisory Committee will advise and provide professional support</b> — on a request from the IBBI or on its own volition—on any matter relating to the Corporate Insolvency resolution and liquidation dealt with by the Board under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
<b>Sebi panel suggests measures to strengthen enforcement, recovery mechanism</b>	<b>headed by former Supreme Court Judge Anil Dave</b>	<b>Purpose:</b> The committee has examined the insolvency, recovery and securities laws jurisprudence of India and abroad and suggested suitable changes in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code to ensure that insolvency law is not used as a refuge by defaulters, thereby protecting the interest of investors.
<b>Assam Gas Leak</b>	<b>Justice BP Katakey</b>	The National Green Tribunal has imposed an interim penalty of Rs 25 crore on PSU major Oil India over its failure to stop fire in Assam's Baghjan oil well resulting in damage to the environment.

**Committee(July 2020)**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Headed by</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Violation of environment rules.</b>	Anil Kumar Jha	The panel appraises projects that are commissioned without obtaining prior <b>environmental clearance and have been termed as cases of violation.</b> The panel was earlier constituted in June <b>2017 for three years.</b> Its tenure has <b>now been extended till June 2021.</b>
<b>Analysis of QR (Quick Response) Code'</b>	Prof. Deepak.B. Phatak	<b>The report has recommended</b> making QR codes more interoperable. QR code is used to pay utility bills, fuel, grocery, food, travel, and several other categories.
<b>National Financial Reporting Authority</b>	Professor R. Narayanaswamy	The members of the committee will support and provide insights to the Executive body of the NFRA on the issues related to the drafts of the accounting and auditing standards. The committee will also provide the inputs from the perspectives of the users, preparers and auditors of the financial statements.
<b>Sebi rejigs advisory</b>	Usha Thorat	<b>The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has revamped</b> its committee that advises <b>the capital markets regulator on matters related to regulation and development of mutual fund industry.</b>

		<b>Note: Earlier in 2013, the panel had 15 members and was headed by Janki Ballabh, former Chairman of SBI.</b>
<b>'Pandemic Risk Pool'</b>	Suresh Mathur	“The Covid-19 pandemic, which started as a public health crisis, has led to a significant disruption in the economic activity mainly due to measures taken to stop the spread of the disease,” <b>TL Alamelu, Member, Non-Life, Irdai</b> , said in an order.
<b>Human rights and future response of the government.</b>	K S Reddy	The expert committee would assess the impact of Covid-19 on <b>human rights of people, especially marginalised and vulnerable sections of the society, including migrant labourers.</b>
<b>Find space for selling Surety Bonds</b>	G. Srinivasan.	The IRDAI has set up the committee after the <b>Ministry of Road Transport and Highways requested it to examine</b> the possibility of offering Surety Bond for contractors.
<b>National level committee for reform in criminal law</b>	Ranbir Singh	The committee, which has several leading legal academicians on board, would be gathering opinions online, consulting with experts and collating material for their report to the government.

**Committee (August 2020)**

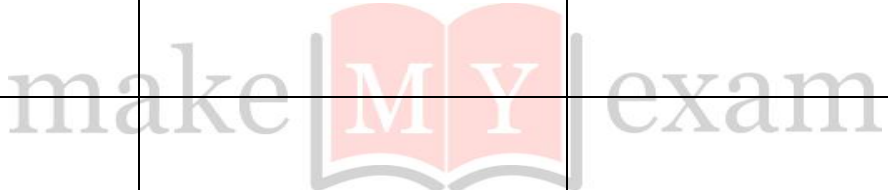
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Headed by</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Setting Parameters for Loan Restructuring</b>	<b>KV Kamath</b>	RBI on the required financial parameters, along with the sector specific benchmark ranges for such parameters, to be factored into resolution plans. <b>The expert committee will also undertake a process validation of resolution plans for borrowal accounts above a specified threshold.</b>
<b>Plan to develop international retail business</b>	<b>Pradip Shah</b>	Centres Authority (IFSCA) set up a panel of industry experts to formulate a plan to <b>develop international retail business at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).</b> The committee will be chaired by <b>Pradip Shah, chairman at Indasia Fund Advisors.</b> <b>Purpose:</b> The expert committee was also tasked with strategising to make the IFSC attractive for international financial services and to draw up a roadmap for the growth of international retail at the centre.
<b>Fix ceiling rates under duty reimbursement scheme for exporters</b>	Chaired by Secretary (retd) G K Pillai.	The reimbursement of taxes under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) such as duty on power charges, VAT on fuel in transportation, farm sector, captive power generation, mandi tax, stamp duty and central excise duty on fuel used in transportation would make Indian products competitive in global markets.



<b>Kozhikode plane crash</b>	Captain S S Chahar	<b>The Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) said it has formed a five-member panel to inquire into the circumstances of a plane crash in Kerala's Kozhikode airport.</b>
<b>Sugarcane Prices to Sugar Rate</b>	Ramesh Chand	Niti Aayog Member (Agriculture), "Sugarcane and Sugar Industry" recommended linking of Sugarcane prices to sugar rate to maintain the financial state and stability of the industry and to clear the arrears of the sugarcane farmers.
<b>Dividend of Rs57,128 crore to government.</b>	Shaktikanta Das	<b>Reserve Bank of India on 13th August approved dividend of ₹ 57,128 crore to government.</b> The decision was taken when the Central Board of the RBI met on 13th August under the <b>chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das</b> through video conference
<b>Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR)</b>	Rajesh Verma	<b>The Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) will work closely with capital markets regulator SEBI for implementation of the 'Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)' framework in the country.</b>

## NOBLE PRIZE WINNERS OF 2020

<b>Nobel Prizes and Laureates 2020</b>		
<b>Nobel Laureates</b>	<b>Field</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice	Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology	Discovery of the Hepatitis C virus
Roger Penrose	Nobel Prize in Physics	For the discovery of the black hole formation which is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity
Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez	Nobel Prize in Physics	For discovering supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy

Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna	Nobel Prize in Chemistry	On discovering the method for genome editing and development of CRISPR-Cas9
Louise Gluck	Nobel Prize in Literature	For her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal
World Food Programme (WFP)	Nobel Peace Prize	For its efforts to combat the surge in Global hunger amidst coronavirus pandemic, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.
Sciences Paul R. Milgrom, Robert B. Wilson	Nobel Prize in Economic	For improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.
		

## INDIA'S RANKING

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1 <sup>st</sup> Rank
Human Freedom Index 2020	American think tank Cato Institute and Fraser Institute in Canada	111	New Zealand
Human Development Index 2020	UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)	131	Norway
Asia Power Index 2020	Sydney based Lowy Institute	4	United States
Global Hunger Index 2020	Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe	94	–
World Risk Index 2020	United Nations University Institute for	89	Vanuatu

	Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft and University of Stuttgart, Germany		
Smart City Index 2020	Institute for Management Development Hyderabad	85	Singapore
Economic Freedom Index 2020	Heritage Foundation	105	Hong Kong
World Press Freedom Index 2020	Reporters Without Borders	142	Norway
Energy Transition Index 2020	World Economic Forum	74	Sweden
Environmental Performance Index 2020	Yale and Columbia University	168	Denmark
World Competitive Index 2020	Institute For Management Development	43	Singapore
Startup Ecosystem Ranking Report 2020	Startup Blink	23	USA
Sustainability Index 2020	-	77th	Sweden
Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) 2020	Cushman & Wakefield	03	China
Global Innovation Index 2020	World Intellectual Property Organization	48	Switzerland
Economic Freedom Of The World 2020	Canada's Fraser Institute	105	Hong Kong
Human Capital Index 2020	World Bank	116	Singapore
Smart City Index 2020	Institute For Management Development	85	Singapore
Global Climate Risk Index 2020	Germanwatch	05	Japan
World Happiness Report 2020	Sustainable Development Solutions	144	Finland

	Network		
Global Gender Gap Index 2020	World Economic Forum	112	Iceland
Climate Change Performance Index 2020	Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, CAN	9	Sweden
Social Mobility Index 2020	World Economic Forum	76	Denmark
International Intellectual Property Index 2020	US Chamber Of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center	40	USA
Largest Military Spender Country In The World 2020	Swedish Think Tank SIPRI	03rd	USA
Henley Passport Index 2020	Henley	84th	Japan
Gender Gap Index 2020	World Economic Forum	112th	Iceland
Democracy Index 2019	Economist Intelligence Unit	51st	Norway
Human Development Index 2019	United Nations Development Programme	129th	Norway
Global Climate Risk Index 2020	Germanwatch	9th	Sweden
India Corruption Survey	Transparency International India	78th	—
Global Competitiveness Index 2019	World Economic Forum	72th	Switzerland
Ease of Doing Business	World Bank	63rd	New Zealand
Global Hunger Index	Welthungerhilfe	102nd	—
World Digital competitiveness Ranking	IMD	44th	USA



International Smart City Index 2019	Institute for Management Development	67th	Singapore
Global Happiness Survey	Ipsos	9th	Australia & Canada
Global Innovation Index 2019	Cornell University, INSEAD, and WIPO	52nd	Switzerland
End of Childhood Index 2019	UK based NGO save the children	113th	Singapore
Global Peace Index	Institute for economics and pace	139th	Iceland
World Press Freedom Index 2019	Reporters without borders	140th	Norway
Index of Cancer Preparedness 2019	Economist Intelligence Unit's	19th	Australia
World Happiness Report 2020	UN	144th	Finland Rankings
Inclusive Internet Index 2019	Economist Intelligence Unit's	46th	—
World Talent Index 2020	INSEAD Business School	59th	Switzerland
Social Mobility Index 2020	World Economic Forum	76th	Denmark
World Talent Ranking 2019	—	59th	Switzerland
International Intellectual Property Index 2020	US Global Innovation Policy Center	40th	US
Global Terrorism Index 2019	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)	7th	Afghanistan



## Summit and Conference

### September 2020

Name of the Summit	Organized/Led by	Venue	Aim/Theme
Virtual Bilateral Meet between India and Nigeria	Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Nigeria	Virtual meeting	To deepen their relations in the sector of politics, economics, trade, defence and security with cultural cooperation.
BIMSTEC Meet 2020	Ministry of External Affairs Vijay Thakur Singh	Colombo, Sri Lanka	To deal with the economic impact which is highly affected due to COVID-19.
National Tribal Research Conclave	Centre of Excellence for tribal affairs, ministry of tribal affairs and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)	Video conferencing	To Strengthen of TRIs in partnership with Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA).
5th BRICS Culture Ministers Meet	Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel	Video conferencing	To offer cooperation in content sharing websites under the alliance of BRICS.
G20 Foreign Ministers Meet	Minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al-Saud	Video conferencing	India's EAM discussed the measures and actions taken under Vande Bharat Mission and the creation of 'travel bubbles'
60th SIAM Annual Convention 2020	Union ministers Prakash Javadekar, Nitin Gadkari and Piyush Goyal	Virtual meeting	To achieve ease of doing business in this particular sector.
35th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific 2020	Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Purshottam Rupala	Virtual meeting	Impact on sectors like agriculture, natural resources, security of food and quality and quantity of nutrition in food.
1st India-Angola Joint Commission Meet	External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. Angola was represented by Ambassador Tete Antonio, Minister of External Relations	Video conferencing	To achieve cooperation in the field of telecommunication, agriculture, defence, pharma, health and food processing.

1st India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue	Foreign Secretary of India, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, French Ministry for Europe	Virtual Meeting	To improve the trilateral relations in various sectors of these countries
Conclave on 'School Education in 21st Century'	Ministry of Education	Video conferencing	To set up National Evaluation Centre 'Parakh' which will be responsible for overall development in the evaluation system.
10th East Asia Summit (EAS) 2020	External Affairs Minister for State, V. Muraleedharan	Virtual meeting	To strengthen the EAS platform and make it responsible to handle upcoming challenges.
17th Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Culture Ministers Meet 2020	Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel	Virtual meeting	The main aspect which unites all SCO nations is the shared heritage of Buddhist philosophy and its art.
2+2 Inter-Sessional meet between India and US	Joint Secretary for America in the ministry of external affairs, Vani Rao and Joint Secretary for International Cooperation in the ministry of defence, Somnath Ghosh	Virtual meeting	To discuss the regional and multilateral issues related to COVID-19 pandemic, counter-terrorism and about Indo-Pacific Region.
27th ASEAN Regional Forum Minister Meet	Union Minister of State for External Affairs, V Muraleedharan	Video Conferencing	Discussed about the counter-terrorism, COVID-19 Pandemic and maritime security.
10th DTTI Group Meet between India and US	Raj Kumar, Secretary of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence	Virtual meeting	To strengthen bilateral dialogue on defence technology cooperation between India and the US.

**October 2020**

Name of the Summit	Organized/Led by	Venue	Aim/Theme
6th Joint Consultative Commission Meet between India and Bangladesh	External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Foreign Minister, A K Abdul Momen	Virtual meeting	To achieve border security, cooperation in energy sector and to initiate 'air travel bubble' flights.
India and Bahrain to cooperate in Finance and Business Sector	Bahrain, Piyush Srivastava and Minister of Finance and National Economy of Bahrain, Shaikh Salman	Bilateral meet	To enhance economic partnership between the two nations.

	Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa		
Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV)	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Virtual meeting	To bring experts from various institutes and organisations across the world under one single platform to have a debate upon mechanisms to boost science and technology base in India for overall global development.
'RAISE 2020- Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020'	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog	Virtual meeting	To leverage AI for inclusive development, so that AI will represent 'India's AI for ALL' and will lead to achieve moto of Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas.
International Webinar on Textile Traditions	Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Uttar Pradesh Institute of Design (UPID)	Video conferencing	To exchange ideas and inculcate best practices among weaves of different countries and to boost the creation of new avenues for collaborations.
Quad Foreign Ministers Meet	External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar	Tokyo, Japan	To post COVID-19 international order assured to work coordinately to tackle various challenges emerging due to pandemic.
5th India-Mexico High Level Group on Trade, Investment & Cooperation	Commerce Secretary of GOI, Anup Wadhawan and Mexico	Video conferencing	To coordinate in trade related to sectors like pharmaceuticals, medical equipments, healthcare, agri products, fisheries, food processing industries and aerospace.
14th India-International Food and Agri Week 2020	Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar	Virtual Meeting	To create a platform for the benefit of the stakeholders in Agri and allied sectors.
7th Meet of Ministers of Justice of SCO	Minister of Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad	Video conferencing	To provide free legal aid to marginalized section of Indian society.
9th India-Oman Joint Commission	Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State of Commerce and Industry	Virtual Meeting	To work coordinately in expanding bilateral trade and investment activities with eachother.
World Bank-IMF Annual Meet 2020	Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr	Virtual meeting	To provide affordable COVID-19 vaccine and to ensure its equal



	Harsh Vardhan		distribution though electronic Vaccine Intelligent Network (e-Vin).
1st Ministerial Meet of G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group	Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	Video Conferencing	To operationalize Lokpal to check corruption.
‘CII Agro and Food Tech: India International Food and Agri Week’	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	Video Conferencing	To use technology in the food and agriculture sector so as to boost farmers income.
India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)	Virtual meeting	To address the issues and challenges being faced by the circular economy.
World Bank-IMF Annual Meet 2020	Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan	Virtual meeting	To provide affordable COVID-19 vaccine and to ensure its equal distribution though electronic Vaccine Intelligent Network (e-Vin).

**November 2020**

Name of the Summit	Organized/Led by	Venue	Aim/Theme
2020 Annual Political Dialogue between India and GCC Troika	Union Minister for External Affairs, Dr S. Jaishankar	Virtual meeting	To develop the cooperation to address challenges like Covid-19 pandemic, Terrorism, climate change and sustainable development.
First India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave	Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr S. Jaishankar	Virtual meeting	To Artificial Intelligence, supply chain logistics and blockchain led transformation.
4th High-level meet of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue	Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan	Virtual meeting	To address the anomalies that are prevalent in differential crude oil prices.
Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020	Ministry of Finance	Virtual meeting	Aim of this conference was to attract investment in the country.
Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee Meet	Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Minister of Rural Development and Minister of Food Processing Industries,	Virtual meeting	To provide effective and seamless backward and forward integration for the processed food industry by making the availability of the raw material and linkage with the market.

	Narendra Singh Tomar		
Australia-India Water Centre	--	Virtual Meeting	To enhance water security which is the critical challenge faced by both India and Australia.
20th SCO Council of Heads of State	PM Narendra Modi	Virtual Meeting	To bring a positive impact to achieve desirable changes in global governance.
40th Meeting of the SAARCFINANCE Governors	Chairmanship of Reserve Bank of India Governor, Shaktikanta Das	Virtual meeting	To develop close partnership and to boost cooperation among SAARC Member countries in order to fight COVID-19 pandemic situation.
17th ASEAN-India Summit	Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc.	Virtual Meeting	The overall focus of the summit was on tackling pandemic COVID-19, solve regional and international issues of common interest related to South China Sea and Terrorism.
15th East Asia Summit 2020	Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar	Virtual meeting	To increase international cooperation in order to fight terrorism, climate change and pandemics.
8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial	Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan	Virtual meeting	To strengthen science and technology cooperation among BRICS nations.
'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)'	--	Video Conferencing	On trading activities, investments, intellectual property, dispute settlement, e-commerce, SMEs and economic cooperation.
3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Video Conferencing	to discuss ways to restore the economy which has affected due to pandemic COVID-19.
7th round of FoC between India and Kazakhstan	Vikas Swarup, Secretary (West) and Kazakhstan	Virtual meeting	to deepen cooperation in the multilateral arena, including during the forthcoming stint of India in the UN Security Council for the period 2021-22.
First India and Luxembourg summit	PM Narendra Modi and by Prime Minister of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Xavier Bettel	Virtual meeting	To increase cooperation in the sectors like trade, finance, space, ICT, sustainable development, renewable energy and solving

climate change issues.

