

Monthly G.K Capsule

June, 2020



make  exam

Download India's #1 Competitive Exam Prep. App



www.makemyexam.in



support@makemyexam.in

NATIONAL NEWS

1. DRDO develops “Ultra Swachh” for disinfection of PPEs, electronic items, fabrics

- DRDO develops ‘Ultra Swachh’ for disinfection of PPEs, electronic items, fabrics
Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed a disinfection unit named Ultra Swachh to disinfect a wide range of materials, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics and others. Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, the Delhi-based laboratory of DRDO has developed this product with industry partner Gel Craft Health care Private Ltd.
- The system uses an advanced oxidative process consisting of multiple barrier disruption approaches using Ozonated Space Technology for disinfection. Ultra Swachh is double-layered, with specialized Ozone sealant technology ensuring trapping of Ozone for the necessary disinfection cycle.
- It also has a catalytic converter to ensure environment friendly exhaust. Ultra Swachh comes in two variants namely Ozonated Space and Trinetra Technology. Trinetra technology is the combination of Ozonated space and radical dispenser.

2. Centre launches three new schemes to boost Electronics sector

- On June 2, 2020, the Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched three new schemes to boost electronics sector. They are Production linked incentive scheme, cluster scheme and component manufacturing scheme .
- The schemes are expected to attract investments. They will increase the manufacturing of mobile phones and their parts to around Rs 10 lakh crores by 2025. Also, the scheme will help generate 5 lakhs direct and 15 lakhs of indirect jobs.
- The scheme will provide an incentive of 4% to 6% to the goods manufactured in India.

3. Elections to 24 Rajya Sabha seats to be held on 19th of June

- Election Commission has announced that elections for 24 Rajya Sabha seats spread across 10 states will be held on June 19. Polling for 18 of these 24 seats were deferred due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Of these 18 seats, four each are from Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, three each from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, two from Jharkhand, and one each from Manipur and Meghalaya. The EC also announced that Rajya Sabha polls for a total of six seats in Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Mizoram will also be held on June 19 along with the elections that were deferred from March.

4. Govt unveils PM SVANIDHI scheme to provide affordable loans to street vendors

- Union Government launched PM SVANIDHI - Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi - a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loans to street vendors. The scheme is aimed at enabling the street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to COVID-19 lockdown.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched the scheme in pursuance of the announcement made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month. The street vendors belonging to the surrounding peri-urban or rural areas are being included as beneficiaries under the urban livelihoods programme for the first time.
- Under the scheme, each of these street vendors will be given a credit loan of Rs 10,000, which they can return as monthly installments within a year. Those who repay their loans

on time will get 7 percent annual interest as subsidy which will be transferred in their bank accounts

5. Odisha, Sikkim, and Mizoram included in “One Nation-One Ration Card” scheme

- The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan informed that Odisha, Sikkim, and Mizoram have joined the ‘One Nation-One Ration Card’ scheme on ‘Integrated Management of Public Distribution System’(IM-PDS) a total of 20 states/Union Territories(UTs) in the scheme.
- Under this plan National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 ration cards that have recorded at least one Aadhaar authenticated transaction in the last 6-months shall be eligible for the national portability transactions.
- The scheme enables the NFSA ration cardholders to avail their subsidised foodgrains from any ePoS software-enabled Fair Price shop(FPS) anywhere in the country, by using the existing/same ration card after Aadhaar authentication on ePoS devices.

6. India ranked 23rd for world’s best startup ecosystems 2020; US topped

- In accordance with the “Countries Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem 2020” by global innovation mapping and research company StartupBlink, India ranked at 23rd position, a drop of 6 places from 17th position in 2019. The ranking has been topped by the United States (US), followed by the United Kingdom (UK), and Israel at 2nd and 3rd position.
 - It should be noted that India is home to the third-largest startup ecosystem.
 - Among the top 100 startup cities, only four India cities were named in “2020 Cities Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem” while total of 38 cities made it to the world’s top 1000 cities with startup ecosystems.
1. Bengaluru (down by three ranks to 14th position),
 2. New Delhi (up by three spots to 15th position)
 3. Mumbai (improved by seven spots to 22nd position)
 4. Hyderabad (falling 21 ranks to disappointing 96th position). Last year, seven cities were ranked in the top 100 list versus four this year.

7. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Head Committee for Implementation of MSME Loan Scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed a committee headed by Rajnath Singh to resolve any problem in the implementation of the Rs 3 lakh crore collateral-free loan scheme for MSMEs, said MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- In an online interaction with the members of the Pune-based Maharashtra Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), Gadkari asked small businesses to email him directly in case of problems faced by them in securing credit under the scheme.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earlier this month had announced the collateral-free loans scheme for MSMEs as part of the overall Rs 20 lakh crore Covid-19 relief package to uplift the economy.

8. India to be re-elected as a non-permanent member of UNSC

- India is set to be re-elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council during the elections in June 2020. India is assured to win from the Asia Pacific seat, as it will be the sole contender.
- India's candidature for the Asia Pacific seat in the non-permanent category was unanimously endorsed by the 55-member Asia Pacific grouping including Pakistan and China in 2019. India's name for non-permanent UNSC seat was proposed by the Asia Pacific countries for a two-year period, from 2021-2022.
- The UNSC elections to elect the five non-permanent members of the 15-member Security Council for the 2021-22 term will be held on June 17. The dates were announced on June 1, 2020 as France took over the Presidency of the 15-nation Council for the month of June. India is the sole candidate for the non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific seat for the 2021-22 term. Canada, Ireland and Norway will contest elections for the two seats in the Western Europe and Other countries category.

9. Kiren Rijiju, Arjun Munda inaugurate Khelo India e-Pathshala programme

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated Khelo India e-Pathshala programme with a webinar, attended by young archers, archery coaches and experts of the discipline from across the country.
- The e-pathshala aims to provide online coaching and education to athletes living in far-off areas.
- The programme was launched by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), in association with National Sporting Federations (NSFs).
- The unique programme will connect athletes from secluded areas of India, who may not always have access to established players and coaches.
- The e-learning programme will cover 21 sporting disciplines, including, athletics, archery, boxing, cycling, fencing, football, gymnastics, hockey, judo, kayaking & canoeing, kabaddi, para games, rowing, shooting, taekwondo, table tennis, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling and wushu.

10. Report on restructuring of the film sector submitted to I&B minister

- An Expert Committees on Rationalisation of Film Media Units and Review of Autonomous Bodies submitted its report to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Committee was chaired by Bimal Julka.
- It has suggested an umbrella configuration with 4 broad verticals under which institutes should work. They are - Production, Festival, Heritage and Knowledge. It has recommended that these verticals be headed by professionals.
- It has also recommended creation of a Film Promotion Fund for independent filmmakers for making commercial films. Bimal Julka is the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India.

11. Kerala becomes 1st state to provide free internet to poor

- Kerala Govt has declared that their ambitious broadband project: Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON) project will roll out from December.
- This means that from December onwards, all the citizens below poverty live in Kerala will get free high-speed Internet. And those who cannot afford, will be provided high-speed Internet at a subsidized rate.
- Recently Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan held a meeting with all the heads of the companies of the consortium which will execute K-FON project. The roll out dates of December has been provided after this meeting.

- Rs 1500 crore has already been allocated for K-FON project, which will be spread the usage of Internet all across the state, and trigger a new digital economy.
- Kerala will be the first state to provide free high speed broadband to the poor people.

12. Power Minister launches the ‘#iCommit’ initiative on World Environment Day

- Power Minister R K Singh on June 5, 2020 initiated the ‘#iCommit’ campaign to commemorate World Environment Day. The initiative calls upon all stakeholders and individuals to continue working towards energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future.
- The ‘#iCommit’ initiative, which will be driven by Energy Efficiency Services Limited, will unite a diverse set of players such as Governments, Corporates, Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations, Think Tanks and Individuals. Under the initiative, the government envisages a transformation of the entire energy value chain in the country, which will in turn ensure 24X7 energy access and security to all the citizens.
- The #iCommit initiative will bring together a diverse spectrum of government and private players to build a new energy future for India. The initiative is centered around the idea of building an energy resilient future.

13. Ms. Jaya Jaitly to head the Task Force formulated to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, and related issues

- Central Government of India has formulated a task force to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR, improvement of nutritional levels and related issues. It will be headed by Ms. Jaya Jaitly.
- The Task Force will be provided secretarial assistance by the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and will submit its report by 31st July, 2020.

14. India gears up to set up first Coal trading Exchange

- India will soon be setting up a coal trading platform as it gears up to bring in commercial mining in the coal sector. Under the proposal, the entire coal produced in the country will be traded on a platform called ‘Coal Exchange’.
- Coal Exchange will be an online coal trading platform where the pricing will be determined in a transparent manner on the basis of demand and supply.
- The setting up of India’s first coal trading platform is significant as it paves the way for the entry of multiple buyers and sellers in the coal sector. The coal ministry is likely to start auctions for commercial coal mining on June 11.

15. Gujarat, Goa, and Chandigarh topped FSSAI State food safety index for 2019-20

- The 2nd State Food Safety Index (SFSI) for 2019-20 of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been topped by Gujarat among larger states and by Goa among smaller states. It was announced during a webinar conducted on the occasion of “World Food Safety Day” on the theme “Food Safety is everyone’s business”.
- This webinar has recognized all those who ensured uninterrupted availability of safe food for everyone during COVID-19 pandemic.
- The State Food Safety Index ranks states on five parameters. The parameters are Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing Facility, Training and Capacity Building besides Consumer Empowerment

16. Govt mandates distinct colour strip on top of sticker carrying details of registration for BS-VI vehicles

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has mandated a strip of green colour of one centimetre width on top of the existing sticker carrying details of registration for BS-VI vehicles of any fuel type.
- For petrol and CNG vehicles, there is a light blue colour sticker and for diesel vehicles, it is of orange colour. The Ministry in a statement said that such stickers will now have a green strip of one centimetre width on top for BS VI four wheel vehicles.
- Green strips of such thickness for BS 6 vehicles for stickers of registration details are being stuck on windshields of 4 wheelers

17. India's economy to contract by 3.2 percent in fiscal year 2020-21: World Bank

- The World Bank expects India's economy to contract 3.2% in the current fiscal year, a sharp downgrade from its April projection of 1.5%-2.8% growth.
- The Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report released said the lockdown would severely curtail activity despite fiscal and monetary stimulus.
- The latest report expects the economy to make a modest recovery to 3.1% growth in the next fiscal year. A number of firms including Goldman Sachs and Nomura have projected a contraction of as much as 5% for India in FY21.

18. The Ramon Magsaysay awards 2020 canceled due to coronavirus pandemic

- The Ramon Magsaysay awards, regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, have been canceled this year due to the global pandemic.
- This is the only third time the annual awards were disrupted in six decades. The awards were also canceled due to a financial crisis in 1970 and a disastrous earthquake that hit the Philippines in 1990.
- The Ramon Magsaysay awards are named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of the Republic of the Philippines after World War II.

19. MHA reconstituted a new committee for the welfare of freedom fighters

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has reconstituted a new committee for the welfare of the freedom fighters. This committee chaired by the Minister of state for home affairs G Kishan Reddy and 9 other "eminent freedom fighters" from across the country.
- The ministry features 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.
- Besides Reddy, former Congress MLA from Gujarat Dinakar Bhai Desai, who took part within the 1942 Quit India movement, is among those a part of the panel.

20. India becomes 2nd nation to have contact-free ATM cash withdrawals

- In order to eliminate the use of physical card or touch an ATM PIN pad, amid the spread of coronavirus from contaminated surfaces, Empays Payment Systems has joined hands with Mastercard to launch "Cardless ATM powered by Mastercard" in India based on the standards of EMV (Europay, Mastercard, and Visa). With this, India will be the first country outside the United States (US) where this product will be launched.

- This cardless ATM (automated teller machine) will enable the users to withdraw their money just by scanning a (Quick Response) code on the mobile phone, using their banking app.
- It should be noted that Empays is authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a national payment system.

21. Asiatic lion population rise to 29% in Gir Forest

- The Gujarat forest department said that the number of Asiatic lions in the Gir forest region has increased by 29 per cent to 674. The department carried out a 'population estimation exercise' on the night of June 5 and 6 when there was a full moon.
- As per the May 2015 census, there were 523 Asiatic lions in Gir, an increase of 27 per cent from 2010. The "Poonam Avlokan (full-moon night estimation exercise)" showed that the lions' population had reached 674, a 28.87 percent increase.
- It was the highest growth rate recorded so far, it added. The population of 674 comprised 161 males, 260 females, 116 sub-adult lions and 137 cubs.

22. Govt hiked Customs duty on bamboo imports from 10% to 25%

- Union Government has hiked Customs duty on bamboo imports by agarbatti manufacturers from 10 per cent to 25 per cent with immediate effect. The decision has been taken to encourage use of domestic bamboo under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat scheme.
- The 25 per cent customs duty rate shall now uniformly apply to any import of bamboo, including by traders.
- This measure is seen to benefit farmers and MSME agarbatti manufacturers.

23. Indian economy to grow at 9.5 pct in next fiscal, says Fitch Ratings

- After a contraction in the current financial year, India's economy is forecast to bounce back with a sharp growth rate of 9.5 percent next fiscal, Fitch Ratings has said.
- It has forecast a 5 percent contraction in the GDP in the ongoing financial year. After the global crisis, India's GDP growth is likely to return to higher levels than 'BBB' category peers.
- The government has announced stimulus measures amounting to 10 percent of GDP.

24. No late fee will be charged for non-filing of GST returns by small taxpayers

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 40th GST council meeting through video conferencing on June 12, 2020. During the press briefing after the meeting, the Finance Minister said that no late fee will be charged from small taxpayers who have not filed their GST returns between July 2017-January 2020.
- The Finance Minister noted that a lot of GST return filing has been pending for the period from July 2017 to January 2020, prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. To provide relief to small taxpayers, Sitharaman said that no late fees will be charged for non-filing of GST returns during the stipulated period by those who have no tax liabilities.
- For those who have tax liability, the GST Council has capped the maximum late fee for non-filing of GSTR-3B returns for the period between July 2017-January 2020 at Rs 500. This will apply to all returns submitted between July 1 and September 30, 2020.

25. NHAI becomes first construction sector to go completely digital

- The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has become of the first construction sector organization to go fully digital.
- The entire project management workflow of NHAI has been transformed from manual to the online portal based, with the launch of cloud-based and artificial intelligence-powered big data analytics platform Data Lake and Project Management Software.
- The digital platform will be beneficial amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in which social distancing is one of the key methods to prevent the infection. The online portal will help the NHAI employees in continuing their work without any physical contact.

26. India gets its first infectious disease diagnostics lab

- The first disease diagnostics lab in India is now ready. The mobile laboratory is a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The laboratory promotes and supports the idea of being self-efficient in difficult times.
- The laboratory has been reported to be built in the recorded time of just 8 days from the date of receipt of Automotive Chassis, from Bharat Benz. The lab has been built with the support of the Department of Bio-Technology.
- The first infectious disease diagnostics lab is a BSL-2 facility that has Biochemistry analysers, real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), and on-site Elisa.

27. Odisha's unique festival Raja Parba begins

- On Raja Parba, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted the people Of Odisha.
- Raja Parba, Odisha's three-day unique festival celebrating the onset of monsoon and the earth's womanhood has begun.
- As a mark of respect towards the earth during her menstruation days, all agricultural works, like ploughing, sowing are suspended for the three days.
- Raja Sankranti is the first day of the Ashara month.
- It is celebrated on the day prior to the Sankranti, (Pahili Raja), the day of Sankranti, and the day after, known as Bhu Daha or 'Basi Raja'.
- The festival is essentially the celebration of the earth's womanhood. It is believed that during this time the Mother Earth or Bhudevi undergoes menstruation.

28. MB Lal Committee recommendations not implemented for a decade in oil fields: Assam fire

- The recent massive fire at the Baghjan Oil field, Assam had caused serious environmental damages and led to migration of 1000s of people in the region.
- It is because the 118 recommendations made by MB Lal committee was not implemented in regards to the safety guidelines by the oil companies while installing oil wells.
- The Government of India has taken several measures to address the issues of such oil field fires.
- In 2009 GoI constituted the M B Lal Committee following the fire accident at the IOCL terminal in Jaipur.

29. 500-year old Temple "Mastaka" submerged in Mahanadi found

- The Archaeological Survey team has recently claimed that a 500 year old temple that submerged in the waters of Mahanadi resurfaced.
- The Mahanadi river that changed its course due to flooding 150 years ago, had submerged the Padmabati village where the temple is located.

- There are more than 22 villages in the region that are submerged in the waters of Mahanadi. However, Gopinath Deba Temple was visible as it is the tallest of all.
- The temple is called “Mastaka”.

30. MoS Home affairs G. Kishan Reddy launches “GermiBAN” robot to assist COVID-19 workers in Telangana

- Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy launched a robot ‘GermiBAN’. The robot carries essentials products to frontline COVID-19 workers.
- The robot was developed by a Hyderabad-based company, namely AIC ALEAP of the WEHub.
- The device has the capability of killing 99.9% of surface and air microbes.

31. CBIC Chairman M. Ajit Kumar launches “e-Office” application to automate internal file handling

- The “e-Office” application has been launched in over 500 CGST and Customs offices across India by the Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), M. Ajit Kumar.
- The launch of the application marks a fundamental change in internal office procedures that are so far based on manual handling of files and paper movement.
- The “e-Office” is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the National e-Governance of India. “e-Office” has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and is supported by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

32. India ranked 6th in nuclear weapons increment since 2019; US topped: SIPRI’s Yearbook 2020

- In accordance with the “SIPRI Yearbook 2020-Armaments, Disarmament and International Security” of Swedish think tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), from 2019 there is an increase in the nuclear weapons stockpile of India and China. However India’s overall possession of nuclear weapons is less than half of Beijing’s and also slightly lower than what Pakistan possesses.
- Importantly, in April 2020, SIPRI had identified India as the 3rd largest military spender in the world, behind the United States (US) and China.

33. India ranked 43rd on IMD's World Competitiveness Index ; Singapore topped

- India continues to remain ranked 43rd on an annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- Singapore has retained its top position on the 63-nation list.
- Denmark has moved up to the second position (from 8th last year), Switzerland has gained one place to rank 3rd, the Netherlands has retained its 4th place and Hong Kong has slipped to the fifth place (from 2nd in 2019).
- WCI compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD)

34. India 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019, US Topped: UN Report

- India became the world’s 9th largest recipient of the foreign direct investment in 2019 scoring deals worth \$51 billion.
- World Investment Report 2020 is the 30th edition of the annual report.

- The United States is the largest recipient of FDI in 2019 at \$246 billion.
- China, Singapore, Netherlands and Ireland are the top 5 largest recipients of FDI in 2019 respectively.