**December 2020**

Name of the Summit	Organized/Led by	Venue	Aim/Theme
4th NSA Level Meet on Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation	Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser	Sri Lanka	To improve intelligence sharing to tackle issues like terrorism, money laundering, drug trafficking, human trafficking, the effect of climate change on the marine environment.
19th SCO Council of Heads of Government Summit	Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu	Virtual meeting	For the manufacturing of the vaccines for global immunization programs and also mentioned that over 30 indigenous COVID-19 vaccines are being developed in India.
20th Sri Lanka Economic Summit	Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC)	Virtual meeting	Theme: 'Roadmap for Take-off: Driving a People-Centric Economic Revival'.
7th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)	Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan and Minister of Foreign Affairs	Virtual meeting	To build cooperation in the sectors like Business and Investment and to establish industries in health, agriculture, mining, energy, defence and cultural & education.
7th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum	Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Theme: 'Towards Recovery and Shared Prosperity: Natural Gas Opportunities for a Sustainable World'
7th Meet of India- Mongolia Joint Committee	Minister of External Affairs, S Jaishankar and Mongolia	Virtual meeting	To work collaboratively to tackle COVID-19, which included procurement of vaccines by Mongolia from India.
IIT 2020 Global Summit	PanIIT USA	Virtual meeting	Theme: 'The Future is Now'
India Mobile Congress 2020	Department of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India	Virtual Meeting	To promote 'Digital Inclusivity', 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', 'Sustainable development', entrepreneurship and innovation.
6th India-Japan ICT Joint	Department of Telecom and	Virtual Meeting	To wireless planning, and

Working Group Meet	Anshu Prakash from the Ministry of Communication		standardization of technology as well as its utilization.
14th ADMM Plus Meet 2020	Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh	Virtual Meeting	To develop cooperation in maritime security, humanitarian assistance and maintain peace in all nations.
IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) Global Summit 2020	Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu	Virtual meeting	To address the issues faced by Entrepreneurs, fund providers and startups.

## AWARDS AND PRIZES

### September 2020

Awardee	Award
Hyderabad International Airport or GMR led Rajiv Gandhi International Airport	'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' Awards at National Award for 'Excellence in Energy Management'
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (Vizag Steel Plant)	'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' award by Confederation of Indian industry and Godrej Green Business Centre
Aditya Puri	Lifetime Achievement Awards by Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2020
Chef Vikas Khanna	Asia Game Changer Award 2020
Margaret Atwood	2020 Dayton Literacy Peace Prize's Lifetime Achievement
Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Ig Noble Prize 2020 for Medical Education
Gurpreet Singh Sandhu (Goalkeeper)	All India Football Federations Men's Footballer of the Year 2019-20
Sanju Yadav (Midfielder)	All India Football Federations Women's Footballer of the Year 2019-20
Usha Mangeshkar	Gan Samragini Lata Mangeshkar Award 2020-21
Sonu Sood	SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award

### October 2020

Awardee	Award
Sanjay Singh	'2020 Gandhi Award'
Ratan Tata	IACC (Indo-American Chamber of Commerce) lifetime and Global Excellence Award
Ales Bialiatsli (Belarus), Nasrin Sotoudeh (Iran), Bryan Stevenson (US) and Lottie Cunningham Wren	Right Livelihood Award 2020



(Nicaragua)	
Nityanand Nayak (Odia Poet)	Sarala Puraskar
Bank of Ghana	Central Bank of the Year Award 2020
Mark Carney	Governor of the year at Central Bank of the Year Award 2020
Aishwarya Sridhar	2020 Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award
Seema Gupta	17th annual Stevie Award for Women in Business
Dr Jajini Varghese	'Outstanding Young Person of the World 2020'
Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) of India	2020 UN Global Climate Action Award
Late Actor Om Puri	Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 at 3rd India International Film Festival of Boston
Chef Vikas Khanna	'Pride of India', a special award at 3rd India International Film Festival of Boston

**November 2020**

Awardee	Award
Dr Dinesh Katre	Emmett Leahy Award 2020
Paul Zacharia	Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2020
Hariharan	JC Daniel Award for lifetime contribution to Malayalam Cinema
S Hareesh	JCB Prize in Literature for 2020
Azim Premji	Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020
Ruskin Bond	Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award 2020
Dr K S Subramanian	Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) Golden Jubilee
Sadat Rahman	International Children's Peace Prize 2020
Douglas Stuart	2020 Booker Prize for Fiction
Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank	Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award
Naseeruddin Shah	2020 Aditya Vikram Birla Kala Shikhar Puraskar
Neel Choudhary and Irawati Karnik	2020 Aditya Vikram Birla Kalakiran Puraskar
Dr Bish Agrawal	2020 AESC (Association of Executive Search and Leadership Consultants) lifetime Achievement Award 2020

**December 2020**

Awardee	Award

Ranjitsinh Disale	2020 Global Teacher Prize
Adar Poonawalla	'The Straits Times Asian of the Year 2020'
Mondo Duplantis (Sweden, Pole Valuter)	Male World Athletes of the Year 2020
Yulimar Rojas (Venezuela, triple jumper)	Female World Athletes of the Year 2020
Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)	International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award for 2020
Invest India	2020 UN Investment Promotion Award by UNCTAD

## APPOINTMENTS & PERSON IN NEWS

### September 2020

Name of the Person	Designation
Rajiv Kumar	Election Commissioner of India
Aveek Sarkar	Chairman of Press Trust of India
Hemant Khatri	Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)
Usha Padhee	Director-General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)
V K Yadav	CEO of Railway Board by appointment committee of cabinet
Murali Ramakrishnan	MD and CEO of South Indian Bank
S Krishnan	MD and CEO of Punjab and Sind Bank
K Padmakar	Chairman and MD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
Raj Srivastava	Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Croatia
Dwayne Bravo	Brand Ambassador of 'SBOTOP'
Ayushmann Khurana	Brand Ambassador of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
Vinkesh Gulati	President of Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA)
Sanyukta Samaddar	Head the Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC)
Anil Jain	President of All India Tennis Association (AITA)
Anil Dhupar	Secretary-General of All India Tennis Association (AITA)
Paresh Rawal	Chairman of National School of Drama
Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Smriti Mandhana	Brand Ambassador for Playerzpot
Rajnath Singh	Head Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to look into Corporatisation of Ordinance

	Factory Board (OFB)
Sameer Kumar Khare	Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Takeo Konishi	Country Director of India of Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Rajesh Khullar	Executive Director of World Bank
Jane Fraser	CEO of Citigroup
Subhash Kamath	Chairman of Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)
NS Rajan	Vice Chairman of Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)
Harivansh Narayan Singh	Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha
Yoshihide Suga	Prime Minister of Japan
Sachin Tendulkar	Brand Ambassador of Paytm First Games
Amitabh Bachchan	Amazon for its Alexa Voice Assistant
Virat Kohli	Brand Ambassador for Great Learning
Lt Gen Rajesh Pant	Head of the committee to look into and examine the reports of digital surveillance on prominent Indian Nationals by Chinese firm Shenzhen Zhenhua Data Information Technology Company Ltd
Ajay Tirkey	Head the committee to prepare the roadmap to regularize the land leasing activity in agriculture sector
Suresh Raina	Brand Ambassador for 9stacks
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Anil Dhasmana	Chief of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)
Retd. Col. Dr Girija Shanker Mungali	Member of Asian Football Confederation Task Force
Simanchala Dash	Advisor to Executive Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Retd. Col. Bah Ndaw	Interim President of Mali
Col. Assimi Goita	Vice President of Mali
AK Dixit	New Administrator of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank
Alexander Lukashenko	President of Belarus
Ishmael Toroma	President of Bougainville
Khushi Chindaliya	Regional Ambassador for India by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)- Tunza Eco Generation (Green)
Rajat Sud	MD of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)

## October 2020

Name of the Person	Designation
Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah	New emir of Kuwait
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	Head the panel set by GOI to examine all Chinese Foreign Investment Proposals
Sourav Ganguly	Brand Ambassador of Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited
Charanjit Attra	Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of State Bank of India
G Subramonia Iyer	Head of 3 member interim Committee of Directors (CoD) to exercise the power of MD and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd
IPS MA Ganapathy	Director General (DG) of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)
Prof Ashima Goyal, Prof Jayanth R Varma and Dr Shashanka Bhide	Members of RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)
Dinesh Kumar Khara	Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI)
Ajinkya Rahane	Brand Ambassador of Hudle
Bishr Al-Khasawneh	Prime Minister of Jordan
Sadyr Zhaparov	Acting Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan
Nilesh Shah	Chairman of AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India)
Saurabh Navavati	Vice-Chairman of AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India)
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Chetan Anand	Brand Ambassador of Transform
M S Ananth	Head the committee which will frame the Professional Engineers Bill
Rajiv Gauba	Head the panel of secretaries set up by GOI to streamline Telecom Spectrum Allocation
Dr Michael Irani	Interim President of International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)
Vishal V. Sharma	Next Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO's Permanent
Justice Madan Lokur	Supreme Court to monitor steps to prevent stubble burning
Rohan Jaitley	President of Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)
Jacinda Ardern	Prime Minister of New Zealand
Rajkiran Rai G	Chairman of India Bank's Association (IBA)
DineshKumar Khara	Deputy-Chairman of India Bank's Association (IBA)
Madhabi Puri Buch	Head the Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC)

P Umesh	Head 9 member panel setup by IRDAI to examine the need for Standard Cyber Liability Insurance
Lewis Hamilton	Brand ambassador for LG Signature
Priyanka Chopra	Brand ambassador for B-Fizz
Neena Malhotra	Next Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino
Saad al-Hariri	Prime Minister of Lebanon
Sushil Kumar Singhal	Next High Commissioner of India to Solomon Islands
Apurva Chandra	Chairperson of Governing Body of International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Rajiv Kumar	Head the committee which will evaluate reforms in urban planning education system
Rohit Sharma	Brand Ambassador for Vega & Dr Trust
Luis Arce	President of Bolivia
Wavel Ramkalawan	President of Seychelles
Alpha Conde	President of Guinea
Yashvardhan K Sinha	Chief Information Commissioner of India

**November 2020**

Name of the Person	Designation
PVG Menon	CEO of Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI)
Rajiv Jalota	Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust
Alassane Ouattara	President of Ivory Coast
Duarte Pacheco	30th President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
Dilip Rath	Board of International Dairy Federation (IDF)
Piercristiano Brazzale	President of International Dairy Federation (IDF)
John Magufuli	President of Tanzania
AK Gupta	MD and CEO of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)
Shashi S. Vempati	Head the 4 member committee which will review 'Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India
Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane	Honorary rank to be the General of Nepal Army
Gyanendro Ningombam	President of Hockey India
Mohd Mushtaq Ahmad	Senior Vice President of Hockey India



Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.	46th President of the United States
Kamala Harris	Vice-President of the United States
Vidisha Maitra	United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha	Chief Information Commissioner of Central information Commission
Rajkummar Rao	Brand Ambassador for Syska Group
Chacha Chaudhary	Brand Ambassador for Namami Gange Project
Akshay Kumar Singh	MD and CEO of Petronet LNG Ltd
Michael Holding	New patron of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Foundation
Arun Goel	Head the committee set up by GOI to strengthen Capital Goods Sector
Sandip Bhagat	Head the committee to review the frameworks of share-based employee benefits and issue of sweat equity and to suggest policy changes.
R Chandrasekaran	Head the committee which will work to revisit the retail business of engineering tariff.
Nitish Kumar	Chief Minister of Bihar
Sanjay Kumar Mishra	Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED)
Maia Sandu	First Women President of Moldova
Navneet Munot	MD and CEO of HDFC Mutual Funds
Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan	First Chairperson of the 'Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)'
Rohit Sharma	Brand Ambassador for Financepeer
Smriti Mandhana	Brand Ambassador for Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB)
Greg Barclay	Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC)
VK Saraswat	Head the committee formed by NITI Aayog
Lt Gen. Harpal Singh	New Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army
Major Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary	DG of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

**December 2020**

Name of the Person	Designation
Utpal Kumar Singh	Secretary-General of Lok Sabha Secretariat
AR Rehman	Ambassador of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts
Varsha Joshi	Chairperson of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
Amitabh Jain	Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh Government

Sandeep Kataria	Global CEO of Bata Show Organisation
Kuldeep Handoo	Brand Ambassador for 'Fit India Movement'
Akshay Kumar	Brand Ambassador for Horlicks Protein Plus by HUL
Uday Shankar	President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
Anil Soni	Chief Executive Officer of the newly launched WHO Foundation
Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah	Prime Minister of Kuwait
Annika Sorenstam	President of International Golf Federation (IGF)
Zena Wooldridge	President of World Squash Federation
Justice Rajesh Bindal	Chief Justice of the common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh
Nagendraa Parakh	United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
Uday Kotak	MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank
Prakash Apte	Part-Time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank
Dipak Gupta	Joint MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank
Nana Akufo Addo	Presidential Election of Ghana
Sukhbir Singh Sandhu	Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
Raja Chauri	Commander of SpaceX Crew-3 mission by NASA and European Space Agency
Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Vice President of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)
Satyendra Garg	DGP of Andaman and Nicobar Island
Ranvir Singh Krishna	Police Chief of Puducherry
Vineet Agrawal	President of ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India)
Sumant Sinha	Vice-President of ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India)
Aditya Nath Das	Chief Secretary to Andhra Pradesh Government
Nilam Sawhney	Principal Advisor to the CM of Andhra Pradesh Government
Florin Citu	Prime Minister of Romania
Prasanth Prabhakaran	MD and CEO of Yes Securities (India) Limited
Vice Admiral Rajat Datta	DG of Armed Forces Medical Services
Suresh Chandra Mohapatra	Chief Secretary of Odisha
Neetal Narang	First Female President of Softball Federation of India (SFI)
Sourav Ganguly	Brand Ambassador for Class plus
Dr Harsh Vardhan	Board Member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI)
Prof. Santanu Chaudhury	Head the committee constituted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST)

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Authors Name	Book Name
Prof. Dr Stuti Sharma	'Elements of Quantitative Genetics: A Conceptual Approach'
Dr Roopa Chari	'Sutranivednachi Sutra- Ek Anbav'
Rajinder Sachar	'In Pursuit of Justice: An Autobiography'
P S Sreedharan Pillai (Governor of Mizoram)	'Oh Mizoram'
Kailash Satyarthi	'COVID-19: SabhyataKa Sankat Aur Samadhan'
Madhav Bhandari	'Ayodhya'
Jairam Ramesh	'The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha'
Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla	'The Shaurya Unbound-Tales of Valour of the Central Reserve Police Force' (English Version) and 'Samundar Samawe Boond Mein' (Hindi version)
Amish Tripathi and Bhavna Roy	'Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life'
Amrit Raj	'Indian Icon: A Cult Called Royal Enfield'
Dr A. Sivathanu Pillai	'40 Years with Abdul Kalam-Untold Stories'
Norman D. Palmer	'Future of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific'
Prof. Dr Stuti Sharma	'Elements of Quantitative Genetics: A Conceptual Approach'
Kirpal Singh Ji	Guru Nanak Dev
Prem Prakash	'Reporting India: My Seventy Year Journey as a Journalist'
Rajendra Darda	'Majhi Bhint' ('My Wall')
Meena Iyer	'I am No Messiah'
Radhakrishna Prakashan	'Boskiyana'
Rallabandi Srirama Chakradhar and Amara Sarada Deepthi	'Thavaasmi: Life and Skills through the lens of Ramayana'
Sasindran Kallinkeel	'Rasaathi: The other side of Transgender'
Anupam Kher	'Your Best Day is Today!'
Chinmay Tumbe	'The age of pandemic (1817-1920): How they shaped India and the World'
Tamal Bandyopadhyay	'Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy'
Randeep Guleria and co-written by Chandrakanta Lahariya and Gagandeep Kang	'Till we Win'-India's Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr Pradeep Kumar Srivastava	'Bye Bye Corona'
Sarbpreet Singh	'Night of the Restless Spirits: Stories from 1984'
Suman Dubey	'The Fixer: Winning Has A Price. How Much Will You Pay?'
N K Singh	'Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside'
Deepankar Aron	'On the Trails of Buddha: A Journey to the East'
Shashi Tharoor	'The Battle of Belonging'
Pradeep Goorha	'Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank the Dragon'
Union Minister, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil	'Deh Vechwa Karani'
GBS Sindhu	'The Khalistan Conspiracy: A former R&AW Officer Unravels the Path to 1984'
Kumar Padampani Bora	'Discovering the Heritage of Assam'
Anand Neelakantan	'The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids'
Manish Sisodia	'Bapu- the Unforgettable'
Dr Krishna Saksena	'A Bouquet of Flowers'
Chef Vikas Khanna	'Kitchens of Gratitude'
Romila Thapar	'Voices of Dissent'
Arundhati Roy	'Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction.'
Claude Arpi	End of an Era, India Exits Tibet
Gauri Khan	My Life in Design
Richard H. Thaler Cass R. Sunstein	'The Little Book of Green Nudges'
Goonmeet Singh Chauhan	'Invertonomics: 8 ideas to transform India'
Sheela Birnstiel	'Nothing to lose'
Sheela Birnstiel	'My story in my own words'
Pope Francis	'Let Us Dream'
Ramchandra Guha	The Commonwealth of Cricket: A Lifelong Love Affair with the Most Subtle and Sophisticated Game Known to Humankind'
Gurcharan Singh and MS Unnikrishnan	Pitching is Straight
Indian Army Chief, General M M Naravane	'National Security Challenges: Young Scholars Perspective'
Jatin Paranjpe and Anand Vasu	'Cricket Drona'
Sree Iyer	'Who painted my lust red?'
Jitendra Singh	Gastric Cancer

Chetan Bhagat	One Arranged Murder
Arjun Subramaniam	‘Full Spectrum: India’s Wars, 1972-2020’
Bijal Vachharajani	‘A bend in time: Writings by children on the COVID-19 pandemic’
Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh	Connecting, Communicating, Changing
Dalai Lama and Franz Alt	Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World
Neena Rai	‘Amazing Ayodhya’
Matthew Mc Conaughey	‘Greenlights’
Narendra Singh Tomar	‘Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme’
Viral V Acharya	‘Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India’
Dr S Jaishankar	‘The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World’
Hussain Zaidi	‘The Endgame’
Pema Kandu	‘The Tangrams’
Stephen King	‘If it Bleeds’

## OBITUARIES

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

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

### ✚ **Oscar winning Czech Director Jiri Menzel passes away**

- Oscar-winning Czech film director, Jiri Menzel passed away.His 1st feature film, ‘Closely Watched Trains’ won an Academy Award (Oscars) for Best Foreign Language film in 1968.
- Menzel won the Czech Lion for lifetime artistic contribution and was honoured by the Karlovy Vary festival.He is a

recipient of the Medal of Merit, the French Order of Arts and Literature and a score of other international awards.

- He was awarded an IIFA Lifetime Achievement Award in November 2013.

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

- Arya Samaj leader and social activist Swami Agnivesh passed away at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, ILBS in New Delhi. Agnivesh was elected to Haryana Legislative Assembly in 1977 and served as a Cabinet Minister for Education in the state in 1979.
  - He founded the Bonded Labour Liberation Front in 1981 and worked against bonded labour.
  - He also led numerous movements against alcoholism.
  - Swami Agnivesh also served as president of the Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, World Council of Arya Samaj.
- ### ✚ **Former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passes away**
- Former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away. He was undergoing treatment at AIIMS,Delhi about a week ago after developing post-Covid complications.



- Raghuvansh Prasad Singh recently resigned from the RJD party.
- Singh had served as the Union Minister for Rural Development in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's cabinet.
- He was widely regarded as the brain behind the conceptualization and implementation of NREGA (National rural employment guarantee act).
- ✚ **Veteran Tamil Director Babu Sivan passes away**
- Tamil director Babu Sivan passed away. He began his career by assisting director Dharani, who helmed films like Ghilli and Kurvi with Vijay.
- Later, he made his directorial debut with Vettaikaaran in 2009. It was one of the highest grossing Tamil films of that year.
- ✚ **MoS Railways Suresh Angadi 1st Union minister died of Covid-19**
- Union minister of state for railways and Karnataka BJP MP Suresh Angadi, 65, passed away days after he tested positive for Covid-19. Angadi is the first Central minister to die of coronavirus.
- Suresh Angadi was the fourth-term MP from Belagavi.
- ✚ **Social activist Pushpa Bhavne passes away at 81 in Mumbai**
- Veteran social activist Pushpa Bhavne 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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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 condition became critical a few days back and he breathed 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 of the poor and downtrodden.



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#### ✚ **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.

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#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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'

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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.

#### ✚ **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 condition became critical a few days back and he breathed his last by early hours of Sunday at a private hospital in Pathanamthitta.
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**. James Bond actor Sean Connery died at the age of 90**

- Sir Sean Connery has died at the age of 90, his family has said. The Scottish actor was best known for his portrayal of James Bond, being the first to bring the role to the big screen and appearing in seven of the spy thrillers.
- Sir Sean died peacefully in his sleep in the Bahamas, having been "unwell for some time", his son said.

**Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R Doraikkannu dies at 72**

- Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R Doraikkannu, who had tested positive for the coronavirus, died at a private hospital in Chennai. He was 72.
- He was elected as an MLA from Papanasam in Thanjavur district in 2006, 2011, and 2016. He also served as a Cabinet minister in 2016, under former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa's term.
- Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, who had tested positive in August, paid tributes to the minister. "He was known for his simplicity, humbleness, straightforwardness, governance skills and commitment towards the welfare of farming community," he said. "He handled Ministry of Agriculture with full dedication and engraved his strong mark."

**Former Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz passes away**

- Veteran Politician and former prime minister of Turkey, Mesut Yilmaz has passed away. He was the Chief of the now-defunct centre-right Motherland Party or ANAP from 1991 to 2002.

- He served as prime minister of Turkey three times in the 1990s.
- His first two prime-ministerial terms lasted for just one month, in 1991 and then in 1996, while the third term was from June 1997 to January 1999.

**46th & shortest served CM of Bihar Satish Prasad Singh passes away**

- Former Chief Minister and Socialist of Bihar, Satish Prasad Singh passed away. He was born on January 1, 1936, in Korchakka (now known as Satish Nagar) Village, Khagaria district, Bihar.
- Satish Prasad Singh, the leader of Soshit Samaj Dal became the 6th and the shortest-served CM of Bihar for 5 days (28 January to February 1, 1968) with the support of Indian National Congress (INC).

**Alex Trebek, host of Jeopardy, dies at 80**

- Popular American game show host Alex Trebek passed away on November 8, 2020. He was 80. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year. Trebek's popular show 'Jeopardy!' announced the news of his death through a Twitter post, which read that he passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family and friends. Alex Trebek had hosted the show for almost four decades.
- He had first announced that he had been diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer when he was on air in March 2019 and he had continued to shoot for the episodes while undergoing cancer treatment. He had also returned to host the show's 36th season during summer last year, despite his health condition.

**Veteran author & Gujarati columnist Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ passes away**

- Veteran author and Gujarati columnist of Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ, popularly known as Father Valles passed away. A Jesuit priest born in Spain, he was a Mathematics teacher in Gujarat.
- He wrote extensively in Gujarati, English and Spanish.
- He translated many mathematical concepts into Gujarati and coined terms for them.

**Bahrain's long-serving PM Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa dies**

- Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, passed away.
- He died at the age of 84. After his demise, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa named crown prince Salman al-Khalifa as the new Prime Minister of the Kingdom.

**Ghana's ex-President Jerry Rawlings dies aged 73**

- Ghana's former President Jerry John Rawlings has died at the age of 73. He led two coups, first in 1979, before twice being elected president in multiparty polls.
- He led two coups, first in 1979, before twice being elected president in multiparty polls.
- He was also seen as a champion of the poor, but came to be criticised for alleged human rights abuses. He died in hospital in the capital, Accra, after a short illness.

#### **President and PM express condolences over demise of Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee**

- Veteran actor and Dadasaheb Phalke award recipient Soumitra Chatterjee passed away at a Kolkata Nursing home today. He was 85. The actor had been hospitalised on October 6, 2020, after being tested Covid positive. However, he was declared Covid negative later. But he succumbed to other ailments, the hospital sources say. He has been active on big and small screens almost till the date he fell sick.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has expressed grief over the death of Soumitra Chatterjee. He said, Indian cinema has lost one of its legends. In a series of tweets, Mr Kovind said, he will be especially remembered for the 'Apu' trilogy and other memorable performances in Satyajit Ray's masterpieces. He made immense contributions to the craft of acting.
- The President said, Soumitra Chatterjee's performances won him several national and international awards including Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Padma Bhushan and Légion d'Honneur.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also expressed grief over the demise of Veteran actor Soumitra Chatterjee

#### **PM Modi pays tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his Jayanti**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tributes to 19th-century freedom fighter and tribal leader Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his Jayanti.
- PM Modi dubbed Birsa Munda a true 'messiah' of the poor, saying that "he struggled throughout his life for the welfare of the exploited and deprived".
- "Birsa Munda's contribution in the freedom movement and his efforts for social harmony will always inspire the countrymen," the Prime Minister said

#### **Prominent Kannada journalist Ravi Belagere passes away at 62**

- Noted journalist and writer Ravi Belagere (62) passed away early on Friday morning at his office on the premises of Hai Bangalore!, a popular Kannada tabloid, in Bengaluru, after a massive heart attack. He was rushed to a private hospital,

where he breathed his last. He is survived by two wives, two sons and two daughters.

- Known for his writing style, Belagere was honoured with many awards, including the Karnataka Sahitya Academy award, Kannada Rajyotsava awar, Karnataka Media Academy award and many more. Also an educationist, Belagere started Prarthana School, where his morta.

#### **Rajasthan Minister Bhanwarlal Meghwal passes away at 71**

- Rajasthan's Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Bhanwarlal Meghwal died at a private hospital in Gurugram on Monday after a prolonged illness. He was being treated on a ventilator since May 13, when he had suffered a paralytic stroke and was diagnosed with a brain hemorrhage. He was 71.
- Earlier admitted at the Sawai Man Singh Government Hospital in Jaipur and battling for life, Mr. Meghwal was airlifted to the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram on the advice of doctors. He was a senior Minister in the Ashok Gehlot government and a prominent Dalit face of the ruling Congress.
- Mr. Meghwal represented Churu district's Sujangarh constituency in the Assembly and also held the Disaster Management and Relief portfolio. He was Education Minister in the previous Congress government between 2008 and 2013.

#### **Former Goa Governor & veteran BJP leader Mridula Sinha passes away**

- Former Governor of Goa and veteran BJP leader Mridula Sinha passed away in a hospital in Delhi. She was 77. Born on November 27, 1942, at a village in Chhapra in Bihar, Mridula Sinha was also the first woman Governor of Goa. A renowned Hindi writer, Mridula Sinha also served as the head of the BJP's women's wing and chairperson of the Central Social Welfare Board in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have expressed grief over the demise of the veteran leader. In a tweet, President Kovind said Mridula Sinha who was an excellent writer and teacher, deeply understood the local traditions and cultural life of the country, especially Bihar.
- In a tweet, the Prime Minister said, the Veteran leader will be remembered for her efforts towards public service. He said she was also a prolific writer, making extensive contributions to the world of literature as well as culture.



**STATIC G.K.****COUNTRIES I CAPITAL I CURRENCY**

Countries	Capital	Currency
Japan	Tokyo	Japanese Yen
Sweden	Stokholm	Swedish Krona
Sri Lanka	Colombo	Sri Lankan Rupee
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka
Somalia	Mogadishu	Shilling
Iran	Tehran	Iranian Rial
Norway	Oslo	Norwegian Krone
South Korea	Seoul	South Korean Won
Germany	Berlin	Euro
Russia	Moscow	Ruble
China	Beijing	Renminbi
Vietnam	Hanoi	Vietnamese dong
Indonesia	Jakarta	Indonesian Rupiah

Countries	Capital	Currency
New Zealand	Wellington	NZ Dollar
Pakistan	Islamabad	Pakistani Rupee
Myanmar	Naypyidaw	Burmese kyat
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Saudi Riyal
Kenya	Nairobi	Kenyan shilling
Kazakhstan	Astana	Kazakhstani tenge
Uzbekistan	Tashkent	Uzbekistani so'm
Australia	Canberra	Australian Dollar
Peru	Lima	Sol
Iceland	Reykjavik	Icelandic króna
Philippines	Manila	Philippine peso
Belarus	Minsk	Belarusian ruble
Iraq	Baghdad	Iraqi dinar

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

Important Days of September	
02 September	World Coconut Day
05 September	National Teachers Day
05 September	International Day of Charity
08 September	International Literacy Day
10 September	World Suicide Prevention Day
12 September	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
14 September	Hindi Day
15 September	International Day of Democracy
15 September	Engineers Day
16 September	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
21 September	International Day of Peace
23 September	International Day of Sign Languages
25 September	Antyodaya Diwas
26 September	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

26 September	World Contraception Day
27 September	World Tourism Day
27 September	World Maritime Day
28 September	World Rabies Day
28 September	International Day for Universal Access to Information
29 September	World Heart Day
30 September	International Translation Day
Important Days of October	
October 1	International Coffee Day/World Vegetarian Day
October 2	Gandhi Jayanti/International Day of Non-Violence
October 3	German Unity Day
October 4	World Animal Welfare Day
October 5	World Teachers' Day
October 6	Durgashtami/German-American Day



<b>October 7</b>	World Habitat Day
<b>October 8</b>	Dussehra or Vijaya Dashami/Indian Air Force Day
<b>October 9</b>	World Postal Day or World Post Office Day
<b>October 10</b>	World Mental Health Day
<b>October 11</b>	International Girl Child Day
<b>October 14</b>	World Standards Day
<b>October 15</b>	Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day/Global Handwashing Day/World White Cane Day/World Students' Day
<b>October 16</b>	World Food Day
<b>October 23</b>	Mole Day
<b>October 24</b>	United Nations Day/World Development Information Day
<b>October 25</b>	Dhanteras
<b>October 27</b>	Deepavali
<b>October 28</b>	Govardhan Puja
<b>October 29</b>	Bhai Duj
<b>October 30</b>	World Thrift Day
<b>October 31</b>	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day

**Important Days of November**

<b>November 1</b>	World Vegan Day
<b>November 6</b>	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
<b>November 7</b>	Infant Protection Day, World Cancer Awareness Day
<b>November 8</b>	World Radiology Day
<b>November 9</b>	World Legal Service Day
<b>November 10</b>	World Science day for Peace and Development, Public Transport Day
<b>November 11</b>	National Education Day
<b>November 12</b>	World Pneumonia Day, Public Service Broadcasting Day
<b>November 13</b>	World Kindness Day
<b>November 14</b>	Children's Day (India), World Diabetes Day
<b>November 16</b>	International Day for Endurance or Tolerance

<b>November 17</b>	International Students Day, Gurunanak Dev's Birth Anniversary, National epilepsy day
<b>November 19</b>	World Toilet Day, International Men's Day, National Integration Day
<b>November 20</b>	Universal Children's Day
<b>3rd Sunday of November</b>	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
<b>3rd Thursday of November</b>	World Philosophy Day
<b>November 21</b>	World Fisheries Day, World Hello Day, World Television Day
<b>November 25</b>	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, World Non-Veg day
<b>November 26</b>	National Law Day or National constitution Day
<b>November 30</b>	National Flag Day

**Important Days of December**

<b>December 1</b>	World AIDS Day
<b>December 2</b>	World Computer Literacy Day, International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
<b>December 3</b>	International Day of People with Disability or World Disability Day
<b>December 4</b>	Indian Navy Day
<b>December 5</b>	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
<b>December 7</b>	International Civil Aviation Day, Indian Armed Force Flag Day
<b>December 9</b>	The International Anti-Corruption Day
<b>December 10</b>	World Human Rights Day, International Children's Day of Broadcasting
<b>December 11</b>	International Mountain Day, UNICEF Day
<b>December 14</b>	National Energy Conservation Day (India)
<b>December 16</b>	Vijay Diwas
<b>December 18</b>	International Migrants Day, National Minority Rights Day
<b>December 19</b>	Goa's Liberation Day
<b>December 20</b>	International Human Solidarity Day
<b>December 23</b>	National Farmer's Day or Kisan Diwas
<b>December 25</b>	Christmas Day

**IMPORTANT NATIONAL PARKS & POWER PLANTS IN INDIA**

State	National Parks	Power Plants
Assam	Rajiv Gandhi Orange National Park Dibru-Saikhowa National Park Kaziranga National Park Manas National Park Nameri National Park	Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station
Arunachal Pradesh	Mouling National Park Namdapha National Park	-
Andhra Pradesh	Sri venkateshwar National Park	Sri Damodram Sanjeevaian Thermal Power Station Simhadri Solar Power Plant Station
Bihar	Valmiki National Park	Kahalgaoon Super Thermal Power Station Barauni Thermal Power Station
Chattisgarh	Guru Ghasi Das National Park Indravati National Park Kanger Valley National Park	Sipat Thermal Power Plant Hasdeo Thermal Power Station Bhilai Expansion Power Plan
Gujarat	Bansda National Park Blackbuck National Park Gir Forest National Park Marine National Park	Akrimota Thermal Power Station Mundra Thermal Power Station Ukai Thermal Power Station
Goa	Bhagwan Mahavir National Park	-
Himachal Pradesh	Pin Valley National Park Great Himalayan National Park Inderkilla National Park Khirganga National Park Simbalbara National Park	Girinagar Hydel Project Binwa Hydel Project Rangtong Hydel Project Baner & Neugal Project
Haryana	Sultanpur National Park Kalesar National Park	Rajiv Gandhi Thermal Power Station Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Station Gorakhpur Atomic Power Station
Jammu & Kashmir	Hemis National Park Kishtwar National Park Salim Ali National Park Dachigam National Park	-
Jharkhand	Betta National Park	Chandrapura Thermal Power Station Koderma Thermal Power Station Bokaro Thermal Power Station
Karnataka	Anshi National Park Bandipur National Park Bannerghatta National Park Kudremukh National Park Nagarhole National Park	Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant Raichur Thermal Power Station Udupi Thermal Power Plant Bellary Thermal Power Station
Kerala	Eravikulam National Park Anamudi Shola National Park Mathikettan National Park	Brahmapuram Power Station Kayamkulam Power Station

	Pampaclum National Park Periyar National Park Silent Valley National Park	
Meghalaya	Balphakram National Park Nokrek National Park	-
Maharashtra	Chandoli National Park Navegaon National Park Tadoba National Park Gugamal national park	Tarapur Atomic Power Station Tirora Thermal Power Station Amravati Thermal Power Plant
Madhya Pradesh	Kanha National Park Madhav National Park Mandla Plant Fossils National Park Panna National Park Pench National Park	Soran Ultra Mega Power project Amarkantak Thermal Power Station Vindhychal Super Thermal Power Station Sant Singaji Thermal Power Plant Satpura Thermal Power Station
Mizoram	Mountain National Park Murlen National Park Phawngpui Blue National Park	-
Manipur	Keibul Lamjao National Park	
Nagaland	Intanki National Park	Dikhu Hydro Electric Power Plant
Odisha	Bhitarkanika National Park Simlipal National Park	Talcher Thermal Power Station
Punjab	-	Guru Gobind Singh Super Thermal Power Plant
Rajasthan	Sariska National Park Ranthambore National Park Darrah National Park Desert National Park Keoladeo National Park	Chhabra Thermal Power Station Suratgarh Power Station
Sikkim	Khangchendzonga National Park	Ranjit Hydro electric Power Project
Tamil Nadu	Guindy National Park Indira Gandhi National Park Mukurthi National Park Mudumalai National Park Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park	Kundakulam Nuclear Power Plant Neyveli Thermal Plant Tuticorin Thermal Plant
Telangana	Mrugavani National Park	-
Tripura	Bison (Rajbari) National Park Clouded Leopard National Park	Palatane Thermal Power Plant
Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa National Park	Narora Atomic Power Station Rihand Thermal Power Station Anpara Thermal Power Station
Uttarakhand	Gangotri National Park Jim Corbett National Park Valley of Flowers National Park	Chibro Power Plant Khodri Power Plant Chilla Power Plant
West Bengal	Neora Valley National Park Singalila National Park Buxa National Park Sundarbans National Park	Mejia Thermal Power Station Farakka Super Thermal Power Station Kolaghat Thermal Power Station Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station