35. PM Narendra Modi to launch 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' to boost livelihood opportunities in rural India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' on June 20 to boost livelihood opportunities in rural India.
- The Government of India has decided to launch a massive rural public works scheme 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' to empower and provide livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers and rural citizens.
- The campaign of 125 days across 116 districts in 6 states aims to work in mission mode to help migrant workers.
- It will involve intensified and focused implementation of 25 different types of works to provide jobs and create infrastructure in the rural regions of the country.

36. Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain tested positive for COVID-19

- Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain has tested positive for COVID-19. He was admitted to a hospital following high fever.
- The first report of Mr. Jain was negative. The minister was tested again after 24 hours today and this time, he tested positive.
- On Sunday morning, Jain had attended the meeting chaired by Union home minister Amit Shah along with Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia. "Social distancing was strictly adhered to in the meeting but whether others present in the meeting should get tested would depend on what the health officials recommend after the contact tracing exercise," said a senior government official.

37. India elected as non-permanent member of UN Security Council for a two-year term

- India was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term after winning 184 votes in the 193-member General Assembly.
- Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway also won the Security Council elections.
- India was a candidate for a non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term.
- Its victory was certain as it was the sole candidate vying for the lone seat from the grouping. India's two year term will begin on January 1, 2021.
- This is the eighth time that India will sit at the UN high-table, which comprises five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.

38. PM Modi pays tribute to Acharya Mahapragya on his birth centenary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Acharya Mahapragya on his birth centenary celebration.
- He also described Acharya Mahapragya as the Swami Vivekanand of modern times.
- The Prime Minister said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also a follower of Acharya Mahapragya.
- Acharya Shri Mahapragya was the tenth head of the Shwetambar Terapanth order of Jainism.
- Mahapragya was a saint, yogi, spiritual leader, philosopher, author, orator, and poet.

- He has written more than 300 books in Sanskrit, Hindi, Gujarati, English on these subjects.

39. NITI Aayog joins ITF to launch “Decarbonising Transport in India” project on June 24

- NITI Aayog will be launching 'Decarbonising Transport in India' project on June 24, 2020 in collaboration with the International Transport Forum. The main aim of the project will be to develop a pathway towards a low-carbon transport system for India.
- The Decarbonising Transport in India project will be launched by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and ITF Secretary-General Young Tae Kim during an online public launch event. The event will see participation from several senior officials of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways and ITF.
- India has been a member of the International Transport Forum (ITF) since 2008. The ITF is an intergovernmental organisation for transport policy.

40. India becomes 12th Largest Holder of US Government Securities at April 2020 end

- Despite low returns, the Treasury Securities (are of four types- Bills, Notes, Bonds, Inflation-Protected Securities) backed by the United States Treasury Department is one of the safest assets for any Central Bank around the world. With USD 157.4 billion at the end of April 2020, India has become the 12th largest holder of United States Government Securities.
- India's holding touched an all-time record high of USD 177.5 billion at the end of February 2020 but was reduced to USD 156.5 billion at the end of March 2020. This significant drop was due to the financial impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. As economic uncertainties increased following lockdowns in most countries across the world, securities were sold by India in the month of March.
- On behalf of the Government of India, India's Central bank- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) invests in foreign assets. These foreign investments are part of prudential liquidity management.

41. Tripura to start ‘Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho’ scheme for school students from June 25

- With uncertainty prevailing over reopening of schools due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Tripura government has decided to start a scheme called ‘Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho’ which means ‘Play little, Study little’, from June 25.
- As per the scheme, the students would be getting audio and video contents on learning activities, projects along with fun and gaming activities via SMS or WhatsApp services.
- The Education state headquarters would share the learning contents to different district academic coordinators and they would share the same to headmasters of the schools in their concerned areas.
- The headmasters would give the responsibility to the teachers to share the contents among the students.
- The students would get their daily lessons and activities on their phones every morning and their feedback would be received every afternoon.

42. Patanjali launches Ayurvedic medicine to treat COVID-19, claims 100 pc recovery within 3-7 days

- Patanjali on June 23, 2020 launched 'Coronil and Swasari', its Ayurvedic medicine, which it claims can treat COVID-19. There is no official confirmation on the same by any scientific or government authority.
- Patanjali stated that the medicines showed 100 percent favourable results during clinical trials on the confirmed coronavirus patients. Two clinical trials were conducted, the first clinical controlled study that took place in Delhi and Ahmedabad and many other cities.
- Around 280 COVID patients were included in the trial and as per Patanjali, 100 percent of those recovered.
- However, the efficacy of Patanjali's medicines has not received any backing from any medical body as yet. The World Health Organization (WHO) had recently said that though many drug trials are going on, there is currently no proof that any drug can cure or prevent COVID-19.

43. Rajasthan Government to launch "Indira Rasoi Yojna" to provide meals at very low rates

- To provide pure and nutritious food to the economically weaker sections of the society, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot on 22nd June 2020 announced 'Indira Rasoi Yojna (Indira Kitchen Scheme).
- Under the scheme, food will be available at a concessional rate twice a day to make sure no one sleeps hungry in state. For the successful implementation of the scheme, the state government will rope in local Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in every district of the state. For monitoring and evaluating the progress of the scheme, Information Technology will be used. In every district, a committee headed by the district collector will also be set up for monitoring the scheme.
- For the scheme, Rs 100 crore will be spent every year by the state government. The rate for the meals under the Indira Rasoi Yojna has not been finalized yet.

44. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates India's one of largest & first Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020

- Union State Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated one of India's largest and first Virtual Healthcare and Hygiene EXPO 2020.
- The unique exhibition which aims to give a boost to such health and hygiene endeavours has been organised by FICCI.
- This unique exhibition aims to give a boost to such health and hygiene endeavours. This is the first-ever largest virtual exhibition in India making a new beginning.

45. India's GDP to Fall 3.1% in 2020; Geo-Political Tensions Will Increase Risk: Moody's report

- According to the Moody's Global Macro Outlook report for June 2020, there will be a contraction of 3.1 % in India's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020 & expects a change in geographical conditions in Asia due to tensions at the border between India and China.
- Previously in April 2020, Moody's had forecasted a 0.2 % increase in India's GDP in 2020. The agency has now revised its estimate of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic.
- The slight relief for India is that GDP will reach the level of 6.9% in 2021. Till then, there will be a slow recovery in the Indian economy, which will start from the second half (H2) of this year.

46. Commerce and Industry Ministry hailed for 'country of origin' rule

- “Information about Country of Origin” has been mandated for the sellers by the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The sellers have been advised to mention “Information about Country of Origin” while registering all new products on GeM.
- While those sellers, who had already registered their products before the launch of this new feature on GeM, would be reminded regularly to update the information about Country of Origin.
- If they fail to update the same, their products shall be removed from GeM.

47. Cabinet approves declaration of Kushinagar airport in UP as an international airport

- In a bid to boost domestic and international tourism, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal to declare the Kushinagar airport in Uttar Pradesh as an international airport.
- Kushinagar is regarded as a sacred Buddhist pilgrimage centre and is dotted with several other Buddhist sites in the surrounding areas such as Sravasti (238 km), Kapilvastu (190 km) and Lumbini (195 km).
- It already serves as the presenting site for the Buddhist pilgrimage circuit spanning India and Nepal.
- On any given day, around 200-300 devotees from Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, Burma, etc are coming and offering their prayers at Kushinagar.

48. Rohini Commission set to get nod for its ninth extension

- The Justice Rohini Commission- set up in October 2017 to recommend sub categorization of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and ensure that marginalized sub castes get due benefits- is set to get its ninth extension.
- The Rohini Commission was to originally submit its report by March 2018.
- The move to grant yet another extension to the Commission comes at a time when elections are due in Bihar- a state where OBC sub categorization of any kind will have huge political impact.

49. Gujarat, Tripura, and Nagaland Best Performing States in Annual TB Report 2020

- Gujarat, Nagaland and Tripura have been awarded for being the best performing small states under National TB elimination programme in the year 2019. This was declared yesterday during the release of the annual TB Report 2020 by Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan.
- With a focus on eliminating Tuberculosis(TB) from the country by 2025, in January 2020 the Government of India renamed the ‘National Tuberculosis Control Program’ to the ‘National Tuberculosis Elimination Program’.
- In a virtual event, the Annual TB Report 2020 was released on 24th June 2020. The Report was released by Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Union Health Minister).
- States were divided based on their population as larger and smaller states. All states having more than 50 lakh population were under larger states while states with less than 50 lakh population were under smaller states.

50. Haryana govt and Reliance Jio TV enter into agreement to educate 52 lakh students

- Haryana government and Reliance Jio TV have entered an agreement that is expected to benefit around 52 lakh school children in rural areas.

- This new agreement is done under the Chief Minister's Distance Education Programme in order to expand education in rural areas without jeopardizing social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Under the agreement, all four channels of Eduset will now be available on the Jio platform free of cost.
- Due to Covid-19 pandemic the state is facing difficulty in imparting education to school children, especially in the rural setup.

51. Chhattisgarh launches “Godhan Nyay Yojana” and becomes first Indian state to buy cow dung from cattle owners

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced the launch of 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' in the state on June 25, 2020. The scheme aims to make animal husbandry commercially profitable, prevent open grazing by cattle and solve the problem of stray animals on roads and for environment conservation.
- The 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' was launched through an online press conference. According to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, the scheme was launched to promote animal husbandry and make it a profitable practice.
- As per the Chief Minister, the Godhan Nyay Yojana will be an innovative step forward towards protecting the financial interest of livestock owners in the state. The scheme is expected to boost the efforts made by the state government to strengthen the rural economy.