## CLASSICAL DANCES IN INDIA

<b>Bharatnatyam:</b> Tamil Nadu & Karnataka	<b>Mohiniattam:</b> Kerala.	<b>Sattriya:</b> Assam
<b>Kathak:</b> North India	<b>Odissi:</b> Orissa state.	<b>Ghoomar:</b> Rajasthan
<b>Kathakali:</b> Kerala.	<b>Gaudiya Nritya:</b> West Bengal	<b>Thang Ta:</b> Manipur
<b>Kuchipudi:</b> Andhra Pradesh.		<b>Manipuri:</b> Manipur

## FOLK DANCES IN INDIA

<p><b><u>North India</u></b>  <b>Dumhal:</b> Rauf tribe of Jammu &amp; Kashmir  <b>HurkaBaul:</b> Uttarakhand  <b>Chholiya:</b> Kumaon region, Uttarakhand  <b>Bhangra, Giddha:</b> Punjab  <b>Dhamyal</b> - 'Dhamyal' or 'Dhuph': Haryana  <b>Mayur Nritya:</b> Uttar Pradesh  <b>Charkula:</b> Braj region of Uttar Pradesh.  <b>Haryana:</b> Swang, Naqqal, Dhamal  <b>Himachal Pradesh:</b> Nati, Kariyala, Bhagat</p>	<p><b><u>Central India</u></b>  <b>Gaur Dance:</b> Chhattisgarh  <b>Muria Dance:</b> Madhya Pradesh  <b>Saila Dance:</b> Bastar district in the state of Chhattisgarh  <b>Kaksar Dance:</b> Bastar district in the state of Chhattisgarh  <b>Jawara Dance:</b> Madhya Pradesh  <b>Bhagoria Dance:</b> Madhya Pradesh  <b>Suwa Dance:</b> Chhattisgarh  <b>Grida Dance:</b> Madhya Pradesh</p>
<p><b><u>East India</u></b>  <b>Brita Dance:</b> 'Brita' or 'Vrita' dance: West Bengal  <b>Dalkhai:</b> Odisha.  <b>Gotipua:</b> Odisha  <b>Bihar:</b> Jadur, Kathaputli, Bhako, Jhijiya</p>	<p><b><u>West India</u></b>  <b>Dandiya:</b> Gujarat and Rajasthan  <b>Garba:</b> Gujarat  <b>Padhar Dance:</b> Gujarat  <b>Rajasthan:</b> Khyal, Rasdhari, Rammat, Gauri, Ghoomar</p>
<p><b><u>South India</u></b>  <b>Padayani:</b> Kerala  <b>Kolannalu:</b> Andhra Pradesh  <b>Parai Attam:</b> Tamil Nadu  <b>Karagattam:</b> Tamil Nadu  <b>Paampu Attam:</b> Tamil Nadu.  <b>Poikal Kudirai Attam:</b> Tamil Nadu  <b>Theyyam:</b> Kerala  <b>Andhra Pradesh:</b> Veethi Natakam, Burrakatha, Lambadi, Koya.  <b>Telangana:</b> Bathukamma  <b>Dollu Kunitha:</b> Karnataka  <b>Ghodemodni:</b> Goa  <b>Lava Dance:</b> Lakshadweep  <b>Veeragase:</b> Karnataka  <b>Koli:</b> Maharashtra</p>	<p><b><u>North East India</u></b>  <b>Hojagiri:</b> Tripura  <b>Nongkram Dance:</b> Meghalaya  <b>Bagurumba:</b> Assam  <b>Bhortal Dance:</b> Assam  <b>Cheraw Dance:</b> Mizoram  <b>Chang Lo:</b> Nagaland  <b>Bardo Chham:</b> Arunachal Pradesh  <b>Bihu:</b> Assam</p>

**IMPORTANT ORGANISATIONS & THEIR HEADQUARTERS**

Organisations	Headquarters
UNO	New York
UNESCO	Paris
UNICEF	New York
ILO	Geneva
UNCTAD	Geneva
WHO	Geneva
IMF	Washington DC
WB	Washington DC
NATO	Brussels
SAARC	Kathmandu
ASEAN	Jakarta

Organisations	Headquarters
OECD	Paris
ICJ	Hague
APEC	Singapore
World Intellectual Property Organisation	Geneva
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	Vienna
Amnesty International	London
UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Dev. Org)	Vienna
International Maritime Organization	London
Transparency International	Berlin
Commonwealth of Nations	London
WMO (World Meteorological Org)	Geneva

**IMPORTANT AIRPORTS IN INDIA**

Airport	City	State
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport	Kolkata	West Bengal
Indira Gandhi International Airport	New Delhi	New Delhi
Rajiv Gandhi International Airport	Hyderabad	Telangana
Swami Vivekananda Airport	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport	Nagpur	Maharashtra
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
Biju Patnaik International Airport	Bhubaneswar	Odisha
Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport	Guwahati	Assam
Kempegowda International Airport	Bangalore	Karnataka
Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
Raja Bhoj International Airport	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
Maharana Pratap Airport	Udaipur	Rajasthan
Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport	Amritsar	Punjab
Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Airport	Patna	Bihar
Birsa Munda Airport	Ranchi	Jharkhand
Bagdogra Airport	Bagdogra	West Bengal
Rajahmundry Airport	rajahmundry	Andhra Pradesh
Kandla Airport	Kandla	Gujarat
Tezu Airport	Tezu	Arunachal Pradesh
Lengpui Airport	Aizwal	Mizoram
Veer Savarkar International Airport	Port Blair	Andaman & Nicobar
Silchar Airport	Silchar	Assam
Zaruki International Airport	Shillong	Meghalaya
Sonari Airport	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand
Agatti Aerodrome	Agatti	Lakshadweep



## NICK NAMES OF IMPORTANT INDIAN PLACES

Nick Name	City Name
City Of Seven Islands	Mumbai
Pink City	Jaipur
Space City	Bangalore
Golden City	Amritsar
Manchester Of India	Ahmedabad
Silicon Valley Of India	Bangalore
Gateway Of India	Mumbai
City Of Festivals	Madurai
Queen Of Arabian Sea	Cochin
Garden City Of India	Bangalore
Electronic City Of India	Bangalore
Deccan Queen	Pune
City Of Buildings	Kolkata
Egg Bowls Of Asia	Andhra Pradesh
Manchester Of The South	Coimbatore
City Of Nawabs	Lucknow
Venice Of The East	Cochin
Queen Of The Mountains	Mussoorie
Hollywood Of India	Mumbai
City Of Weavers	Panipat

Nick Name	City Name
Switzerland Of India	Kashmir
Pittsburg Of India	Jamshedpur
Abode Of The God	Allahabad
Garden Of Spices Of India	Kerala
Heaven Of India	J&K
City Of Lakes	Srinagar
State Of Five Rivers	Punjab
City Of Castles	Kolkata
Manchester Of The North	Kanpur
Dakshin Ganga	Godavari
Old Ganga	Godavari
Sorrow Of Bengal	Damodar
Sacred River	Ganga
Blue Mountains	Nilgiri
City Of Rallies	New Delhi
Soya Region	Madhya Pradesh
Sorrow Of Bihar	Kosi
Steel City Of India	Jamshedpur
City Of Temples	Varanasi
Boston Of India	Ahmedabad

## CABINET MINISTERS

1.	Narendra Modi	Prime Minister, Public Grievances and Pensions; Personnel Ministry; All important Policy Issue, Space Department; Atomic Energy Department; and all other portfolios not allocated to any Minister
2.	Rajnath Singh	Defence Minister
3.	Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs
4.	Nitin Gadkari	Highways, and Road Transport Minister along with Minister of Enterprises (Micro, Small and Medium)
5.	DV Sadanand Gowda	Chemical and Fertilizers Minister
6.	Nirmala Sitharaman	Finance Minister and Corporate Affairs
7.	Ram Vilas Paswan	Consumer Affairs Minister; Food and Public Distribution
8.	Narendra Singh Tomar	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister; Rural Development Minister; and Panchayati Raj
9.	Ravi Shankar Prasad	Electronics and Information Technology Minister; Communications; Law and Justice Minister;

10.	Narendra Singh Tomar	Food Processing Industries Minister
11.	Thawar Chand Gehlot	Social Justice and Empowerment Minister
12.	Dr. S Jaishankar	External Affairs Minister
13.	Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank	Human Resource Development Minister
14.	Arjun Munda	Tribal Affairs Minister
15.	Smriti Irani	Minister of Textiles; Women and Child Development Minister
16.	Dr. Harshvardhan	Science and Technology Minister; Health and Family Welfare Minister; and Minister of Earth Sciences
17.	Prakash Javadekar	Environment Minister; Information and Broadcasting Minister and Forest and Climate Change
18.	Piyush Goyal	Railways Minister; and Commerce and Industry Minister
19.	Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Steel and Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister
20.	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minority Affairs Minister
21.	Prahalad Joshi	Parliamentary Affairs Minister; Minister of Mines and Coal Minister
22.	Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister
23.	Arvind Sawant	Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise Minister
24.	Giriraj Singh	Animal Husbandry Minister; Fisheries and Dairying
25.	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Jal Shakti Minister

## TEMPLES IN INDIA

Temple	Place
Badrinath Temple	Chamoli district, Uttarakhand
Golden Temple	Amritsar
The Konark Sun Temple	Puri district of Odisha
Gangotri Temple	Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand
Brihadeeswara Temple	Thanjavur city of Tamil Nadu
Siddhivinayak Temple	Prabha Devi, Mumbai
Somnath Temple	Saurashtra (Gujarat)
Vaishno Devi Mandir	J&K, near Katra
Kedarnath Temple)	Garhwal area (Uttarakhand)
Sanchi Stupa	Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh

Temple	Place
Kashi Vishwanath Temple	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
Meenakshi Temple	Madurai (Tamil Nadu)
Lingaraja Temple	Orissa
Lord Jagannath Temple	Puri (Orissa)
Yamunotri Temple	Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand
Tirupati Balaji	Tirumala (Andhra Pradesh)
Khajuraho Temple	Madhya Pradesh
Akshardham Temple	Delhi
Dwarkadhish Temple	Dwarka city (Gujarat)
Shirdi Sai Baba Temple	Shirdi town of Maharashtra

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## SPORTS AND TROPHIES

Cricket	Football	Hockey	Table Tennis	Lawn Tennis	Badminton	Golf
Ashes Cup	Rovers Cup	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Travancore Cup (women)	Davis Cup	Amrit Diwan Cup	Canada Cup
Asia Cup	Merdeka Cup	Aga Khan Cup	Swathling Cup (men)	Australian Open	Asia Cup	Rydet Cup
C.K. Naidu Trophy	Confederation cup	Maharaja Ranjit Singh Gold Cup	Bama Belleck Cup	French Open	Chaddha Cup	Walker Cup
Deodhar Trophy	DCM Trophy	Dhyanchand Trophy	–	Wimbledon	European Cup	Eisenhower Cup
Duleep Trophy	Durand Cup	Sindhia Gold cup	–	US Open	Harilela Cup	–
Gavaskar Border Trophy	B.C. Raj Trophy (National Championship)	Murugappa Gold Cup	–	Heineken Cup	Ibrahim Rahimatillah Challenger Cup	–
G.D. Birla Trophy	Bandodkar Trophy	Wellington Cup	–	–	Konica Cup	–
Gillette Cup	FIFA World Cup	Stanley Cup	–	–	Sophia Cup	–
ICC World Cup	Jules Rimet Trophy	–	–	–	Kitiakara Cup	–
Irani Trophy	Kalinga Cup	–	–	–	Malaysian Open	–
Jawaharlal Nehru Cup	Santosh Trophy	–	–	–	Thomas Cup (men)	–
Rani Jhansi Trophy	IFA Shield	–	–	–	Uber Cup (women)	–
Ranji Trophy	Scissor Cup	–	–	–	–	–
Rohinton, Barcia	Subroto Cup	–	–	–	–	–

Trophy						
Rothmans Cup	Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee Trophy	-	-	-	-	-
Sahara Cup	Todd Memorial Trophy	-	-	-	-	-
Sharjah Cup	Vittal Trophy	-	-	-	-	-
Singer Cup	UEFA Champions League	-	-	-	-	-
Titan Cup	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vijay Hazare Trophy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vijay Merchant Trophy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisden Trophy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wills Trophy	-	-	-	-	-	-

## IMPORTANT REVOLUTIONS IN INDIA

Revolution	Field
Green Revolution	Food grains
Blue Revolution	Fish Production
Black Revolution	Petroleum Production
Golden Revolution	Fruits/Overall Horticulture development/Honey Production
Grey Revolution	Fertilizer
Golden Fiber Revolution	Jute Production
Yellow Revolution	Oil Seeds production
Pink Revolution	Onion production/Pharmaceutical (India)/ Prawn production
White Revolution	Milk/Dairy production
Red Revolution	Meat & Tomato Production
Silver Revolution	Egg/Poultry Production
Silver Fiber Revolution	Cotton
Evergreen Revolution	Overall development of Agriculture.

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## STADIUMS IN INDIA

Stadium	Location
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium	New Delhi
Feroz Shah Kotla	New Delhi
Dhyan Chand National Stadium	New Delhi
Brabourne Stadium	Mumbai
Eden Gardens	Kolkata
Green Park	Kanpur
M.Chinnaswamy Stadium	Bangalore
Barabati Stadium	Cuttack
MA Chidambaram Stadium	Chennai
Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Ground	Rajkot
Rajiv Gandhi Port Silver Jubilee Stadium	Visakhapatnam

Stadium	Location
Greenfield International Stadium	Thiruvananthapuram
Barkatullah Khan Stadium	Jodhpur
Barsapara Cricket Stadium	Guwahati
Sardar Vallabhai Patel Motera	Ahmedabad
Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai
Moin-ul-Haq Stadium	Patna
Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Cricket Stadium	Guwahati
Vidarbha CA Ground	Nagpur
Sawai Mansingh Stadium	Jaipur
Indira Gandhi Stadium	Vijayawada
Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium	Hyderabad

Port	State
Paradip	Orissa
Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
Kolkata	West Bengal
Mumbai	Maharashtra
Kandla	Gujarat
Jawahar Lal Nehru	Maharashtra

Port	State
Cochin	Kerala
New Mangalore	Karnataka
Ennore	Tamil Nadu
Murmugao	Goa
Tuticorin	Tamil Nadu
Chennai	Tamil Nadu

## STATE | CHIEF MINISTER | GOVERNOR

State	Capital	Governor	Chief Minister
Andhra Pradesh	Amarvati	Biswabhusan Harichandan	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Brigadier B.D Mishra (Retd)	Pema Khandu
Assam	Dispur	Jagdish Mukhi	Sarbananda Sonowal
Bihar	Patna	Phagu Chauhan	Nitish Kumar
Chhattisgarh	Naya raipur/bilaspur	Anusuiya Uikey	Bhupesh Bhagel
Delhi	National capital of India	Lt. Governor Anil Baijal	Arvind Kejriwal
Goa	Panaji	Bhagat Singh Koshiyari	Pramod Sawant
Gujarat	Gandhinagar	Acharya Dev Vrat	Vijay Rupani
Haryana	Chandigarh	Satyadev Narayan Arya	Manohar Lal Khattar
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Bandaru Dattatreya	Jai Ram Thakur



Jammu-Kashmir	Srinagar	Manoj Sinha	--
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Draupadi Marmu	Hemant Soren
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala	B. S. Yediyurappa
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Arif Mohammed Khan	Pinarayi Vijayan
Ladakh	Leh	Radha Krishna Mathur	--
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Anandiben Patel	Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Uddhav Thackeray
Manipur	Imphal	Najma Heptulla	N . Biren Singh
Meghalaya	Shillong	Satya Pal Malik	Conrad Kongkal Sangma
Mizoram	Aizwal	S. Sreedharan Pillai	Zoramthanga
Nagaland	Kohima	RN Ravi	Neiphiu Rio
Odisha	Bhubaneshwar	Prof. Ganeshi Lal Mathur	Naveen Patnaik
Puducherry	Pondicherry	Kiran Bedi (Lt Governor)	V. Narayanasamy
Punjab	Chandigarh	VP Singh Badnore	Captain Amrinder Singh
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Kalraj Mishra	Ashok Gehlot
Sikkim	Gangtok	Ganga Prasad	Prem Singh Tamang
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Banwarilal Purohit	Edapaddi K. Palaniswami
Telangana	Hyderabad	Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan	K. Chandrashekhara Rao
Tripura	Agartala	Ramesh Bais	Biplab Kumar Deb
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Anandiben Patel	Yogi Adityanath
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Baby Rani Maurya	Trivendra Singh Rawat
West Bengal	Kolkata	Jagdeep Dhankar	Mamata Banerjee

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## IMPORTANT DAMS IN INDIA

Dam	River	State
Idukki Dam	Periyar	Kerala
Tehri Dam	Bhagirathi	Uttarakhand
Sardar Sarovar Dam	Narmada	Gujarat
Nagarjun Sagar Dam	Krishna	Telangana
Bhakra Dam	Satluj	Himachal Pradesh
Lakhwar Dam	Yamuna	Uttarakhand
Srisaillam Dam	Krishna	Telangana
Pakal Dul Dam	Marusudar	J&K
Salal Dam	Chenab	J&K
Chakra Dam	Chakra	Karnataka
ukai Dam	Tapi Nadi	Gujarat