52. Union minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated Virtual India Pavilion at “Cannes Film Market 2020”

- Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the Virtual India Pavilion at Cannes Film Market 2020, commencing India's participation at Cannes Film Festival. During the e-inauguration, the minister invited international film fraternity to come as well as shoot in India, and sell in the international market. This year, India has sent two films for screening during the festival, namely: MaiGhat: Crime No 103/200 (Marathi) and Hellaro (Gujarati).
- The Indian Pavilion at Cannes will enable the Indian film makers and delegates to interact with the international community, and make them experience the colour, flavor and aroma of Indian cinema. It will also enable international film makers to explore the opportunities of working with Indian film makers and to shoot within Incredible India.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. Switzerland launches world's first app “Swiss Covid” with Exposure Notification API of Apple and Google

- The developer team of Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne – EPFL) and ETH Zurich (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich) developed the “SwissCovid”, first of its kind for digital contact tracing app utilizing the Exposure Notification API (Application Programming Interface) of Apple and Google and based on a decentralized approach to track the spread of coronavirus.

- The application was tested by the Swiss army, civil servants and hospital workers in its pilot phase and will be available to the users all around the world by the mid-June after the approval of Swiss parliamentarians.

2. Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and Bhutan on Cooperation in the areas of Environment

- The Union cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) between India & Bhutan to improve cooperation in the areas of Environment.
- MoU will helps to establish & promote the long term cooperation between the two countries in the field of environment protection and management of natural resources based on equity, reciprocity and mutual benefits, taking into account the applicable laws and legal provisions in each country.
- MoU covers the following areas of the environment, namely- Air, Waste, Chemical Management, Climate Change, and any other areas jointly decided upon, by considering the bilateral interest of both countries.
- MoU enters into force on the date of signature & remain in force for a 10 years

3. Gaitri Kumar appointed India's next High Commissioner to the UK

- Seasoned diplomat Gaitri Kumar has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.
- Kumar, a 1986-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, succeeds Ruchi Ghanashyam.
- At present, Kumar is serving as Indian Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union.
- Her appointment to the high-profile post comes at a time India is looking at further expanding ties with the UK after it came out of the powerful European Union.

4. Pakistan witnesses highest inflation in the world during fiscal year 2020

- Pakistan witnessed the highest inflation in the world during the fiscal year 2020, as per a statement by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on June 7, 2020. The bank reported that due to the high inflation rate, policymakers have been forced to increase the interest rate.
- According to the Inflation Monitor issued by the SBP for April 2020, Pakistan witnessed the highest inflation in the world in comparison to both developed and emerging economies. The State Bank of Pakistan was forced to push up interest rates to calm the inflationary pressure during the fiscal year.
- However, higher interest rates had an adverse impact as they pushed the inflation further up. The private sector also stopped borrowing money, impacting industrial growth and services.

5. India and Denmark sign MoU for developing cooperation in power sector

- India and Denmark have signed an MoU for developing cooperation in the power sector.
- The MoU signed is to develop a strong, deep and long-term co-operation between two countries in the power sector on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.
- It provides for collaboration in areas like offshore wind, long term energy planning, forecasting, flexibility in the grid, consolidation of grid codes to integrate and operate efficiently variable generation options, flexibility in the power purchase agreements and variability in renewable energy production.
- Indian electricity market will benefit from this cooperation with Denmark. Under the MoU, a Joint Working Group will also be established.

6. Myanmar military to use Facebook to counter 'misinformation'

- Myanmar military 'Tatmadaw' has decided to use Facebook again to provide 'accurate' news to people.
- This was announced by the Tatmadaw spokesperson Zaw Min Tun in Myanmar.
- The military has decided to use the popular social media platform to counter fake news and misinformation and provide accurate news to people swiftly, reports Irrawaddy.
- Facebook had removed several accounts linked to the Myanmar military in 2018.
- While removing the accounts on August 28, 2018 the Facebook had said that they removed 425 Facebook pages, 17 groups and 135 Facebook accounts and 15 Instagram accounts linked to the Myanmar military as evidence suggested that they had committed serious human rights violations in Myanmar.

7. UK's economy shrinks by record 20.4 percent in April

- The United Kingdom's economy shrank by record 20.4 percent in April, amid strict lockdown to combat COVID-19, revealed official data on June 12, 2020.
- The record slump in the economy is likely to be the low point before a long and slow recovery, as Britain readies to open up its economy.
- The Office of National Statistics stated that the gross domestic product of Britain contracted by 10.4 percent in the three-month period till April in comparison to the previous three-month period.

8. External Affairs Minister of India is to hold a joint virtual conference with Russian and Chinese Counterparts

- The External Affairs Minister of India Shri S Jai Shankar is to hold a joint virtual conference with his Russian and Chinese Counterparts on June 22, 2020.
- The Minister is expected to discuss the recent standoff between Indian and Chinese militaries at the border. The meeting is being convened with the initiative of Russia. The countries will also discuss regional issues and synchronize their views on regional stability.
- India and China have been engaged in a bitter stand off along the Line of Actual Control at the eastern Ladakh for more than 5 weeks. The countries are holding diplomatic and military level talks to resolve the dispute.
- Russia is expected to expand the discussion on SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), Russia-India-China trilateral forum and BRICS. The leaders are also expected to discuss withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan.

9. Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Mukhammedkalyi Abylgazyev resigns due to corruption charges

- On June 15, 2020 Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Mukhammedkalyi Abylgazyev (52 years) resigned, amid ongoing criminal investigation into whether the government illegally sold radio frequencies. He was appointed as Prime Minister by President Sooronbai Jeenbekov after succeeding Sapar Isakov in April 2018.
- Mukhammedkalyi Abylgazyev mentioned that the government may not work well due to the uncertainty caused by the investigation as there is compelling work due to COVID-19 pandemic. He took a 2 week leave on May 27 so as to avoid interference with a corruption investigation over radio frequency resources.
- Currently, First Deputy Prime Minister Kubatbek Boronov coordinates the work of the Government.

10. Nepal's President approves controversial bill to revise national map including three Indian territories

- Nepal's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari on June 18, 2020 approved the Constitution Amendment Bill that seeks to update the nation's political map by including areas claimed by India. The bill was passed earlier in the day by Nepal's upper house of the Parliament, National Assembly with unanimous support. All 57 members of the house voted in favour of the bill.
- The New Map Amendment Bill (Coat of Arms) was approved by Nepal's House of Representatives last week. The lower house had also given its unanimous approval to the bill. The controversial bill proposes to include three Indian territories in Nepal's revised map.
- As per government sources, India is disappointed with the manner in which Nepal went ahead with revising its map without trying to create a conducive atmosphere for talks. India has rejected Nepal's claim to the three Indian areas of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura in Uttarakhand, saying that the artificial enlargement of their national map is not based on historical facts and evidence and violates their current understanding to conduct talks on outstanding border issues.

11. Volkan Bozkir Becomes the 1st Turkish to be Elected as the President of 75th UN General Assembly

- Volkan Bozkir (69) from Turkey was elected as the president of the 75th United Nations (UN) General Assembly. He is the 1st Turkish to hold this post. He will hold the post for 1 year. Volkan Bozkir will succeed Tijjani Muhammad-Bande when the annual session opens on September 15, 2020.
- He won unopposed with the support of 178 UN member states by secret ballot.

12. Kazakhstan's First President ,Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev, Tests Positive for COVID-19

- First president of Kazakhstan, Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev tested positive for COVID-19 coronavirus infection.
- The report said that Nazarbayev continues carrying out activities via videoconferencing.
- Currently, the First President of Kazakhstan is self-isolating.
- The first two cases of coronavirus infection were detected in Kazakhstan among those who arrived in Almaty city from Germany on March 13, 2020.
- The total number of coronavirus cases confirmed in Kazakhstan since the virus was first confirmed in the country amounted to 15,877 cases.

13. China to Establish National Security Bureau in Hong Kong

- On 28th May 2020, Beijing passed legislation that empowered the Chinese Parliament to draft security laws for Hong Kong. Now China continues to tighten its grip on Hong Kong by planning to establish a 'Special Bureau- National Security Office' in Hong Kong that will have the rights to deal with criminal cases and analyze intelligence that is related to the national security.
- Establishing a National Security Bureau in Hong Kong was confirmed after a three day (from 18th June to 20th June) meeting of the Legislative Affairs Commission (Top lawmaking committee in China). On 19th June 2020, it was also reported in Chinese media that all departments under the Hong Kong government will be directly answerable to Beijing once the legislation is implemented.

14. Indonesia's most active volcano Mount Merapi erupts

- Indonesia's most volatile volcano spewed ash and hot gas in a massive column as high as 6km (3.7 miles) into the sky.
- Mount Merapi's clouds of ash, accompanied by a rumbling sound heard kilometres (miles) away.
- The 2,968-metre (9,737-foot) mountain is the most active of 500 Indonesian volcanoes. It has rumbled and generated dark hot clouds since last year.
- Its last major eruption in 2010 killed 353 people.
- Indonesia, an archipelago of 270 million people, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity because it sits along the Pacific Ring of Fire, a horseshoe-shaped series of fault lines around the ocean.

15. Saudi Arabia to hold 'very limited' Hajj due to pandemic in 2020

- Saudi Arabia announced that it will hold a "very limited" Hajj this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Only those people already living in the kingdom will be allowed to take part in the pilgrimage that begins in late July.
- The decision comes in the wake of rising COVID-19 cases around the world, the lack of a vaccine and difficulty in maintaining social distancing among large numbers of pilgrims coming from overseas.
- Over two million people perform the annual Hajj pilgrimage in the holy city of Mecca every year, including many pilgrims from abroad. The Hajj is considered a must for Muslims at least once in their lifetime.
- The Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi informed on June 23 that India has honoured Saudi Arabia's decision to ban international pilgrims to perform Haj. The Minister stated that the Muslims from India will not go to Saudi Arabia to perform Haj.