Dam	River	State
Madupetty Dam	Palar	Kerala
Indira Sagar Dam	Narmada	Madhya Pradesh
Rihand Dam	Rihand	Uttar Pradesh
Pong Dam	Beas	Himachal Pradesh
Ranjit Sagar Dam	Ravi	Punjab
Baglihar Dam	Chenab	J&K
Supa Dam	Kali Nadi	Karnataka
Koteshwar Dam	Bhagi Rathi Nadi	Uttra Khand
Pillur Dam	Bhavani	Tamil Nadu
Parbati Dam	Parbati	himachal Pradesh

## IMPORTANT INDIAN CITIES LOCATED ON RIVER BANKS

City	River	State
Agra	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
Ahmedabad	Sabarmati	Gujarat
Allahabad	At the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati	Uttar Pradesh
Ayodhya	Saryu	Uttar Pradesh
Badrinath	Alaknanda	Uttarakhand
Banki	Mahanadi	Odisha
Brahmapur	Rushikulya	Odisha
Chhatrapur	Rushikulya	Odisha
Bhagalpur	Ganges	Bihar
Kolkata	Hugli	West Bengal
Cuttack	Mahanadi	Odisha
New Delhi	Yamuna	Delhi
Dibrugarh	Brahmaputra	Assam
Ferozpur	Sutlej	Punjab
Guwahati	Brahmaputra	Assam
Haridwar	Ganges	Uttarakhand
Hyderabad	Musi	Telangana
Jabalpur	Narmada	Madhya Pradesh
Kanpur	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Kota	Chambal	Rajasthan
Kottayam	Meenachil	Kerala
Jaunpur	Gomti	Uttar Pradesh

Patna	Ganges	Bihar
Rajahmundry	Godavari	Andhra Pradesh
Srinagar	Jhelum	Jammu & Kashmir
Surat	Tapi	Gujarat
Tiruchirapalli	Kaveri	Tamil Nadu
Varanasi	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Vijayawada	Krishna	Andhra Pradesh
Vadodara	Vishwamitri	Gujarat
Mathura	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
Mirzapur	Ganga	Uttar Pradesh
Auraiya	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
Etawah	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
Bangalore	Vrishabhavathi	Karnataka
Farrukhabad	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Fatehgarh	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Kannauj	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Mangalore	Netravati, Gurupura	Karnataka
Shimoga	Tunga River	Karnataka
Bhadravathi	Bhadra	Karnataka
Hospet	Tungabhadra	Karnataka
Karwar	Kali	Karnataka
Bagalkot	Ghataprabha	Karnataka
Honnavar	Sharavathi	Karnataka
Gwalior	Chambal	Madhya Pradesh
Gorakhpur	Rapti	Uttar Pradesh

Lucknow	Gomti	Uttar Pradesh
Kanpur Cantonment	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Shuklaganj	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Chakeri	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Malegaon	Girna River	Maharashtra
Sambalpur	Mahanadi	Odisha
Rourkela	Brahmani	Odisha
Pune	Mula,Mutha	Maharashtra
Daman	Daman Ganga River	Daman
Madurai	Vaigai	Tamil Nadu
Thiruchirappalli	Kaveri	Tamil Nadu
Chennai	Cooum,Adyar	Tamil Nadu
Coimbatore	Noyyal	Tamil Nadu
Erode	Kaveri	Tamil Nadu

Tirunelveli	Thamirabarani	Tamil Nadu
Bharuch	Narmada	Gujarat
Karjat	Ulhas	Maharashtra
Nashik	Godavari	Maharashtra
Mahad	Savitri	Maharashtra
Nanded	Godavari	Maharashtra
Kolhapur	Panchaganga	Maharashtra
Nellore	Pennar	Andhra Pradesh
Nizamabad	Godavari	Telangana
Sangli	Krishna	Maharashtra
Karad	Krishna,Koyna	Maharashtra
Hajipur	Ganges	Bihar
Ujjain	Shipra	Madhya Pradesh

## SOME IMPORTANT FACTS RELATED TO CENSUS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Slogan</b> - Our census, Our Future</li> <li>• <b>India's 1st Census</b> - 1872</li> <li>• <b>2011 Census</b> is - 15th Census</li> <li>• <b>Total Population</b> - 1,21,01,93,422</li> <li>• <b>India's Rank in population</b> - 2nd with 17.5% (1st China with 19%)</li> <li>• <b>Most Populous State</b> - Uttar Pradesh</li> <li>• <b>Least Populous State</b> – Sikkim</li> <li>• <b>Most Literate State</b> - Kerala (93.9%)</li> <li>• <b>Least Literate State</b> - Bihar (63.82%)</li> <li>• <b>National Sex Ratio</b> - Female : Male (940 : 1000)</li> <li>• <b>Highest Sex Ratio (State)</b> - Kerala (1084 : 1000)</li> <li>• <b>Lowest Sex Ratio (State)</b> - Haryana</li> <li>• <b>Highest Sex Ratio (UT)</b> - Puducherry</li> <li>• <b>Least Sex Ratio (UT)</b> - Daman &amp; Diu (61 : 1000)</li> <li>• <b>Literacy of Male</b> - 82.14%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Literacy of Female</b> - 65.46%</li> <li>• <b>Population Growth Rate</b> - 17.64%</li> <li>• <b>Highest fertility Rate</b> - Meghalaya</li> <li>• <b>Most literate Union Territory</b> - Lakshadweep (92.2%)</li> <li>• <b>Least literate Union Territory</b> - Dadra Nagar &amp; Haweli</li> <li>• <b>Most Literate District</b> - Serechhip (Mizoram)</li> <li>• <b>Least Literate District</b> - Dadra Naga &amp; Haveli</li> <li>• <b>Highest Density of Population</b> - Bihar (1102 sq.km)</li> <li>• <b>Lowest Density of Population</b> - Arunachal Pradesh (17)</li> <li>• <b>Total number of districts</b> - 640</li> <li>• <b>Highest Populous District</b> - Thane (Mumbai)</li> <li>• <b>100% Literacy District</b> - Palakkad (Kerala)</li> <li>• <b>100% Banking State</b> - Kerala</li> <li>• <b>100% Banking District</b> - Palakkad (Kerala)</li> <li>• <b>Density of Population in India</b> - 382 sq. km</li> <li>• <b>Increase in population (during 2001-2011)</b> - 181 million</li> </ul>
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## IMPORTANT WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

State	Wildlife Sanctuary	State	Wildlife Sanctuary
Assam	Amchang WLS Chakrashila WLS Dihing Patkai WLS East Karbi Anglong WLS North Karbi Anglong WLS Nambor WLS	Madhya Pradesh	Bori WLS Gandhi Sagar WLS Ghatigaon WLS Ken Gharial WLS Narsighgarh WLS National Chambal WLS Orcha WLS Kuno WLS Sardarpur WLS Son Gharial WLS
Andhra Pradesh	Coringa WLS Kolleru WLS Nellapattu WLS Pulicat Lake WLS Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarjuna SagarSrisailem) WLS	Manipur	YangoupokpiLokchao WLS
Bihar	Gautam Budha WLS Kaimur WLS Pant (Rajgir) WLS Valmiki WLS	Mizoram	Dampa WLS (TR) Ngengpui WLS Pualreng WLS Tokalo WLS
Chattisgarh	Badalkhol WLS Bhairamgarh WLS Bhoramdev WLS Udanti Wild Buffalo WLS	Meghalaya	Bagmara Pitcher Plant WLS Nongkhyllem WLS Siju WLS
Gujarat	Jambugodha WLS Jessore WLS Kutch Desert WLS Mitiyala WLS Porbandar Lake WLS Rampara Vidi WLS Ratanmahal WLS Shoolpaneswar (Dhumkhal) WLS Thol Lake WLS Wild Ass WLS	Nagaland	Fakim WLS Puliebadze WLS Rangapahar WLS
Goa	Bondla WLS Madei WLS Bhagwan Mahavir (Mollem) WLS Netravali WLS	Odisha	Badrama WLS Baisipalli WLS Chilika (Nalaban) WLS Hadgarh WLS Khalasuni WLS Satkosia Gorge WLS
Himachal Pradesh	Bandli WLS Daranghati WLS Dalra WLS Dhauladhar WLS	Punjab	Abohar WLS Harike Lake WLS Jhajjar Bacholi WLS

	Nargu WLS Pong Dam Lake WLS Shilli WLS Talra WLS		
Haryana	Bhindawas WLS Kalesar WLS Khaparwas WLS	Rajasthan	Bundh Baratha WLS Darrah WLS Jawahar Sagar WLS Kailadevi WLS Mount Abu WLS Ramsagar WLS Sariska WLS Sawai Man Singh WLS Shergarh WLS Sitamata WLS
J&K	Gulmarg WLS Limber WLS Nandini WL	Sikkim	Fambong Lho WLS Maenam WLS Pangolakha WLS
Jharkhand	Lawalong WLS Palkot WLS Parasnath WLS	Telangana	Kawal WLS
Karnataka	Arabithittu WLS Attiveri WLS Bhadra WLS Bhimgad WLS Brahmagiri WLS Cauvery WLS Nugu WLS Pushpagiri WLS Ranganathittu Bird WLS Sharavathi Valley WLS Someshwara WLS	Tamil Nadu	Karikili WLS Mudumalai WLS Pulicat Lake WLS Vaduvoor WLS Vedanthangal WLS Vettangudi WLS Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) WLS Kalakad WLS Karaivetti WLS
Kerala	Aralam WLS Chimmony WLS Idukki WLS Malabar WLS Mangalavanam Bird WLS Neyyar WLS Periyar WLS Thattekad Bird WLS	Tripura	Gumti WLS Rowa WLS Sepahijala WLS Trishna WLS
Maharashtra	Aner Dam WLS Bhamargarh WLS Bhimashankar WLS Great Indian Bustard WLS Jaikwadi WLS Koyana WLS Nagzira WLS Painganga WLS Radhanagari WLS	Uttarakhand	Askot Musk Deer WLS Binsar WLS Govind Pashu Vihar WLS Kedarnath WLS Sonanadi WLS



	Sagareshwar WLS Tipeswar WLS Tungareshwar WLS		
UP	Hastinapur WLS Ranipur WLS Sohagibarwa WLS Sur Sarovar WLS Chandraprabha WLS National Chambal WLS	West Bengal	Ballavpur WLS Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary Haliday Island WLS Lothian Island WLS Mahananda WLS

## IMPORTANT BOUNDARIES

**Radcliffe Line** : This boundary line is between India and Pakistan drawn by Sir Cyril Radcliffe in 1947.

**Durand Line** - It is between Pakistan and Afghanistan

**McMahon Line** - The boundary line between India and China to which China does not approve. It was demarcated by Sir Henry McMahon

**24th Parallel** - The line which Pakistan claims should be the Demarcation line between India and Pakistan, not accepted by India.

**Hindenberg Line** - Boundary line between Germany and Poland to which German retreated in 1917 during the First World War.

**Oder- Neisse Line** - The boundary line between Poland and East Germany.

**Mannerheim Line** - It is between Russia and Finland.

**Maginot Line** - The boundary line is between France and Germany.

**Siegfried Line** - The boundary line is between France and Germany.

**17th Parallel** - The line which defines the boundary between North Vietnam and South Vietnam before the two were united.

**38th Parallel** - The boundary line between North Korea and South Korea.

**49th Parallel** - It is the boundary line between the United States of America and Canada

## IMPORTANT AWARDS

**1. Bharat Ratna**— It is the highest civilian award of the India. The award was given for outstanding achievements in the arts, literature, science and public services but the government expanded the criteria to include “any field of human endeavour”. The number of annual awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.

**2. Padma Awards**— Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awards are for exceptional and distinguished service in any field including service rendered by Government servants.

**3. Gallantry Awards**— Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Ashok Chakra, Shaurya Chakra are given for appreciating the brave and gallant.

**4. Nobel Prize**— The Nobel Prize is widely regarded as the most prestigious award available in the fields of literature, medicine, physics, chemistry, peace, and Economics.

**5. Booker Prize**— Literature It is an annual award for the best original novel, written in the English language, and published in the UK literary award.

**6. Vyas Samman**— Literature Vyas Samman is awarded annually by the K.K. Birla Foundation in recognition of the Hindi literary work published in past 10 years.

**7. Moorti Devi Award**— Literature The Moortidevi Award is an annual literary award in India presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith organization for a work which emphasizes Indian philosophy and culture.

**8. Saraswati Samman**— Literature The award was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation. It is an annual award given for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any 22 Indian languages.

**9. Jnanpith award**— Literature The award was instituted in 1962. It is presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith, a trust founded by the Sahu Jain family, the publishers of the newspaper The Times

of India. It is an annual award given for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any 22 Indian languages.

- 10. Bihari Puraskar**—Literature Bihari Puraskar is a literary award instituted by K. K. Birla Foundation. The award is named after the famous Hindi poet Bihari and is awarded to an outstanding work published in Hindi or Rajasthani by a Rajasthani writer.
- 11. The Oscar/Academy Awards**—Films This is an annual American awards ceremony honoring cinematic achievements in the film industry.
- 12. Dadasaheb Phalke Award**—Cinema/Films The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in cinema. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- 13. Arjuna Award**— Outstanding performance from the sports persons insports and games. The Government has modified the format of Arjuna Award very recently and as per the revised schematic guidelines a sports person must have very good consistent performances for the previous 3 years at the international level to be considered as eligible for the Award.
- 14. Dronacharya Award**—Eminent coaches of any particular sport The award is named after the very famous archery coach, mentioned in the epic of India known as the Mahabharata. This award is not related with the sports persons who are still playing in the field; instead this is related to those eminent coaches of any particular sport.
- 15. Dhyan Chand Award**— The award that is given to the veteran sports persons of India for their lifetime achievement in their respective field of sport is named as the Dhyan Chand Award for Life Time Achievement inSports and Games.
- 16. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**— The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna is the highest honour bestowed to a sports person for his/her achievements in India.
- 17. Stirling Prize**—Architecture The Royal Institute of British Architects Stirling Prize is a British prize for excellence in architecture.
- 18. Aga Khan Award**—Architecture The Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA) is an architectural prize established by Aga Khan IV in 1977. It aims to identify and reward architectural concepts that successfully address the needs and aspirations of Islamic societies in the fields of contemporary design, social housing, community development and improvement.
- 19. Pritzker Prize**—Architecture The Pritzker Architecture Prize is awarded annually "to honor a living architect.
- 20. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize**—Science & Technology The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology (SSB) is a science award in India given annually by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for notable and outstanding research, applied or fundamental, in biology, chemistry, environmental science, engineering, mathematics, medicine and Physics.
- 21. Kalinga Prize**— The Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science is an award given by UNESCO for exceptional skill in presenting scientific ideas to lay people.
- 22. Grammy Award**—A Grammy Award, or Grammy, is an accolade by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences of the United States to recognize outstanding achievement in the music industry.
- 23. Abel Prize**—Mathematics The Abel Prize is an international prize awarded annually by the Government of Norway to one or more outstanding mathematicians.
- 24. International Gandhi Peace Prize**—This award is given to individuals and institutions for their contributions towardsocial, economic and political revolution through non-violence and Gandhian philosophy. The award carries Rs. 10 million in cash.
- 25. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award**—This is for Excellence inPublic Administration, Academicsand Management.
- 26. Green Star Awards**—The Green Star Awards recognize those who have made extraordinary efforts to respond toenvironmental disastersaround the world.
- 27. Magsaysay Award**—Public Service, Leadership, Journalism, Literature, creative artsandinternational understanding.
- 28. Pulitzer Prize**— The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements innewspaperand online journalism, iterature,andmusical compositionin the United States.
- 29. Sahitya Akademi Award**—Books in Indian Languages and English.
- 30. Manthan Award**—It is an initiative in India to recognize the best practices ine-Content and Creativity.
- 31. FiFi Awards**—TheFiFi Awards honor the fragranceindustry's creative achievements.
- 32. Sangeet-Natak Akademi Award**—Music, danceandDrama.
- 33. BAFTA Awards**—Television, Films, Video Gamesand Animation.

## BANKING AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS



### RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI)

RBI is a central bank of India, the only independent apex body of India which regulates all the financial institutions of India and provides important functions such as issuing of currency notes, inflation control, and monetary policy report.

- It was established on April 1, 1935 under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1935.
- It was nationalized in 1949

#### Structure of RBI:

The Central Board shall consist of following directors:

- A Governor and four Deputy Governors to be appointed by Central Government
- Four directors to be nominated by Central Government, one from each of the four Local Boards.
- Ten directors to be nominated by Central Government.
- Two Government Officials to be nominated by Central Government.

#### Functions of RBI:

- Bankers Bank
- Issue of bank notes
- Banker to Government
- Custodian of cash reserve of commercial banks
- Custodian of country's foreign reserve
- Central clearance and account settlement
- Formation of monetary policy for economic growth and to check inflation
- Controller of credit

#### Some Important Facts about RBI

- Headquarter :Mumbai( initially it was in Kolkata)
- First Governor :Sir Osborne Smith
- First Indian Governor: C.D. Deshmukh

### SCHEMES RELATED TO BANKING AND FINANCE

#### 1) Kisan Vikas Patra

Kisan Vikas Patra is small saving instrument which was launched in 1988 but closed in 2011. It was re-launched in 2014 through post office and those banks that are authorized to operate PPF scheme. Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) is regulated by KVP Rules 2014.

#### Features of Kisan Vikas Patra

- Denomination used in KVP: Rs 1000, Rs5000, Rs 10000 and Rs 50000
- Maturity period: 113 months
- Types of certificates: Category Single, Joint A-Type and Joint B-Type
- Minimum deposit : Rs 1000
- Maximum deposit: No limit
- Rate of interest:7.6%

- Certificate can be encashed after two and half years
- Facility of nomination is available
- Certificate can be transfer from one person to another and from one post office to another
- No tax benefit is available for this scheme

#### 2) Gold Monetization Scheme

It is a scheme that facilitates the depositors of gold to earn interest on their metal accounts. Once the gold deposit in the account, it will start earning interest on it.