16. China successfully launches its Last Satellite of BeiDou Satellite System 3 (BDS-3)

- In an effort to compete with the United States Government's NAVSTAR Global Positioning System (GPS), Russia's GLONASS, and the Galileo Systems of the European Union, China completed the launch of its final satellite on 23rd June 2020. The satellite was launched as a carrier with Long March 3 rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre. BeiDou means 'Big Dipper' in Mandarin.
- The satellite launched is a part of the third generation of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS-3) and was the 55th satellite of the Beidou system.

17. Foundation Stone Laid for the First Hindu Temple in Pakistan's Capital Islamabad

- On 23rd June 2020, the foundation stone for the first Hindu Temple in Pakistan's capital city Islamabad was laid. The temple is the first to be constructed in Islamabad since the Independence of Pakistan.
- The temple will be devoted to Lord Krishna. The name of the temple will be Shri Krishna Mandir. The name of the temple was decided by the Islamabad Hindu Panchayat.

18. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic won the controversial Parliamentary election

- Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic won the controversial parliamentary election. The Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) won over 60% of the vote, which is around 190 seats in the 250-seat Serbian parliament.
- The general election was originally scheduled for 26 April 2020 but was postponed after a state of the emergency was declared to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. The largest block of parties including the Serbian Radical Party (SRP), the Democratic Party, the Party of Freedom and Justice, The Doors (Dveri), the People's Party, and the Let's not drown Belgrade movement boycotted the election.
- Siberia Parliament is also known as the National Assembly of Siberia. It has a unicameral legislature. The PM of Siberia is elected and appointed by the 250 elected members of the National Assembly. The President of Siberia is also empowered to propose the name of an individual to the National Assembly for the post of the Prime Minister.

19. World's first yoga university outside India named after Swami Vivekanand launched in Los Angeles

- As part of the 6th International Yoga Day commemorations, the world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in Los Angeles. It offers programmes that combine scientific principles and modern research approaches to ancient Indian practice.
- Eminent Indian yoga guru Dr H R Nagendra, Chancellor of Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (SVYASA), is the first Chairman of VaYU. The university will help thousands of yoga teachers in the US whose yoga education was limited to 200 or 500 hours of certificate programmes to progress further into university-based higher education.
- The applications for fall 2020 semester are open with the first day of classes starting on August 24 in a virtual mode.

20. World's First Gold-backed US Digital Gold Currency Launched in India, GCC, Middle East and Africa by IBMC

- IBMC Financial Professionals Group in partnership with US Gold Currency Inc and Blockfills introduced the world's first monetary gold-backed US Gold digital currency in India, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Middle East and Africa. It was launched from Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) at a specially designed IBMC Hybrid Event in the virtual presence of officials from the US Gold Currency, Asia-Africa Development Council, GSEF and Blockfills USA.
- This digital currency is available to customers ranging from retail and corporate investors, banks, financial institutions and sovereign wealth funds to treasuries and asset management companies.
- It can also support corporates in reducing the cost of business transaction and settle their inter-country company transactions to address business risks.

21. Iran to set up permanent military base in Indian Ocean

- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) plans to establish a permanent military base in the Indian Ocean by March 2021. This was announced by IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri.
- The Navy Commander informed that the Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has given the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps the task of setting up a permanent base in the waters far away from the country.

22. Russia's Energia Space Corporation plans to take first tourist on spacewalk in 2023

- Energia Space Corporation in Russia announced on June 25 that it is planning on taking the first tourist on a spacewalk in 2023, under the terms of a new contract with a United States partner.
- Energia has signed a contract with Space Adventures. The contract promises to take two space tourists to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2023.
- Energia, which is a part of Russia's Space Agency, Roscosmos informed that there is a plan that one of the participants of the expedition will do spacewalk from the Russian segment, together with a Russian cosmonaut.

23. Pakistan remains in Grey list of terror financing watchdog “Financial Action Task Force”

- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in its 3rd and final plenary meeting under the Chinese Presidency of Xiangmin Liu over a virtual platform, retained Pakistan on the grey list till October 2020, for failing to prosecute and penalise terrorist financing in the country before the deadline fixed by FATF.
- Germany will take over the presidency of the FATF from July, 2020 for a year.
- If Pakistan fails to comply with FATF directive by October 2020 the country will be put under “Black List”.

24. US Senate passes bill to impose sanctions on China over Hong Kong security law

- The US Senate on June 25, 2020 passed a bill that seeks to impose sanctions on China for its decision to implement the controversial national security law in Hong Kong. The bill was passed with unanimous consent.
- The bill comprises two measures, one of which- the Hong Kong Autonomy Act, aims to impose sanctions on individuals and businesses that help China restrict the autonomy of Hong Kong. The measure was jointly introduced by Republican Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania and Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland.
- The second measure was pushed by Republican Senator Josh Hawley of Missouri. It is a resolution that condemns China for violating the Sino-British Joint Declaration signed in 1984 to guarantee autonomy for Hong Kong.
- This is done by U.S because recently China created Special Administrative region by which Hongkong became answerable directly to Beijing which is threat to Hongkong's international

25. NCPOR warns about the decline in the Arctic sea ice

- The National Centre of Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has warned about the decline in the Arctic sea ice. The dramatic decline in the Arctic sea ice is due to global warming. The loss of sea ice led to a localized increase in evaporation, air humidity, cloud cover, and rainfall.
- It is well known that Arctic sea ice is a sensitive indicator of climate change and has strong retaliatory effects on other components of the climate system. NCPOR observed that the largest decline in Arctic sea ice in the past 41 years happened in July 2019.
- It stated that, in the last 40 years (1979-2018), the sea ice has been declining at a rate of -4.7% per decade, while its rate was found to be -13% in July 2019. It warned that, if this trend continues, there would be no ice left in the Arctic sea by 2050, which would be dangerous for humanity and the entire environment.

Banking

1. Centre to discontinue 7.75% savings bonds scheme

- The Reserve Bank of India recently announced that the Government of India has discontinued 7.75% savings bonds.
- The 7.75% savings bonds that are also called government bonds or RBI bonds were issued in 2018. They were available for the resident citizens of India alone. The value of one bond was Rs 1000 and there was no maximum limit of investment. The interests of the bonds were taxed under Income Tax Act, 1961.
- The rates of Small Savings scheme were cut. Also, the rates of PPF were cut from 7.9% to 7.1%. On the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, the rates were cut from 8.4% to 7.6%. RBI also reduced the repo rates twice after COVID-19.

2. NABARD extended Rs 270 crore to Assam Gramin Vikash Bank

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has extended a Special Liquidity Facility (SLF) of Rs 270 crore to Assam Gramin Vikash Bank to support the agricultural activities of the farmers amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- This line of credit would enable the farmers in enhancing their crop production and hence this amount would prove to be a boon to the agriculture credit of the state at this difficult hour.

3. RBI Releases modified Framework For Financial Market Infrastructure and Retail Payment System

- India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made some changes to the monitoring structure of Financial Markets Infrastructure (FMI) and Retail Payment Systems (RPSs) with the aim to ensure the security and stability of the payment structure.
- According to the document, the Reserve Bank will monitor existing and planned systems, financial market infrastructure, and retail payment systems through assessment. It will also change it if necessary for improvement
- This document will increase transparency in surveillance and disclosures and improve regulatory compliance by payment system operators & will also increase customer awareness, which will result in better security, stability and betterment of our payment system.

4. RBI Proposes to Set Age Limit of CEOs, Whole-Time Directors of Banks to 70 Years

- India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Discussion Paper on 'Governance in Commercial Banks in India' proposed to set the age limit of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and whole time directors (WTDs) belonging to the promoter group of banks to 70 years and maximum tenure of 10 years. This offer has been made to improve administration in the banking sector.
- The tenure has been limited in order to strengthen the culture of consistent governance and to adopt the principle of separating management from ownership

5. Airtel Payments Bank launches "Surakhsha salary account" for MSMEs

- Airtel Payments Bank launched a new salary account for micro, small and medium enterprises.

- Called the Suraksha Salary account, it will enable MSMEs and other organisations to make cashless payments and provide a financial security blanket to their employees.
- The account has no minimum balance condition.
- It offers no charges on cash withdrawals of upto Rs 50,000 and deposits of upto Rs 20,000 in one month.
- The account holder also gets two free cardless cash withdrawal via IMT at ATMs across the country.
- The account holder can make online money transfers to any bank across India.

6. AIIB approved 750 million USD loan to India to fight coronavirus

- On June 17, 2020, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved 750 million USD loan to India. The fund granted is to be used by the GoI to strengthen battle against the impact of COVID-19 on the poor and vulnerable.
- The aid was co financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The funds are to be used for improving informal sector, safety nets for the needy and strengthen health care system of the country.
- The total sovereign loans to India that were already approved by AIIB amounts to 3.6 billion USD. This includes the recent emergency response of the bank that amounted to 500 million USD.

7. RBI Doubles Withdrawal Limit To Rs 1 Lakh For PMC Bank Depositors; Restrictions extended for six months

- In a relief to the depositors of fraud-hit PMC Bank, the Reserve Bank of India enhanced the withdrawal limit to Rs 1 lakh while extending the regulatory restriction on the cooperative bank by another six months till Dec. 22.
- The earlier withdrawal limit was Rs 50,000 per depositor.
- The RBI had placed regulatory curbs on the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank Limited, Mumbai, on Sept. 23, 2019, after finding out certain financial irregularities, hiding and misreporting of loans given to real estate developer HDIL.
- With the latest relaxation on withdrawal, more than 84% of the depositors of the bank will be able to withdraw their entire account balance.
- The withdrawal limit was last enhanced to Rs 50,000 per depositor on Nov. 5, 2019, and the restrictions extended up to June 22, 2020.

8. EXIM Bank Extends Line of Credit of USD 20.10 Million to Nicaragua Govt

- Export-Import(EXIM) Bank on behalf of the Indian Government, extended a Line of Credit(LOC) of USD 20.10 million to the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua for the reconstruction of Aldo Chavarria Hospital.
- The agreement was signed by Tarun Sharma, General Manager, EXIM bank & José Adrián Chavarria, General Vice minister, Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Government of Nicaragua.

9. Yes Bank partners with Affordplan to launch Co-Branded Healthcare Card Called “Swasth Card”

- Yes Bank Limited, an Indian public bank, has joined hands with Delhi-based fintech startup Affordplan, to launch co-branded healthcare card called ‘Swasth Card’ under Swasth program with the aim to enable families plan and manage their finances for their healthcare needs.

- Besides, Yes bank's wallet has also been integrated on Affordplan Swasth to pave the way for wallet QR (Quick Response) scan for making payments to merchant partners enlisted on the AffordplanSwasth app.

10. Cabinet Approves Ordinance to bring UCBs and MSCBs under RBI supervision

- The decision to bring Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and Multi-State Cooperative Banks (MSCBs) under the supervision of India's Central Bank- the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was taken on 24th June 2020 during a meeting of the Union Cabinet.
- The ordinance will immediately come into effect from the date of signature of the President of India. The decision was taken by the Government following the financial irregularities of the Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank that was unearthed in the month of September 2019.
- RBI's supervision means that the 8.6 crore depositors of these 1482 UCBs and 58 MSCBs around the country will be able to get the added protection and comfort that are at present applicable for the scheduled commercial banks in the country, such as Bank Deposit Insurance to per depositor of up to Rs 5 lakh, etc.

11. Karnataka Bank launches 'KBL Micro Mitra' for MSMEs

- Karnataka Bank launched a new product 'KBL Micro Mitra' for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This product will provide financial assistance up to Rs 10 lakhs to the Micro manufacturing and service enterprises for working capital or for investment purposes.
- The facility has simplified procedure and competitive rate of interest. The product will be available across all branches of the bank & will be soon available in digital version.

BANK ALL EXAMS
Online Video Course



IBPS | SBI | RBI Bank
Pre & Main Exams

BUY NOW

₹1999/-

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Virat Kohli , only cricketer in the forbes top 100 highest paid athletes of 2020, Federer topped

- Virat Kohli, Indian Cricket Team Captain becomes the only cricketer and the only Indian to feature in the Forbes' Top 100 highest paid athletes of 2020. Kohli ranked 66 with Forbes Magazine estimated earning of around 26 million USD (24 million from endorsements and 2 million from salary/winnings).

- Tennis player Roger Federer Tops the list for the first time with estimated earnings 106.3 million USD. He placed 4th in the 2019 list with the estimated earnings of 95million USD.
- Naomi Osaka became the highest paid female athlete ranking 29 overtaking Serena Williams who ranks 33. Williams joined the ranking in 2017 and 2019. In 2018 no women entered the list.

2. Aiman Ezzat becomes new CEO of French Tech Giant Capgemini Group

- Aiman Ezzat has become the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of French technology major Capgemini Group. He has replaced the presently serving Paul Hermelin who will continue to serve as the Chairman of the Board.
- The appointment of Aiman Ezzat was made at the close of the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.
- Aiman Ezzat was earlier serving as the Chief Operating Officer of the Capgemini Group and has also served as the Chief Financial Officer of the company in the past.

3. Pradip Kumar Tripathi Assumes Charge as Secretary in Ministry of Steel

- Shri Pradip Kumar Tripathi has assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India on 1 June 2020. He took over as Secretary upon the superannuation of present incumbent Binoy Kumar. The appointment was approved by the Appointment Committee of Cabinet.
- Binoy Kumar is a 1983 batch officer who had taken over as Secretary, Ministry of Steel on 1 September 2018. He retired on 30 May 2020.
- Pradip Kumar Tripathi is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1987 batch of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre. Prior to this appointment, Tripathi had been posted as Special Secretary and Establishment Officer in Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

4. R.K. Chaturvedi assumed charge as Secretary in Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

- RK Chaturvedi assumed charge as Secretary in the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. Chaturvedi has replaced P.Raghavendra Rao who superannuated on 31 May 2020.
- RK Chaturvedi is a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre. Prior to this, he served as an Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Culture. He has worked as Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and as DG in the National Skill Development Authority (NSDA).

5. Twitter appoints ex-Google CFO “Patrick Pichette” as new board chairman

- Twitter has appointed ex-Google chief financial officer (CFO) Patrick Pichette as the company's new chairman of the board.
- Pichette who joined Twitter's board of directors in 2017, previously served as Google's CFO from 2008 till 2015.
- Pichette will take over from Omid Kordestani who will remain on Twitter's board.

6. Krishnendu Majumdar becomes new chairman of BAFTA

- Award-winning television producer Krishnendu Majumdar has been named as the chairperson of BAFTA. Majumdar, who succeeds Pippa Harris to the post, is the youngest to be appointed as head in last 35 years of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
- Majumdar has been deputy chair for one year and is due to remain as chair for the next three years.
- Majumdar previously served as the chair of the Learning and New Talent Committee (2006-2010), the chair of the Television Committee (2015-2019) and a member of the board of trustees for nine years.

7. Former Miss World Manushi Chhillar joins Rohit, Hima as a brand ambassador of Adidas

- The former Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar joined Rohit Sharma, Indian star Batsman, Hima Das Sprinter from Assam, and Actor Ranveer Singh as the brand ambassador of Adidas.
- Chhillar becomes Adidas's forerunner in their mission to inspire women to embrace fitness and to create a beneficial social impact through sports.
- She supports the #HOMETEAMHERO challenge of Adidas to stay physically and mentally fit in the lockdown due to COVID-19 and use sports as a platform to inspire and encourage the women and children to take up sports. Adidas encourages the people around the world to participate in the #HOMETEAMHERO to support WHO's Covid-19 Response fund.
- Adidas will donate 1 USD for every hour clocked in the Adidas Running and Training apps till 7th June.

8. Akshay Kumar only Indian on the Forbes highest-paid celebrities list, Kylie Jenner topped

- Kylie Jenner and Kanye West topped the annual Forbes list of the highest paid celebrities, but sports stars, including Roger Federer and Lionel Messi, dominated the top 10. Forbes estimated that Jenner earned \$590 million in the last 12 months, mostly from the sale of a 51% stake in her Kylie Cosmetics line to Coty in 2019.
- Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar, 52-year-old, is the only Indian to feature on Forbes 2020 list of World's Highest-Paid Celebrities, at the number corresponding to his age, 52.
- In this list, Akshay has beaten celebs such as Hollywood actors Will Smith and Jennifer Lopez, and singer Rihanna, with earnings of 48.5 million dollars.

9. UNADAP appoints 13 year old Madurai girl Nethra as 'Goodwill Ambassador to the Poor'

- The United Nations Association for Development And Peace (UNADAP) appointed 13 year old Madurai girl Nethra as its 'Goodwill Ambassador to the Poor' as she persuaded her father C. Mohan, a salon owner who spent his savings Rs 5 lakhs for his daughter's education. Also, helping with essentials to nearly 1,500 families despite his salon being closed for 2 months as part of COVID-19 lockdown with no other income during the period.
- Nethra will speak at the United Nations (UN) conferences in New York and in Geneva addressing Civil Society forums and conferences. She was awarded a Dixon Scholarship amounting to Rs 1 Lakh.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Mann ki Baat programme appreciated Nethra and her family.

10. Monika Kapil Mohta appointed India's next Ambassador to Switzerland

- Diplomat Monika Kapil Mohta has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced.
- Presently, Mohta, an Indian Foreign Service officer of 1985 batch, is India's Ambassador to Sweden.
- Mohta has served as the Ambassador of India to Poland and Lithuania from July 2011 to January 2015.
- She served as the Director of The Nehru Centre and Minister (Culture) at the High Commission of India to the United Kingdom from 2006 to 2011.
- She has also served at Indian Embassies in France, Nepal, and Thailand, and in the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO.

11. Former NASA Astronaut & Geologist Kathy Sullivan becomes 1st Woman to Reach Deepest Point of Ocean

- The 68-year-old Kathy Sullivan, Former NASA astronaut and Geologist became the first woman to reach the Challenger Deep, the deepest point in the ocean. It is located in the Mariana Trench, 7 miles below the surface of the Pacific Ocean which is 200 miles southwest of Guam.
- This is the deepest point known in the Ocean.

12. Pankaj Tripathi becomes brand ambassador of Bihar's Khadi

- Pankaj Tripathi, Bollywood Actor, was appointed as the brand ambassador of Bihar's Khadi by the Government of Bihar. He will promote the usage of Khadi product as well as the Patna's Khadi Mall.
- The Khadi Mall in Patna is India's first ever Khadi mall & it was inaugurated by Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar in November 2019.
- Tripathi mentioned that he would not take any salary for this role.