**Tagline:**Earn while you secure

**Implemented by:** All scheduled/commercial banks excluding RRBs

**Deposit limit:**Minimum-30 g - Maximum-No limit

Tenure: 1 to 3 years (short term)

5 to 7 years (medium term)

12-15 years (long term)

**3) Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme**

A sovereign Bond is a debt security issued by national government.

It can be denominated in a foreign currency or government's own domestic company. It is tradable on stock market and available in physical and demat form.

Tagline: Invest Wisely, Earn Safely

Minimum limit: 2 gm of gold

Maximum limit: 500 gm

Issued by: RBI on behalf of Union Government

Tenure: Maximum 8 years but exit option is from 5<sup>th</sup> year

**4) Indian Gold Coin Scheme**

Under this scheme government sell gold from its own trading centre.

Ashok Chakra engraved on one side and the face of Mahatma Gandhi on the other side. It is available at MMTC (Metals and Mineral Corporation)

Denomination: 5gm, 10gm and 20gm

**5) Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana**

Sukanya Samriddhi Yozna is a girl prosperity scheme. It was launched by PM Modi as a part of Beti Bachao Beti Parao Campaign.

Objective: To promote the welfare of girl child

Minimum Deposit: Rs1000

Maximum Deposit: Rs150000

Maturity: 14 years from the opening of the account

Interest: 8.6%

Tenure of deposit: 21 years of date of the opening account

Account can be opened at Indian Post Office and Commercial Banks

**6) Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana**

Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yozna was launched by PM Modi in 2015. It is an insurance scheme launched for the welfare of needy people.

Minimum age for entry in scheme: 18years

Maximum age for entry in scheme: 50 years

Maximum Maturity Age: 55 years

Sum assured: Rs 200,000

Annual Premium: Rs330

**7) Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana**

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a national mission for the financial inclusion to access financial services. Under this scheme a customer can open with zero balance and if the customer want to get cheque book, the customer have to fulfill minimum balance criteria.

**Features of Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana**

- There is interest on deposit
- Accidental insurance cover of Rs 1 lac
- It also provide a life cover of Rs 30000
- Overdraft facility up to Rs5000 which is available to only one account per household preferably

**8) MUDRA(Micro Units Development and Refinance Company)**

Micro Units Development and Refinance Company is a new institution set up by the government of India for the development of micro units and Refinance Company. It is a part of SIDBI (Small Industrial Development Bank of India). It was launched in 2015. Under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, MUDRA has created three products:

1. Shishu: covering up to Rs 50000
2. Kishore: covering up to Rs 50,000 to 500,000
3. Tarun: covering loans above Rs500,000 to 10,00,000

**Features of MUDRA scheme**

- Its main purpose is to provide funding to non corporate small business sector
- Under the scheme women, SC, ST and OBC are given preference while giving loans

**9) Indradanush Scheme**

Government has launched a plan Indradanush to boost functioning of Public Sector Banks. This plan basically focuses on the 7 areas that are as follow:

- Appointments- As per the scheme Bank Board Bureau had replaced the existing appointment board
- Distressing-With this focus will be on distressing the banks from Non Performing Assets.
- Capitalization- Under this scheme government planned to infuse Rs 70000 crore in banks for the next four years.

**Allocation in four years is as follow:**

1. 2015-16 Rs25000 Crore
2. 2016-17 Rs25000 Crore
3. 2017-18 Rs10000 Crore
4. 2018-19 Rs10000 Crore

- Banking Empowerment-under this government is looking to introduce Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOPs) for the Public Sector Banks.
- Accountability-The government also provide new framework for the boost efficiency.
- Governance- A process of governance reforms start from Gyan Sangam- a conclave of PSBs and financial institutions
- Banking Reforms
- Objective: To improve credit system and minimizing the political interference

**10) Indradanush 2.0**

Indradanush 2.0 scheme was launched in 2017. It is a comprehensive plan for the recapitalization of public sector lenders with a view that they remain solvent and fully comply with global adequacy norms. It will be finalized after completion of AQR (Asset Quality Review) by RBI. Asset Quality Review: Every year RBI inspector check bank books as part of its annual financial inspection process (AFI). In 2015, a special inspection was conducted and named as Asset Quality Review (AQR).

## MASALA BOND, GREEN BOND & JUNK BOND

A bond is a debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity which borrows a fund for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed rate interest.

It is similar to debentures but the key difference is that it is issued by a government institute.

### Following are the different types of the bonds

**1) Corporate Bonds-** A corporate bond is a debt security which is issued by a company and sold to the investors.

- Company's assets may be used as collateral in some cases.
- The backing for the bond is usually depending upon the payment ability of the company.
- The corporate bonds have considered higher risk than governmental bonds.

**2) Convertible Bonds-** A convertible bond is a debt security that can be converted into predetermined amount of underlying company's equity. Convertible bonds are issue to avoid the negative impression of company's actions.

**3) Callable Bonds-** Callable Bonds are also known as "redeemable bonds" as the bonds are redeemed prior to the period of maturity.

**4) Term Bonds-** A term bonds are the bond which mature and come due on single date. A term bond possesses all the features of callable bonds.

**5) Government Bonds-** Government Bonds are those bonds which are issued by the government to support government spending. These bonds are more secure than corporate bonds.

### Following are Some Other Important Bonds

#### 1) Masala Bond

Masala Bonds are the rupee denominated borrowings by Indian entities in overseas market. The word "Masala" is given by the IFC (International Finance Corporation) to represent Indian culture and cuisine. First Masala Bond was issued by the IFC (International Finance Corporation) when it raised Rs 1000 crore bond to fund infrastructure projects in India.

#### Issuers of Masala Bonds

- RBI has issued guidelines allowing following entities to issue rupee denominated bond overseas.
- Indian Companies (Blue Chip Companies)
- NBFCs ( Non Banking Finance Companies)
- Infrastructure Investment Trust
- Real Investment Trust

### Benefits to Investor

- By investing in Masala Bonds, the investor gets tax deduction on interest income.
- Capital gains from rupee appreciation are exempted from tax.

### Benefits to Indian Companies

- If the issuer, issues bonds in rupees, then he gets rid of risk of currency fluctuation.
- The bonds bring new and diversified set of investors for Indian Companies.

### Regulator of Masala Bonds

As the Masala bonds are Indian Rupee denominated bonds, it is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

### 2) Green Bonds

A Green Bond is a tax-exempt bond which is issued for the investment in the green projects or for the development of Brownfield sites.

Brownfield Sites are the sites which are underutilized, have abandoned buildings or underdeveloped.

Issuers of Green Bonds: Green Bonds are issued by following multilateral agencies:

- World Bank
- Corporation
- Government agencies
- Municipalities

### Purpose

Green Bonds are issued to encourage sustainability and development of Brownfield sites. Specifically it finance projects aimed at energy efficiency, pollution prevention, sustainable water management etc.

### Regulator of Green Bonds

In India Green Bonds are regulated by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India).

### 3) Junk Bonds

Junk Bonds refer to high yield or non-investment grade bonds. These are named as junk bonds as it involves high rate of risk in relation to investment bonds. It is fixed income instrument that carry a credit rating lower by Moody's investor services.

Investor demands high yield bonds as it yields high rate of return which in turn a compensation for their investment.

### Regulator of Junk Bonds

In India Junk Bonds are regulated by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India).



# LIST OF THREE BIG CREDIT RATING AGENCIES

**Credit Rating Agencies**—Credit Rating Agencies provides objective analysis and independent assessment of companies and countries that issue securities. This assessment helps the investors and institutions whether these securities meet their obligations. There are top 3 three credit rating agencies of the world named as Moody’s, FITCH and Standard & Poor’s

**Fitch Inc.**

- Fitch Inc. is the smallest of three Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organisation designated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.
- Fitch was founded by John Knowles in Newyork City as Fitch Publishing Company
- It published financial statistics for use in the investment industry
- In 1924, Fitch introduced AAA though D rating system throughout the industry
- Later it merged with London based IBCA in 1997
- Headquarter: It is headquartered in Newyork (U.S) and London( U.K)
- President & CEO: Paul Taylor

- Moody’s is founded by John Moody in 1909 to produce manual published basic statistic and general information about stocks and bonds.
- It provides international financial research on bonds issued by commercial and government entities
- It ranks the creditworthiness of borrowers using a standardized rating scale
- According to Moody’s rating system, rates from Aaa to C s are assigned. Aaa for highest quality and C s for lowest quality.
- Headquarter: Newyork (U.S)
- Head: Raymond W MC Daniel

**Standard & Poor’s**

- Standard & Poor’s is the world’s leading Index provider and the foremost source of independent credit ratings. It provides financial market intelligence to decision makers.
- It is founded by Henry Varnum Poor in 1860
- It includes global ratings, global market intelligence, Dow Jones and global platts
- Headquarter: Newyork ( U.S)
- CEO: John L Berisford

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## LIST OF IMPORTANT COMMITTEES

List of Important Committees		
S.no	Name of committees	Focus Area
1	Ajay Shankar Committee	To review functioning of PPP cell
2	H R Khan Committee	To evaluate unclaimed PPP and post office saving
3	Bimal Jalan	To head the Expenditure Management Commission
4	Justice M B Shah	On black money
5	Deepak Mohanty Committee	Data and information management in the RBI
6	Arvind Mayaram Committee	To clear the definition to the FDI and FII
7	Nachiket Mor Committee	To permit NBFCs to work as business correspondence
8	P J Nayak Committee	Governance of Boards of Bank in India
9	K.V.Kamath Panel	To examine the financial architecture for Micro, small and medium enterprises
10	Tandon Committee	Follow up for bank credit
11	M L Dhantwala Committee	Regional Rural Banks
12	SS Nadkarni Committee	Trading in public sector banks
13	Bhide Committee	Coordination between commercial banks and SFC's
14	AK Bhuchar Committee	Coordination between term lending institutions and commercial banks
15	R. Jilani	Inspection System in Banks
16	James Raj Committee	Functioning of public sector banks
17	Vipin Malik Committee	Consolidated Accounting by banks
18	A Ghosh Committee	Frauds & Malpractices in India
19	A K Khandelwal	HR issues of public sector banks
20	R.H. Khan Committee	Harmonization of role of financial institution in banks
21	Rakesh Mohan	Small Savings
22	N. K Singh Committee	To review the fiscal responsibility and budget management act
23	Amitabh Chaudhry	Analysis the existing framework of IRDA-linked and non-linked insurance product regulations
24	Inter- departmental Tax Force	To monitor and review the functioning of shell companies to prevent their misuse for money laundering and tax evasion
25	Dinesh Sharma Committee	To propose new regulation related to digital currencies or virtual currencies
26	Sudharshan Sen Committee	To study regulatory issues relating to financial technology and digital banking in India
27	Rattan P Watal Committee	To boost digital payment system in India

## MONETARY POLICY

Monetary Policy is a process by which central bank of the country manage the supply of money which in turn effects on interest rates, inflation and growth of economy.

- In India RBI act as Central Monetary Authority.
- It formulates monetary policy at annual basis.

### TYPES OF MONETARY POLICY

- **EXPANSIONARY POLICY**- It emphasizes on increase the money supplies in economy and expands credit creation.
- **CONTRACTIONARY POLICY**- It emphasizes on decreasing or control the supply of money and credit.

### OBJECTIVES

- **PRICE STABILITY**- It refers to increase in general level of prices in economy. It implies avoiding both prolonged inflation and deflation.

- Economic Growth- It is increase in capacity of an economy to produce goods and services produced by country over a period of time.

### MEASURES AND TOOLS OF MONETARY POLICY

RBI use following two measures to regulate the monetary policy i.e. Quantitative and Qualitative Measures

#### QUANTITATIVE MEASURES

- **BANK RATE**-It is a rate of interest which a central bank charges on loans and advances to commercial banks without any collateral. It is a long term rate of interest. It implies penalty over banks not complying with RBI rules such as not maintaining CRR and SLR.
- **OPEN MARKET OPERATIONS**-It refers to buying and selling of government securities in open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in banking system.

**If securities purchased by RBI**-By doing so supply of money will increase in market due to which demand will increase and ultimately there will be rise in prices.

**If securities sold by RBI**-By doing so supply of money will decrease in market due to which demand will decrease and ultimately prices will fall.

**Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)**-It refers to certain percentage of total deposits the commercial banks are required to maintain in form of cash reserve with reserve bank in form of cash only.

**If rate of CRR is increased**- By increasing CRR the bank needs to deposit more money with RBI. As a result banks left with less money so less money with people which leads to lower demand for goods and services and lower prices.

**If rate of CRR is decreased**- By decreasing CRR the bank can deposit less money with RBI. As a result bank left with more money so more money with people which lead to higher demand for goods and services and high prices.

**Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)**- It refers to proportion of deposits the commercial bank is required to maintain with them in form of liquid assets such as gold or RBI approved securities.

**If rate of SLR is increased**- By doing so the bank needs to maintain more liquid assets with them. As a result bank left with less money so less money with people which lead to lower demand for goods and services and low prices.

**If rate of SLR is decreased**- By doing so the bank maintain less liquid asset with them. As a result bank left with more money so more money with people which lead to higher demand for goods and services and high prices.

**Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)**- It allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements.LAF is used to aid banks in adjusting the day to day mismatches in liquidity.

- Bank cannot sell government securities that are under SLR quota.
- Bank can borrow any amount of money.
- Minimum bidding amount is 5cr.
- All clients of RBI are eligible to bid.

**LAF (liquidity adjustment facility) can be classified into two:**

**1) Repo rate**(Repurchase Obligation)- It is the rate at which RBI lend money to commercial banks against securities in case commercial bank fall short of funds. It is a short term lending rate which fixed at predetermined rate and time.

**If Repo rate is increased**- If Repo rate will rise, the interest rate of banks will increased which becomes costlier for people then demand of goods and services will reduce and ultimately prices will fall.

**If Repo rate is decreased**- If Repo rate will fall, the interest rate of banks will decreased which becomes cheaper for people then demand of goods and services will increase and ultimately prices will rise.

**2). Reverse repo rate**- It is the reverse of Repo rate i.e. rate RBI pays to bank to park excess funds to RBI

**Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)**- By these mechanism commercial banks can get loans from RBI for their emergency needs.

- Minimum bidding amount in MSF is 1cr.
- Only scheduled commercial banks can bid.
- Banks can sell government security from SLR quota to RBI.
- Bank can borrow up to 2% of NDTL( net demand and time liability)

#### QUALITATIVE MEASURES

These measures can affect money supply in a specific sector of economy

- 1). **MARGIN REQUIREMENT**- This refers to difference between the securities offered and amount borrowed by bank.
- 2). **RATIONING OF CREDIT**- with this tool RBI can controls the credit granted and allocated by commercial banks.
- 3). **MORAL SUASION**- By this Central Bank may prohibit or dissuade commercial banks to deal in speculative business.
- 4). **DIRECT ACTION**- The Central Bank may take direct action against commercial banks that violate the rules, orders or advice of central bank.

**RBI RATES**(as per sixth bi-monthly policy statement for the year on October, 2017)

Bank Rate	5.40%
Cash Reserve Ratio(CRR)	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio(SLR)	18.25%
Repo Rate (RR)	5.15%
Reverse Repo Rate (RRR)	4.90%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	5.40%

## BANK ACCOUNTS

The account which is maintained by a financial institution for the customer is known as bank account. In India there are only five kinds of accounts such as Saving Account, Current Account, Recurring Deposit Account, Fixed Deposit Account and BSBDA Account

- 1) **Saving Account**-Saving Accounts are the individual accounts for the personal purpose of saving. Most of the individuals save their investments with this account.
  - The saving account is opened on the name of individuals only.
  - On saving account individual earn some rate of interest; this rate of interest varies from bank to bank.
  - When a person opens a saving account he is provided with a passbook, ATM, and cheque book.
  - In saving account, there is no restriction on the number and amount of deposit but there is certain restriction on the withdrawal.
  - Minimum balance has to be maintained by the customer as mentioned by the bank.
- 2) **Current Account**-Current Accounts are the accounts opened for the business transaction, on the name of firm or company. These are never used for the purpose of saving and investment.
  - There is no limit on the number of transactions and amount in a day such as deposit and withdrawal.
  - There is no interest paid on the amount held in the amount but there are some service charges on such accounts.
  - These accounts have not any fixed maturity as these accounts are on regular basis.
  - No passbook is issued for the current account holders.

- Minimum amount needed to open a current account varies from bank to bank.
  - Many facilities are provided to current account holder such as overdraft facility, statement of account.
- 3) **Recurring Deposit Account**-This account is opened by those who want to save small amount of money for a certain period of time and earn higher rate of interest.
    - Total amount is repaid along with interest after a fixed period of time.
    - The maximum period of deposit is ten years and minimum period of deposit is six months.
    - No withdrawals are allowed from Recurring Deposit Account.
    - Bank may allow close of account before the maturity period.
    - Interest rates may vary for different plans based on the amount deposit, period of time and also on banks.
    - Accounts can be opened in single or joint account.
  - 4) **Fixed Deposit Account**-In this account a fixed amount of money is paid for a specific period of time on which bank pays high rate of interest. It is also known as Term Deposit.
    - In this account deposit and withdrawal can be done only once.
    - Bank pays the rate of interest on the amount according to the period of time.
    - If withdrawal is done before the maturity period, bank can impose penalty on it.
  - 5) **BSBDA Account**-The Basic Saving Deposit Account is an account in which customer can open an account with zero balance. This bank is also known as No Frill Account.
    - No penalty is imposed on non-operating of these accounts.

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## BANKING ABBREVIATIONS

- **ADB-** Asian Development Bank
- **ADR-** American Depositary Receipt
- **AIFI-** All India Financial Institutions
- **AIB-** Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- **AQR-** Asset Quality Review
- **ATM-** Automatic Teller Machine
- **BIRD-** Bankers Institute of Rural Development
- **BIS-** Bank for International Settlement
- **BPLR-** Benchmark Prime Lending Rate
- **BSBDA-** Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account
- **BSE-** Bombay Stock Exchange
- **CAD-** Capital Account Deficit
- **CAMELS-** Capital Adequacy Assets Management Earning Liquidity Sensitivity
- **CAR-** Capital Adequacy Ratio
- **CARE-** Credit Analysis and Research Ltd.
- **CASA-** Current Account and Saving Account
- **CBS-** Core Banking Solution
- **CCEA-** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- **CDR-** Corporate Debt Restructuring
- **CIBIL-** Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd.
- **CRISIL-** Credit Rating and Information Services of India
- **ECS-** Electronic Clearing Service
- **EFT-** Electronic Fund Transfer
- **FEMA-** Foreign Exchange Management Act
- **FERA-** Foreign Exchange Regulatory Act
- **FIIs-** Foreign Institutional Investors
- **HDFC-** Housing Development Finance Corporation
- **IBA-** Indian Bank Association
- **IBRD-** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **ICICI-** Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India
- **ICRA-** Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency
- **ICSID-** International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
- **IDA-** International Development Association
- **IFCI-** Industrial Finance Corporation of India
- **IFSC-** Indian Financial System Code
- **IMF-** International Monetary Fund
- **IMPS-** Immediate Payment Service
- **INVITS-** Infrastructure Investment Trusts
- **IPO-** Initial Public Offerings
- **IRDAI-** Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India
- **KYC-** Know Your Customer
- **LAF-** Liquidity Adjustment Facility
- **LIBOR-** London Interbank Offered Rate
- **MIBID-** Mumbai Interbank Bid Rate
- **MIBOR-** Mumbai Interbank Offered Rate
- **MICR-** Magnetic Ink Character Recognition
- **MIGA-** Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- **MUDRA-** Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency
- **NABARD-** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- **NASDAQ-** National Association for Securities Dealers Automated Quotations
- **NAV-** Net Asset Value
- **NBFCs-** Non Banking Finance Companies
- **NDB-** New Development Bank
- **NDTL-** Net Demand and Time Liabilities
- **NECS-** National Electronic Clearing Service
- **NEFT-** National Electronic Fund Transfer
- **NHB-** National Housing Bank
- **NPA-** Non Performing Assets
- **NPCI-** National Payments Corporation of India
- **NSE-** National Stock Exchange
- **PIN-** Personal Identification Number
- **POS-** Point of Sale
- **PSBS-** Public Sector Banks
- **REITS-** Real Estate Investment Trust
- **RTGS-** Real Time Gross Settlement
- **SEBI-** Securities Exchange Board of India
- **SENSEX-** Sensitive Index
- **SWIFT-** Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication
- **SWOT-** Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats
- **UPI-** Unified Payment Interface



## FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

It is a claim against a person or an institution for payment of a sum of money or periodic payment in the form of interest or dividend at a specified future date. Financial Instruments can be classified in two types such as Capital Market Instruments and Money Market Instruments

### A) CAPITAL MARKET INSTRUMENTS

Capital Market Instruments consist of long term instruments for the period of more than one year. It includes:

1) **Equity Shares**- Equity shares represent the owner's capital in the company. The holders are the real owners of the company.

- They have a control over the working of the company.
- Equity shareholders are paid dividend.
- They provide permanent capital to the company and cannot redeem during life time of the company.

2) **Preference Shares** – Preference Shares are shares of company's stock with dividends that are paid out to shareholders before common stock dividends are issued. These shares have their certain preferences as compared to other types of share. These shares are given two preferences such as:

- Whenever the company has distributable profits, the dividend is first paid on preference shares.
- Repayment of the capital at the time of liquidation.

3) **Debentures**-A debenture is an acknowledgement of a debt. It is a document under company's seal which provide for the payment of principal sum and interest thereon.

- A debenture holder is a creditor of a company and interest is paid to him.
- Debentures are to be repaid after a definite period of time.

4) **Derivative** – A derivative is a security with a price that is dependent upon or derived from one or more underlying assets. Derivative is itself a contract between two parties based upon the asset or assets.

- The underlying assets include stocks, bonds, commodities, currencies.
- It can be traded over the counter or an exchange.

#### Derivative can be classified as follow:

- **Futures Contract**- Futures Contract is an agreement between two parties for the sale of assets at an agreed upon prices.
- **Forward Contract**- Forward Contract is similar to futures contract but the only difference is this that it is not traded on exchange but only traded on over the counter.

- **Swaps**- It is a contract between two parties agreeing to trade long terms.
- **Options**- It is also similar to futures contract but the key difference is that with an option buyer and seller is not obliged to make transaction if he or she decides not to.

5) **Bonds**- A bond is a debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity which borrows a fund for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed rate interest. It is similar to debentures but the key difference is that it is issued by a government institute.

### B) MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENTS

Money Market Instruments consist of short term instruments for a period of up to one year. It includes:

1) **Call Money** - The Call Money Market deals in short term finance repayable on demand.

- Funds are lent and borrowed without collateral.
- Maturity period of call loans varies from one day to fortnight.

2) **Treasury Bills** - It is a short term debt instrument issued by government of India and is presently issued in three tenures i.e. 91 days, 182days and 364 days.

- Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest.
- They are issued at discount and redeemed at face value at maturity.

3) **Certificate of Deposit** - Certificate Deposit are used by banks and issued to the depositors for a specified period less than one year- they are tradable and negotiable in the market.

4) **Commercial Papers** - It is used by corporate houses of India which should be a listed company. These companies need to obtain a specified credit rating from an agency approved by the RBI such as CRISIL

#### 5) **Commercial Bills**

- Commercial Bills are issued by the All India Financial Institutions (AIFI), Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Scheduled Commercial Banks, Merchant Banks, Co-operative Banks and Mutual Funds.
- Maturity of these bills is 30 days, 60 days and 90 days.

#### **Banking and Financial terms:**

1. **American Deposit Receipt (ADR)** – It is a negotiable certificate issued by a U.S. bank representing a specified number of shares in a foreign stock traded on U.S exchange.ADRs are denominated in U.S dollars.
2. **Anti Dated Cheque** - If date mentioned on the cheque is earlier than the date it is presented to bank; it is called anti

- dated cheque. Anti Dated Cheque is valid up to 3 months. Earlier it was 6 months but now it reduced to 3 months.
3. **Arbitrage** - Arbitrage is a process in which simultaneous purchase and sale of securities is done in order to earn profits with the difference in prices.
  4. **Balance of Trade** - Balance of Trade is a difference between country's export and import for a given time period. It is the largest component of balance of payments.
  5. **Balance of Payments** - A statement that summarizes an economy's transactions with the rest of world for a specified period of time is known as balance of payments.
  6. **Bancassurance** - It is the term used to describe the partnership or relationship between a bank and an insurance company whereby the insurance company uses the bank sales channel in order to sell insurance products.
  7. **Bank Account** - The account which is maintained by a financial institution for the customer is known as bank account.
  8. **Bank Drafts** - It is a negotiable instrument governed by the Negotiable Instrument Act 1881. It is a facility offered by the bank to its account holders only. A bank draft is a payment made by bank on the behalf of bank
  9. **Bank Rate** -It is a rate of interest which a central bank charges on loans and advances to commercial banks without any collateral. It is a long term rate of interest. It implies penalty over banks not complying with RBI rules such as not maintaining CRR and SLR.
  10. **Banking Ombudsman** -It is an authority to solve any complaints of the customer against the banks. If the customer is not satisfied with the compliant they can forward their complaint to governor of RBI.
  11. **Basel Norms** - Basel Norms are the set of recommendations for regulating banking industry in world. Basel Committee on Banking Supervision issued Basel Accords
  12. **Bearer Cheque** - A cheque which is payable to any person who present it for payment at the bank counter. Such cheques are risky as in case it lost, the finder may collect the payment from the bank.
  13. **Bonds** - A bond is a debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity which borrows a fund for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed rate interest.It is similar to debentures but the key difference is that it is issued by a government institute
  14. **Broker**- Broker is a registered member of a Stock Exchange who buys or sells securities on behalf of his client and charges a commission such brokers are also known as commission brokers.
  15. **Bull Market** - Bull Market is a market situation where a buyer buys shares in a hope that prices will increase in near future and he will resale in order to earn profits.
  16. **Call Money** - The Call Money Market deals in short term finance repayable on demand. In this funds are lent and borrowed without collateral and maturity period of call loans varies from one day to fortnight.
  17. **Call Option** - It is an agreement that gives the right to investor to buy bonds or shares at a specified price and within a specified period.
  18. **Capital Adequacy** - It refers to the amount of capital the financial institution has to hold as required by its financial regulator. This ensures the protection of depositors and investors and financial soundness of the bank.
  19. **Capital Market** -The segment of financial market of an economy from long term capital is raised via instruments such as securities, shares, bonds, debentures, mutual funds is known as securities market or capital market.
  20. **Capital Reserves**-Capital Reserves are undistributed reserves which is the part of company's profit which is not paid out as dividends to the shareholders.
  21. **Cash Reserve Ratio** -It refers to certain percentage of total deposits the commercial banks are required to maintain in form of cash reserve with reserve bank in form of cash only.
  22. **Cheque** - A cheque is a negotiable instrument that is used for payments and settlements in India. It is an agreement between two organizations to make payments
  23. **Cheque Truncation** -Cheque Truncation is a system in which physical cheque is converted into electronic form in order to reduce physical movement of cheques.
  24. **Certificate of Deposit** -Certificate Deposit are used by banks and issued to the depositors for a specified period less than one year.They are tradable and negotiable in the market
  25. **Commercial Paper**- It is used by corporate houses of India which should be a listed company. These companies need to obtain a specified credit rating from an agency approved by the RBI such as CRISIL
  26. **Commercial Bills** -Commercial Bills are issued by the All India Financial Institutions (AIFI), Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Scheduled Commercial Banks, Merchant Banks, Co-operative Banks and Mutual Funds. Maturity of these bills is 30 days, 60 days and 90 days.
  27. **Commercial Banks**- It is a type of institution that provides services such as accepting deposits, making business loans and offering basic investment product.

28. **Core Banking Solutions**-Core Banking Solution is a system where banks and their branches interconnected for the fast communication.
29. **Credit Rating**- Credit rating is the process in which debtor is given a rate on the basis of paying back of debt in time. This service is basically provided to the large scale borrowers such as companies.
30. **Current Account**- Current Accounts are the accounts opened for the business transaction, on the name of firm or company. These are never used for the purpose of saving and investment.
31. **Debentures**- A debenture is an acknowledgement of a debt. It is a document under company's seal which provide for the payment of principal sum and interest thereon.
32. **Demat Account** - Dematerialized Account is an account where shares and other securities are held in electronic form rather than physical form.
33. **Derivative** – A derivative is a security with a price that is dependent upon or derived from one or more underlying assets. Derivative is itself a contract between two parties based upon the asset or assets.
34. **Dishonor of Cheque**- No payment of cheque by the paying banker with a return memo giving reasons for the nonpayment.
35. **Double Financial Repression**- It is the phenomenon when the bank faces financial repression on the both sides of the balance sheet. Repression on the asset side is a byproduct of SLR and on the liability side, continuing increase in inflation.
36. **Drawer**- the person who holds an account in a certain bank and draws a cheque to make payment.
37. **Drawee**- the person to whom the cheque has been drawn.
38. **Escheat**- When government acquires the property of a person having no nominee is termed as Escheat.
39. **Escrow Account** - Escrow Account is held by the third party on the behalf of the other two parties that are in the process of completing transaction.
40. **Equity Shares**- Equity shares represent the owner's capital in the company. The holders are the real owners of the company.
41. **Factoring**- A factor is a financial institution which offers services relating to management and financing of debts arising out of credit sales.
42. **Foreign Banks** –A foreign branch bank is type of that is obliged to follow the regulations of both the home and host countries.
43. **Fixed Deposit Account**- In this account a fixed amount of money is paid for a specific period of time on which bank pays high rate of interest. It is also known as Term Deposit.
44. **Green Bonds**- Green Bonds are the bonds which are exempted from the tax and issued by qualified organizations for the development of Brownfield sites. Brownfield sites are the areas which are underutilized or underdeveloped.
45. **Global Depository Receipt**- Global Depository Receipt is a certificate issued by more than one country for shares in a foreign country. The shares are held by the international branch of foreign bank.
46. **Hedge**- Hedge is an investment to reduce the risk of adverse price movement in an asset.
47. **Indigenous Bankers**- Indigenous Bankers are the individuals and partnership firms performing banking functions. They are local bankers. They can be distinguished as professional money lenders whose primary business is not banking but money lending.
48. **Interest Rate Swaps**- It is the transfer of contractually agreed between two counterparties of their respective interest rate obligation.
49. **Investment Institutions**- It includes the institutions which mobilize savings of public at large through various schemes and invest these into corporate and government securities.
50. **Internet Banking**- Internet banking is also known as online banking, Virtual Banking and web banking. Internet Banking allows its user to execute transactions with the help of internet.
51. **Junk Bonds**- Junk Bonds are kind of bonds which gives high yield at the very high rate of risk. These kinds of bonds are rated lower by credit rating agencies.
52. **Leverage**- it is a technique in which debt is used to finance firm's assets in order to increase profitability of the company. The firm which has more debts than equity is highly leveraged firm and vice versa.
53. **LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate)** - It is a benchmark rate which some of the international banks charge for the short term loans.
54. **Liquidity Adjustment Facility**- It allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements. LAF is used to aid banks in adjusting the day to day mismatches in liquidity.
55. **Masala Bonds**- Masala Bonds are rupee denominated bonds i.e. bonds can be borrowed in Indian currency not in any foreign currency. These bonds can be issued by the Indian entities from overseas market.

56. **Merchant Banking-** In this service bank provides consultancy services to its clients for financial, marketing, managerial and legal matters.
57. **MIBOR (Mumbai Interbank Offered Rate)-** It is the rate at which bank can borrow funds from the other banks in Indian Interbank market. It is calculated everyday by the National Stock exchange
58. **Monetary Policy-** Monetary Policy is a process by which central bank of the country manage the supply of money which in turn effects on interest rates, inflation and growth of economy.
59. **Money Lenders-** A money lender is a person or a group who typically offers personal loans at a high rate of interest.
60. **Money Market-** The short term money market is known as Money Market.
61. **Mobile Banking-** Mobile Banking is a system that allows customers to perform a number of financial transactions through a mobile device
62. **Multinational Banking-** Multinational banks are those banks that physically operated in more than one country. It is also known as international bank. Narrow Banking involves mobilizing the larger part of the deposits in risk free assets such as government securities. In India narrow banking is implemented partially.
63. **NPA (Non Performing Assets)-** Non Performing Assets refers to the classification of loans in the books of financial institutions that are in arrears. The debt is considered non-performing when it is not paid for the period of 90 days.
64. **Open Market Operations -** It refers to buying and selling of government securities in open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in banking system.
65. **Open/ Uncrossed Cheque-** The cheque which is not crossed is known as Open Cheque or Uncrossed Cheque. The payment of such cheques can be obtained on the counter of the bank.
66. **Overdraft –** With this facility a customer can withdraws more money from the bank account that has been deposited.
67. **Preference Shares –** Preference Shares are shares of company's stock with dividends that are paid out to shareholders before common stock dividends are issued
68. **Post Dated Cheque-** If the cheque bears the any future date in the cheque that is known as Post Dated Cheque. Post dated cheque can be presented only on the future date which is written on the cheque.
69. **POS (Point of Sale)-** The place where sales are made. On a macro level, a point of sale may be a mall, market or city. On a micro level, retailers consider a point of sale to be area surrounding the counter where customers pay which is also known as "point of Purchase"
70. **Primary Market-**The market in which the instruments of security market are traded directly between the capital raiser and instrument purchaser is known as primary market.
71. **Put Option-** It is an agreement where investor has given a right to sell shares and bonds at a specified price and within a specified period.
72. **Regional Rural Banks-** Regional Rural Banks are local level banking organizations operating in different states of India. RRBs were established in 1975 on the recommendations of Narsimham Committee. It is followed by Regional Rural Banks Act 1976. RRBs are regulated by NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) act 1981.
73. **Retail Banking-** Retail Banking refers to banking in which banking institutions execute transactions directly with consumers rather than corporate or other banks.
74. **Recurring Deposit Account-** This account is opened by those who want to save small amount of money for a certain period of time and earn higher rate of interest.
75. **Scheduled banks-** The banks which are included in Second Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 are schedule banks. RBI includes only those banks under this schedule which fulfill the criteria laid down under section 42(6)(a) of RBI Act 1934.
76. **Saving Account-** Saving Accounts are the individual accounts for the personal purpose of saving. Most of the individuals save their investments with this account.
77. **Secondary Market-** The market where the instruments of security market are traded among the primary instrument holders is known as secondary market.
78. **Self Help Group-** It is a homogeneous group of micro entrepreneurs with affinity among themselves, voluntarily formed to save whatever amount they can conveniently save out of their earnings and mutually agree to contribute to a common fund of the group from which small loans are given to the members of their meeting their productive and emergent credit needs at such rate of interest, period of loan and the other terms as the group may decide.
79. **Stock Broking-** Stock Broking is a function in which broker buys or sells securities on behalf of its client and charge commission on this transaction.
80. **Statutory Liquidity Ratio -** It refers to proportion of deposits the commercial bank is required to maintain with them in form of liquid assets such as gold or RBI approved securities.