13. Attorney General K. K. Venugopal to get 1-year extension

- Noted constitutional expert K.K. Venugopal will continue as the Attorney General of India for one more year.
- He has accepted the government's request to serve as the top law officer of the country beyond June 30 when his current three-year tenure expires.
- Venugopal, a leading lawyer of the country, was appointed as Attorney General and succeeded Mukul Rohatgi on June 30, 2017.
- Known as a doyen of Indian Bar, Venugopal has appeared for the Centre in Aadhaar and Rafale cases, among others, in the Supreme Court.
- He is defending the Union government in other important cases including those related to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution.

14. Imtaiyazur Rahman appointed as the CEO of UTI mutual funds

- Board of Unit Trust of India(UTI)Mutual Fund had appointed Imtaiyazur Rahman as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the UTI Asset Management Company (AMC). He

had been already serving as the interim CEO for the past two years. He will succeed Leo Puri whose 5-year tenure was over in August 2018.

- The appointment will help the funding company to accelerate the process of launching its long-pending initial public offer (IPO).
- This would also address concerns of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on the position of CEO that has been lying vacant for quite some time

15. Anmol Narang becomes first observant sikh to graduate from US Military Academy

- Second Lieutenant Anmol Narang is all set to create history. She will become the first observant Sikh to graduate from the United States (US) Military Academy.
- The graduation ceremony will take place at the US Military Academy at West Point.
- In 1987, the US Congress passed a law that prohibited Sikhs and several other religious communities from maintaining their articles of faith while in the military, despite a history of diverse service and simple accommodations.

16. Shambhu S Kumaran appointed India's next envoy to Philippines

- Diplomat Shambhu S Kumaran has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Philippines.
- Kumaran is presently Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Morocco.
- During January 2016-May 2019, he was on deputation to the Ministry of Defence as Joint Secretary (Planning and International Cooperation).

17. IFTAS announces the appointment of Shri T. Rabi Sankar as chairman

- Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS) has announced the appointment of T Rabi Sankar as the Chairman of the organization. IFTAS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India.
- T Rabi Sankar, currently serving as Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India for Payment Systems, Information Technology, Risk Management and Fintech has taken over concurrent charge, ex officio, as the Chairman of IFTAS.
- Agency also appoints Dr. N Rajendran as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the organization.

18. Priyanka Chopra & Anurag Kashyap named Among 50 Ambassadors for 45th Edition of TIFF 2020

- Actress Priyanka Chopra and Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap named among the 50 ambassadors for the 45th edition of Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020, which is to be held virtually. The festival will take place from September 10-19 with physical screenings and drive-ins, digital screenings, virtual red carpets, press conferences and industry talks.
- This is the 1st time TIFF will launch a digital platform for the festival, offering new opportunities to connect with audiences beyond Toronto.
- TIFF has partnered with Shift72 to develop the online platform.

Books and Awards

1. Rohit Sharma nominated for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

- BCCI nominated Rohit Sharma for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards. The Award is considered to be the highest sporting honour award in India.
- The period of consideration for a person to get nominated is from January 2016 to December 2019. Rohit has become the first T20 cricketer to score four centuries. Also, he holds record of 150 plus score in around 8 ODIs. He also holds the greatest number of centuries in ODI matches since 2017, that numbered to 18.
- He was also the ICC ODI Cricketer of the year, 2019. He received this award as he was the first player to score five ODI centuries in a single edition of the World Cup.
- The award is the highest sporting honour of India. The award is presented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and sports. The award is presented for outstanding performance for a period of 4 years. The award comprises of cash prize of Rs 7.5 lakhs.

2. South African AIDS researcher “Quarraisha Abdool Karim” wins France’s Christophe Merieux Prize

- A South African HIV researcher Quarraisha Abdool Karim, who found that a topical gel could stop many women catching the virus has been awarded one of France's top science prizes.
- She won the half a million-euro (\$551,000) Christophe Merieux Prize for her work for the Durban-based Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), which she heads.
- The Christophe Merieux Prize is one of France’s top science prizes.

3. Ministry of I&B released “One Year of Modi 2.0 – Towards A Self-Reliant India” e-book

- A 92-page e-booklet called ‘One Year of Modi 2.0 –Towards A Self-Reliant India’ on the key achievements of the Modi government during its second term was released by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B).
- This marks the first anniversary of the second term of the government.

4. PM Modi took part in “India-Australia Virtual Summit” with Australian PM

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi took part in India-Australia Virtual Summit with his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison. This is the first time that Prime Minister Modi has held a Bilateral Virtual Summit.
- The Strategic Partnership between the two countries was strengthened in 2014 - with the visit of the then Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott to India and the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Australia in November 2014. Framework for Security Cooperation between Australia and India signed in November 2014 during Mr Modi's visit to Australia.
- The economic engagement has also been growing. In 2018-19, the trade between the two countries was around 21 billion dollars.

5. Indian NGO SEEDS wins “World No Tobacco Day Award 2020”

- The World Health Organization(WHO) has accorded the World No Tobacco Day Award 2020 to Socio-Economic and Educational Development Society(SEEDS), an Indian non-governmental organization(NGO), one among the 3 South East Asian Region awardees, for its efforts to ban pan masala, gutkha, e-cigarettes and hookah in Bihar and Jharkhand.
- SEEDS has been working closely with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to prevent & control smokeless tobacco use. Deepak Mishra, executive director of the

SEEDS has been nominated by the ministry as a member of the task force on the de-addiction campaign.

- Every year on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day on May 31 the WHO selects organisations and individuals from its 6 regions (African region, American region, Eastern Mediterranean region, South-East Asia region, Western Pacific region) for their exceptional contribution & accomplishment in the field of tobacco control.

6. Luke Coutinho's new book "The Dry Fasting Miracle: From Deprive to Thrive" on benefits of 'dry fasting diet' released

- From Deprive to Thrive, a book on the benefits of dry fasting diet by the famous personal lifestyle coach and author, Luke Coutinho and co-authored by a member of UAE's Ajman royal Family, Sheikh Abdulaziz Bin Ali Bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, published under the Ebury Press a division of Penguin Random House and the ebook version is available on Kindle.
- The book speaks on the benefits of the dry fasting diet – the superior form of fasting and cleansing, which is restraining the intake of food and water for twelve or more hours and its role in achieving good health.

7. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw wins EY World Entrepreneur of the year award 2020

- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Founder and Chairperson & Managing Director of Biocon, has been named EY World Entrepreneur for the year 2020.
- The award is to recognize her contribution to improving universal access to affordable life-saving medicine and thus transforming the world. She became only the third Indian to receive this prestigious award after Uday Kotak and Narayana Murthy. Shaw became only the second woman to receive this award. Olivia Lum of Hyflux Limited from Singapore is the first person to have won the title in 2011.

8. Javed Akhtar becomes first Indian to win prestigious Richard Dawkins Award

- Javed Akhtar, veteran Bollywood writer, and lyricist has become the first Indian to receive the Richard Dawkins Award 2020. He won the award for advancing human progress, critical thinking, and humanist value.
- The award named after English evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins has been presented since 2003. The prestigious award is given to a distinguished individual from the world of scholarship, science, entertainment, and education.
- The previous recipients of this prestigious award include English- American intellectual, social critic, writer, and philosopher Christopher Hitchens and American TV Host, political commentator and comedian Bill Maher.

9. Indian Entrepreneur Renjith Kumar honoured with "NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal"

- Renjith Kumar, Engineer from Kerala and Indian Entrepreneur based in Virginia is honoured with NASA's highest form of recognition for a non-governmental individual "NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal" for his service to NASA through executive leadership, engineering contribution, technical excellence and customer satisfaction.
- The "NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal" is given for the non-governmental individuals or individuals who are not a part of government employees during the performed service who provide a level of excellence supporting or impacting the success of NASA's missions and contribution in NASA's advancement of United States interests.

- RK Chetty Pandipati was the First Indian to win this award in 2002.

10. Indian Musician Shobha Sekhar receives “the Medal of the Order of Australia”

- Indian Musician Shobha Sekhar, the founder of Kalakruthi a music organisation in Australia receives the Medal of the Order of Australia(OAM) in the Queen’s Birthday 2020 for her service to Indian music and dance.
- Shobha Sekhar is a management graduate and an artist based in Montreal. She works as a lecturer at the University of Melbourne. She was trained by DKP, DK Jayaraman and K V Narayanaswamy. She started the Kalakruthi in 1994 affiliated with The Music Academy, Chennai and has been training many aspirants of Carnatic music.
- The medal of the order of Australia is awarded to the individuals contributing to their community or to Australia globally or domestically. The recipients are nominated and assessed independently as worthy of recognition.

11. Indian-American soil scientist “Dr.Rattan Lal” wins World Food Prize 2020

- Indian-American soil scientist Dr. Rattan Lal has won the prestigious 2020 World Food Prize, which is considered to be equivalent to a Nobel Prize in the field of agriculture. The award recognized his contribution to increasing the global food supply by helping small farmers improve the health of the soil. The award also highlights the importance of managing & restoring soil health.
- Dr.Rattan Lal was awarded for his role in developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increase food production that restores and conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change.

12. DK Jain, BCCI’s 1st Ever Ombudsman Gets a 1-year Extension as Ethics Officer and Ombudsman

- The tenure of former supreme court judge DK Jain as the ethics officer and ombudsman of Board of Control for Cricket in India(BCCI) got a 1year extension in June 2020 due to the current covid-19 situation. He was the first-ever ombudsman of BCCI appointed by the supreme court in February 2019.
- He was appointed as the He took additional changes as the ethics officer of BCCI. His tenure as the ethics officer and ombudsman of BCCI ended on 29th February 2020 and he resumed office after the renewal of his contract in June 2020.