81. **Stale Cheque-** If the cheque is presented after the 3 months of the date which is mentioned on the cheque is known as stale cheque. After the expiry of validity payment cannot be made.
82. **Stressed Assets-** Assets of banking company comprises of loans given and investments made by the bank. Quality of the assets indicates how much of the loans taken by the borrowers are repaid in the form of interest and principle. Hence stressed assets = NPA + Restructured Advances + Loan Write off
83. **SWIFT Code-** It is a standard format of the bank identifier code. This code is used particularly in international transfer of money between banks.
84. **Treasury Bills-** It is a short term debt instrument issued by government of India and is presently issued in three tenures i.e. 91 days, 182 days and 364 days. Universal Banking is a combination of commercial banking, investment banking, development banking, insurance and many other financial activities. It is a place where all products are available.
85. **Venture Capital -** The term venture capital represents financial investment in highly risky project with the objective of earning a high rate of return.
86. **Wholesale Banking-** Wholesale Banking refers to conducting banking business with industrial and business entities. This includes corporate, trading houses, multinational companies and domestic companies.
87. **Window Dressing-** It is a strategy used by the mutual fund and other portfolio manager near the year or quarter end to improve the appearance of funds performance before presenting to clients.

## DIFFERENTIATED BANKS IN INDIA

Under the recommendations of Dr. Nachiket Mor committee new step for the financial inclusion has been taken in the country. As per the recommendations RBI set up the guidelines for the new categories of banks i.e. Payment Banks and Small Finance Banks.

### Payments Banks in India

On the recommendations of Dr. Nachiket Mor committee RBI (Reserve Bank of India) grants license for commencement of banking business under section 22(1) of Banking Regulation Act 1949 and registered as a private company under Companies Act. It is a new model of banks which is conceptualized by the RBI (Reserve Bank of India)

The main objective of setting up of payment banks for the purpose of financial inclusion by providing:

- Small saving account
- Payment services

### Features of payment banks

- Non finance company entities and existing non bank prepaid instruments issuer may apply for the payments bank
- Minimum capital required for the payment banks is Rs. 100 crore
- Foreign shareholding is allowed to these banks but as per the regulations of FDI ( Foreign Direct Investment)
- Payment Banks cannot provide lending services but allowed to distribute financial product such as mutual funds and insurance products.

- The bank must use the term payment bank in its name to differentiate it from other banks.
- 25% of the bank branches of the payment banks must be in unbanked rural areas.

### Services provided by the Payment Banks

- Acceptance of deposits (initially restricted to Rs 100,000)
- Payment Banks can provide services like ATM, net banking, debit cards and net banking
- Current and saving accounts can be operated through this bank.

In 2015, RBI (Reserve Bank of India) grants license to the 11 entities out of 41 entities who applied for the license

Following are the 11 entities which are granted license

1. Aditya Birla Nuvo
2. Airtel M Commerce Services
3. Cholamandalam Distribution Services
4. Department of Post
5. FINO Pay Tech
6. National Securities Depository
7. Reliance Industries
8. Sun Pharmaceuticals
9. Paytm
10. Tech Mahindra
11. Vodafone M Pesa

Out of above three have surrendered their licenses i.e. Cholamandalam Distribution Services, Sun Pharmaceuticals and Tech Mahindra. Airtel becomes the first to launched live payments banks in India



**Small Finance Banks in India**

Small Finance Banks are the banks which are globally known as niche bank. It is registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act 2013. Small Finance banks are licensed under section 22 of the Banking Regulations 1949. The main aim of setting up of these banks is to provide financial inclusion to those sections of economy not being served by the banks.

**Features of Small Finance Banks in India**

- Existing NBFCs ( Non Banking Finance Companies), Micro-finance Companies and Local Area Banks may apply for the small finance banks in India
- Small Finance Banks are established as public limited company in private sector
- Minimum paid up capital for the small finance banks is Rs 100 crore
- Small Finance Banks are required to establish its 25% branches in unbanked areas
- These entities must add the term small finance bank with its name to differentiate it from other banks
- Foreign Shareholding is allowed as per the FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) policy

**Services provided by Small Finance Banks**

- Small Finance Banks can provide basic banking activities such as deposit and lending of funds ( There is no such restriction on the amount of deposit )
- Small Finance Banks can also undertake non-risk sharing simple financial services such as distribution of mutual funds, insurance products and pension products
- In 2015 RBI grants license to 10 entities through which they have to convert into Small Finance Banks within one year.

**Following are the entities**

1. Ujjavan
2. Janakakshmi
3. Equita
4. AU Financiers
5. Capital LAB
6. Disha
7. ESAF
8. RGVN
9. Suryoday
10. Utkarsh

## CHEQUES

A cheque is a negotiable instrument that is used for payments and settlements in India. It is an agreement between two organizations to make payments. Following are the types of the cheque:

- **Bearer Cheque** -A cheque which is payable to any person who present it for payment at the bank counter. Such cheques are risky as in case it lost, the finder may collect the payment from the bank.
- **Open/ UncrossedCheque** - The cheque which is not crossed is known as Open Cheque or Uncrossed Cheque. The payment of such cheques can be obtained on the counter of the bank.
- **Crossed Cheque** - Crossing of cheque means drawing two parallel lines on the face of cheque. It cannot be encashed at

the cash counter of the bank but it can only credited to payee's account.

- **Anti Dated Cheque** - If date mentioned on the cheque is earlier than the date it is presented to bank; it is called anti dated cheque. Anti Dated Cheque is valid up to 3 months. Earlier it was 6 months but now it reduced to 3 months.
- **Post Dated Cheque** - If the cheque bears the any future date in the cheque that is known as Post Dated Cheque. Post dated cheque can be presented only on the future date which is written on the cheque.
- **Stale Cheque** - If the cheque is presented after the 3 months of the date which is mentioned on the cheque is known as stale cheque. After the expiry of validity payment cannot be made.

## BASEL NORMS

Basel Norms are the set of recommendations for regulating banking industry in world. Basel Committee on Banking Supervision issued Basel Accords.

Basel committee is named after the Basel city in Switzerland where Bank for International Settlements headquartered

- Recommendations framed by the Basel Committee but by the National law
- Basel committee consists of representatives of central bank and regulatory authority of ten member countries.

**Basel Committee has given three Basel Norms named Basel I, Basel II and Basel III:**

### 1. Basel I

Basel I is also known as 1988 Basel Accords. As in 1988 Basel Committee on Banking Supervision published a set of minimum capital requirement of banks with a goal of minimizing capital risk.

The banks which are operated internationally are required to maintain a minimum amount of 8% on risk weighted assets as per the recommendations of Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. Basel I basically focused on credit risk and appropriate risk weighting of assets.

**India adopted Basel I recommendations in 1991**

### 2. Basel II

It is the second international banking regulatory accord. Basel II is the expanded rules for minimum capital requirement established under Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

**Basel II accord based on the three pillars:** Minimum capital requirement, supervisory review and market discipline.

- **Minimum Capital Requirement:** it is the first pillar of Basel I accord. Under this regulatory capital is maintained which is calculated for the major components of risk that a bank faces. The risk involved is credit risk, operational risk and market risk.
- **Supervisory View:** It is the second pillar of Basel II accord. It provides framework for national regulatory bodies to deal with various types of risk such as systematic risk, liquidity risk and legal risk.
- **Market Discipline:** It provides various disclosure requirement for the bank such as risk exposures, risk assessment process and capital adequacy.

**In India Basel II norms are implemented by Reserve Bank of India on 31 March 2009.**

### 3. Basel III

In late 2009 the first version of Basel accord is published by Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. It aims to promote a more flexible banking system by focusing on four vital banking parameters viz. capital, leverage, funding and liquidity.

#### Purpose:

- To improve banking sector's ability to deal with financial stress
- To improve risk management
- To strengthen the bank's transparency

**In India Reserve Bank of India has extended the timeline for full implementation of the Basel III capital regulations by the year to 31 March 2019**

## IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OF INDIA

### 1) Credit Rating Agencies

Credit rating agency is a company which rates the companies and government on the basis of their ability to pay back the debt in timely manner. There are four credit rating agencies in India:

#### I. CRISIL (Credit Rating and Information Services of India Ltd.)

- India's first credit rating agency.
- Founded: 1987

- Headquarter: Mumbai

#### II. ICRA (Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency)

- It is an Indian independent and professional investment information agency.
- Founded: 1991
- Headquarter: Gurugram

#### III. CARE (Credit Analysis & Research Ltd.)

- It is second largest credit rating agency in India.
- Founded: 1993
- Headquarter: Mumbai

#### IV. Onicra Credit Information Company Ltd

- It is a private sector agency set up by Onida finance.
- Established :1993
- Headquarter : Gurugram

#### 2) CIBIL (Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd.

- India's first credit information company.
- Founded :2000
- Headquarter: Mumbai

#### 3) SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India)

- SEBI is a regulator of India's securities market.
- Established: 1992
- Headquarter: Mumbai

#### 4) IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)

It is an autonomous, statutory agency tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.

- Founded : 1999
- Headquarter: Hyderabad

#### 5) MUDRA Bank (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Bank )

It is financial institution which is setup under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojna. It is set up to provide loans at low interest rates to micro finance institutions.

- Headquarter: New Delhi

- Founded: 8 April 2015
- MUDRA can be classified into three types:
  - Shishu: under this loans up to Rs 50000 will be provided
  - Kishore: under this loans up to Rs 5 lakh will be provided
  - Tarun: under this loans up to Rs 10 lakh will be provided

#### 6) NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)

It is the umbrella organization for all retail payment systems in India, which aims to allow all Indian citizens to have unrestricted access to e-payment services.

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarter : Mumbai

#### 7) NHB (National Housing Bank)

National Housing Bank is the apex bank in India. It is the wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.

- Founded: 1988
- Headquarter :New Delhi

#### 8) SIDBI ( Small Industrial Development Bank of India)

It is the subsidiary of Industrial Development Bank of India. It was set up to promote finance and to develop micro and medium industries of India.

- Established: 1990
- Headquarter: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

## BANKS WITH HEADQUARTERS & TAG LINES

Sr. No.	Bank(s)	Headquarter	Tag Line
1	Allahabad Bank	Kolkata	A Tradition of Trust
2	Andhra Bank	Hyderabad	Where India Banks
3	Bank of Baroda	Mumbai	India's International Bank
4	Bank of India	Mumbai	Relationship Beyond Banking
5	Bank of Maharashtra	Pune	One Family One Bank
6	Bharatiya Mahila Bank Ltd	New Delhi	Empowering Women Empowering India
7	Canara Bank	Bangalore	Together We Can
8	Central Bank of India	Mumbai	Central to you Since 1911
9	Corporation Bank	Mangalore	A Premier Public Sector Bank
10	Dena Bank	Mumbai	Trusted Family Bank
11	IDBI Bank	Mumbai	Banking For All, "Aao Sochein Bada"
12	Indian Bank	Chennai	Your Tech- Friendly Bank
13	Indian Overseas Bank	Chennai	Good People to Grow With
14	Oriental Bank of Commerce	New Delhi	Where Every Individual Is Committed

15	Punjab National Bank	New Delhi	The Name You Can Bank Upon
16	Punjab and Sind Bank	New Delhi	Where Service Is A Way Of Life
17	State Bank of India	Mumbai	Bade Bank ke Bade Faayde
18	Syndicate Bank	Karnataka	Faithful Friendly
19	UCO Bank	Kolkata	Honours Your Trust
20	Union Bank of India	Mumbai	Good People to Bank With
21	United Bank of India	Kolkata	The Bank That Begins With "U"
22	Vijaya Bank	Bangalore	A Friend You Can Bank On
23	Bandhan	Kolkata	Hope for The Poor
24	ECGC Bank	Mumbai	You Focus On Exports We Cover The Risks
25	HDFC	Mumbai	We Understand Your World Indeed
26	Axis Bank	Mumbai	Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi
27	ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Hum Hai Na, Khyal Apka
28	HSBC	London	The World's Local Bank
29	IDFC	Mumbai	-





## Corporate Office

**Delhi**  
Opposite V3S Mall, Near Nirman  
Vihar Metro Station, Laxmi Nagar,  
Delhi -10092  
☎ 93327-93327

## Head Office

**Jalandhar-Punjab**  
SCO-116, Puda Pocket-II  
Opp. Bus Stand, Jalandhar  
☎ 96 96 96 00 29

## Regional Office

**Chandigarh**  
SCO- 80-82, 2nd Floor,  
Sector 34 A, Chandigarh  
☎ 86998-86998

## Zonal Office

**Nagpur-Maharashtra**  
13, Avtar Meharbaba Society,  
Near Bhole Petrol Pump,  
RTO Square,  
Dharampeeth, Nagpur-10  
☎ 82370-40005

### ASSAM

Bongaigaon : +91-88766-43950  
Tezpur : +91-97079-28084

### BIHAR

Buxar : +91-70503-82914  
Bhagalpur : +91-73690-43279  
Chapra : +91-99901-11835  
Hazipur : +91-86601-76105  
Muzaffarpur : +91-62876-71059  
Patna : +91-62876-71058

### CHANDIGARH

Sec-34 A : +91-86998-86998

### CHHATTISGARH

Bhilai : +91-78840-86064

### DELHI-NCR

Badarpur : +91-9871906300  
Ghaziabad : +91-99101-06102  
Gurugram : +91-87503-79000  
Jungpura : +91-98739-99470  
Laxmi Nagar (Co) : +91-93327-93327  
Pitampura : +91-85869-30343

### GUJARAT

Ahmedabad : +91-96244-46611  
Chandkheda : +91-93289-63499  
Jamnagar : +91-98567-00500  
Surat : +91-98251-11998

### HARYANA

Ambala : +91-70822-69082  
Karnal : +91-87081-66685  
Yamunanagar : +91-93061-622677

### HIMACHAL PRADESH

Amb : +91-70622-52451  
Kangra : +91-98056-04227  
Hamirpur : +91-94189-60447

Mandi : +91-98167-59903

Sunni : +91-83518-84102

### JAMMU & KASHMIR

Jammu : +91-70062-90048  
Kathua : +91-94191-24504

### JHARKHAND

Jamshedpur : +91-91027-66253

### KARNATAKA

Nipani : +91-88676-30808

### KERALA

Malappuram : +91-90370-07555  
Kottayam : +91-90722-74008  
Pala : +91-85475-93969  
Payyanur : +91-90723-76007

### MADHYA PRADESH

Betul : +91-99269-08607  
Indore : +91-90114-90116

### MAHARASHTRA

Ahmednagar : +91-98223-33888  
Akola : +91-88057-44194  
Baramati : +91-73505-40768  
Ghatkopar : +91-99203-41888  
Fatima Nagar : +91-95293-29854  
Kolhapur : +91-92255-21422  
Mumbai-Malad : +91-98195-18313  
Nagpur (ZO) : +91-99670-29818  
Nanded : +91-72180-09992  
Pune-Aundh : +91-84217-62647  
Pune-Chandan Nagar : +91-98906-60594  
Pune-Kondhwa : +91-78752-87287  
Wardha : +91-98223-60985

### ODISHA

Balasore : +91-99372-02649  
Bhubaneswar : +91-99375-40727  
Cuttack : +91-77880-74377

### PUNJAB

Amritsar : +91-98887-10660  
Barnala : +91-88472-05185  
Ferozepur : +91-97813-53043  
Gurdaspur : +9178149-58196  
Hoshiarpur : +91-86995-86999  
Jalandhar : +91-94636-12090  
Ludhiana : +91-92163-80013  
Pathankot : +91-90418-76534  
Patiala : +91-84372-06665  
Sangrur : +91-98559-26805

### RAJASTHAN

Ajmer : +91-92523-75222  
Bhilwara : +91-82331-77876

### TAMIL NADU

Ambattur : +91-96772-04875  
Anna Nagar : +91-82200-20021  
Coimbatore : +91-98422-97768  
Gobichettipalayam : +91-98422-73499  
Guduvacherry : +91-98840-00251  
Hosur : +91-94433-89244  
Kallakurichi : +91-97872-62658  
Kalpakkam : +91-94451-69918  
Karaikudi : +91-97502-49489  
Karur : +91-94861-11498  
Kothagiri : +91-94882-73377  
Kumbakonam : +91-93645-59397  
Madurai : +91-97878-88228  
Mayiladuthurai : +91-89734-05050  
MDU-Simmakkal : +91-97916-55886  
Mettupalayam : +91-98654-55652  
Mylapore : +044-24980005  
Old Washermanpet : +91-94445-16571  
Pallavaram, Chennai : +91-93812-30977  
Perambur : +91-97909-23092

Perungudi : +91-95141-14455

Pudukkottai : +91-74485-65828

Purasaiwalkam : +91-98411-18881

Porur : +91-93829-13366

Tambaram : +91-99400-34201

Thanjavur : +91-99413-33487

Thirukalukundram : +91-98849-21439

Tirupattur : +91-98428-22352

Tirunelveli : +91-94429-99597

Thiruninravur : +91-98402-12402

Vaniyambadi : +91-94437-47970

Vellore (Sathuvachari) : +91-88704-72431

Villupuram : +91-93834-45556

### TELANGANA

Ameerpet : 91-88974-06161  
ECIL-Hyderabad : +91-99855-67435

Habsiguda : +91-91777-30001

Dilsukhnagar : +91-81850-04422

Karimnagar : +91-63045-85055

### UTTAR PRADESH

Gorakhpur : +91-90446-42400

Ghaziabad : +91-99101-06102

Faizabad : +91-82875-92003

Sonbhadra : +91-88817-87639

### UTTARAKHAND

Dehradun : +91-81264-05022

### WEST BENGAL

Bankura : +91-97332-20909

Balurghat : +91-87178-27418

Coochbehar : 91-89726-52625

Durgapur : 91-97332-50909

Howrah : +91-98360-77599

Kolkata : +91-90884-79999

Malda : +91-97330-55500

Siliguri : +91-74300-28870



# IBT INSTITUTE PVT. LTD

Corporate Office:- Opposite V3S Mall, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi

Head Office:- SCO-116, IBT Building, Opp. Bus Stand Gate No. 3, Jalandhar

Help Line No. :- 0181-4606262, 96 96 96 00 29

www.ibtindia.com

headoffice@ibtindia.com

www.makemyexam.in

www.facebook.com/ibtindia