13. Chef Angad Singh Rana won the QualityNZ Culinary Cup 2020

- Chef Angad Singh Rana has won QualityNZ Culinary Cup 2020.
- The award was announced by Cricket legend and Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming.
- Chef Angad Singh Rana grabbed the QualityNZ Culinary Cup 2020 alongside INR 50,000 worth of QualityNZ lamb and seafood and a Weber BBQ valued at over INR 46,000.
- The panel of judges included the heads of the Culinary Association, Chef Davinder Kumar, Chef Salil Fadnis, Chef Jugesh Arora and Stephen Fleming.

14. Hyderabad’s Deccan Development Society wins Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Award

- Hyderabad-based Deccan Development Society has won the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Award.
- It is one of the most coveted environmental awards in the world for the year 2020.
- This is in recognition of the individuals who dedicate their actions and organisations for their deep commitment to preserving our planet, in each of the Foundation's three priority areas: limiting the effects of climate change, preserving biodiversity, managing water resources and fighting against desertification.
- The award of 40,000 Euros (approximately Rs 35 lakhs) has been given to the society "in recognition of the work of DDS women to rehabilitate degraded lands and promote biodiversity".

15. Two Indian firms in WEF list of tech pioneers for 2020

- Two Indian firms – Zest Money and Stellapps - figure in a new list of Tech Pioneers released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- The list described these 100 entities as future headline-makers addressing global issues with cutting-edge technology.
- From artificial intelligence (AI) to carbon capture, these companies are using innovations to protect the climate, improve healthcare and much more, helping us to reset society and build towards a better future.
- This year's class of Technology Pioneers are improving society and advancing their industries around the world.

16. The Debut Novel of Megha Majumdar – “A Burning” released

- The Penguin Hamish Hamilton released the “A Burning”, debut novel of Megha Majumdar. The 32-year-old New York's writer who was born and raised in Kolkata.
- A Burning: The book is about the lives of three characters, Tommy Orange, Yaa Gyasi and Jhumpa Lahiri who want to rise to the middle class, to political power, to gain fame in the film industry and how their lives changed in Indian society. The book was published on 2nd June 2020 by Knopf Doubleday publishing Group.

17. Golden Globe awards postponed to February 2021 due to coronavirus

- The Golden Globes on Monday (June 22) postponed its 2021 ceremony for film and television, after a two-month delay to the Oscars, in Hollywood's latest awards calendar shuffle caused by the coronavirus epidemic.
- The Golden Globes ceremony, which kicks off Hollywood's awards season, will take place on Feb 28 instead of its usual slot on the first Sunday in January, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), which hands out the trophies, said in a statement.
- Last week the Oscars, the highest honours in the film industry, were postponed to April 25 from Feb 28.

18. Nobel Laureate AmartyaSen wins 2020 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade

- Indian economist, philosopher and Nobel Laureate Amartya Kumar Sen (86) has been selected for 2020 Peace Prize by the Board of Trustees of the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for his decades-long work around issues of global justice.
- He will be presented with the award by German Publishers' and Booksellers' Association, Borsenverein in a ceremony that will take place on October 18, 2020, in Paulskirche (Germany) & will be broadcast live on German public television.

19. Folk artist Gulabbai Sangamnerkar & Madhuvanti Dandekar to get Lifetime Achievement Award.

- Maharashtra Culture Minister Amit Deshmukh announced that Vithabai Narayangaokar lifetime achievement award 2018-19 will be conferred upon the senior tamasha (folk art) artist, Gulabbai Sangamnerkar and Sangeetacharya Annasaheb Kirloskar musical theatre lifetime achievement award 2019-20 will be given to Veteran theatre actress-singer Madhuvanti Dandekar.
- Both the awards carry a cash prize of Rs 5 lakhs, a citation & a memento.

20. Cleared of Doping Charges , K. Sanjita Chanu to receive Arjuna Award

- Secretary of Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLFF) has informed on 25th June 2020 that K. Sanjita Chanu will receive the Arjuna Award for 2018. The two time Commonwealth Games Gold medalist was cleared of doping charges earlier this month by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).
- The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) dropped the doping charge against Chanu due to "non-conformities" in the handling of her sample last month. The Manipuri plans to seek compensation from the IWF for the "trauma" she endured.

SSC ALL EXAMS
Online Video Course
CGL | CPO | CHSL
All Tiers
BUY NOW **₹1999/-**

**SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE****1. Google launches app ‘Sodar’ to help people maintain social distancing**

- Google has launched ‘Sodar’ app that will help people maintain distance in real life using augmented reality. The app has been developed under Experiments with Google and is not available on the Google Play Store but can be side-loaded separately.
- The app called ‘Sodar’, will create a visual boundary using the user’s smartphone camera and constantly show who’s breaching that distance. The company claims Sodar uses “WebXR to help visualise social distancing guidelines in your environment.
- Using Sodar on supported mobile devices, create an augmented reality two meter radius ring around you. Once another person breaches the circle, the screen will visually alert the user.

2. Indian Navy launched Next phase of Operation Samudra Setu on June 1

- The Indian Navy started the next phase of Operation Samudra Setu from June 1 to repatriate Indians who are stranded overseas amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- In this phase, Indian Navy Ship Jalashwa will repatriate 700 personnel from Colombo, Republic of Sri Lanka to Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu and subsequently repatriate another 700 personnel from Male, Republic of Maldives to Tuticorin.
- The Indian Navy has already repatriated 1,488 Indian nationals from Male to Kochi during the previous phases of the operation. After disembarkation at Tuticorin, the evacuated personnel will be entrusted to the care of the state authorities.

3. WHO launches 'C-TAP' for equitable access to life-saving tech

- WHO has launched the 'COVID-19 Technology Access Pool' for equitable access to life-saving tech.
- This comes after at least 37 countries jointly appealed to the World Health Organisation for common ownership of vaccines, medicines and other diagnostic tools to combat the global health crisis.
- C-TAP aims to accelerate the development of vaccines and medicines through the sharing of research and information and to increase manufacturing capacity for any products that are developed.
- WHO has also issued a 'Solidarity Call to Action' urging other stakeholders of the UN health agency to join the cause.

4. France assures timely delivery of Rafale aircraft to India

- France reaffirmed its commitment to ensure timely delivery of Rafale Aircraft to India despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The IAF is likely to get the delivery of the first batch of four Rafale jets from France by July-end.
- The four fighters were supposed to fly to their home base in India in May 2020, but the plan was delayed due to the Covid-19 outbreak.
- Dassault Aviation had handed over the first of 36 Rafale aircraft, which India had ordered in 2016, during a visit by Rajnath Singh to France last year.
- India had signed an inter-governmental agreement with France in September 2016 for procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around ₹ 58,000 crore.

5. Astronomers of IFA unveil Solar Corona's magnetic field

- The researchers at the University of Hawaii Institute of Technology (IFA) have been studying the solar corona. It is an outermost atmosphere of the sun that expands into interplanetary space.
- A new study has been published in Astrophysical Journal on June 3 by IFA graduate student Benjamin Boe that used total solar eclipse observations to measure the shape of the coronal magnetic field along with a higher spatial resolution and over a large area than never before.
- The corona has been most easily seen during a total solar eclipse, it is when the moon is directly between the Earth and Sun which blocks the bright surface of the Sun.

6. ISRO & ARIES signs MoU for cooperation in SSA & Astrophysics

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has signed an agreement with Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) for cooperation in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and Astrophysics.

- The main objective of the MoU is to shield the Indian Space assets from the space debris's conjunction threats and R&D of Astrophysics, solar sciences and space environment are the base for future space exploration projects and the key to progress in the Indian Space sector.

7. Scientists discover new star Kepler-160 & planet KOI-456 : 'mirror image' of Earth and Sun

- A team of scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research (MPS) in Göttingen (Germany), the Sonneberg Observatory, the University of Göttingen, the University of California, and NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) led by MPS, have discovered a new planet named KOI-456.04 & its host star called Kepler-160 by using Kepler Space Telescope. Scientist have mentioned these two newly discovered planet and its host as "mirror image" of our own planet and sun.
- The research has been published in the journal Astronomy and Astrophysics & lead author of the study was Dr Rene Heller.

8. First unmanned trial flight of Gaganyaan mission delayed due to COVID lockdown

- The first unmanned trial flight of ISRO's ambitious Gaganyaan mission, which was originally scheduled for this year, has now been delayed to 2021 due to COVID-19 lockdown.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation has decided to revisit its Gaganyaan trial plans due to a nationwide lockdown imposed to contain coronavirus pandemic. ISRO had announced earlier that it had planned two unmanned trial flights ahead of the manned space mission.
- The first trial unmanned flight was supposed to be launched in December 2020 and the second trial flight was scheduled for July 2021.

9. IAF proposes to acquire 21 MiG-29, 12 Sukhoi fighter jets from Russia

- The Indian Air Force has submitted a proposal to the central government to acquire 33 new fighter aircraft from Russia. The proposal comes amid India's heightened tensions with China following the violent clash at the Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh.
- As per government sources, the Air Force was working on the proposal since some time but they have now fast-tracked the same. The proposals estimated to be worth around Rs 6000 crore are likely to be placed before the Union Defence Ministry for its final approval during a high-level meeting next week.
- The IAF proposal includes acquiring of 21 MiG-29s and 12 Su-30MKIs. The 12 Su-30 MKIs have been sought to replace the number of aircraft lost by the Indian Air Force in different accidents.

10. 'Air-Venti' App to provide information on ICU beds, ventilators launched in Mumbai

- In Maharashtra, amid the COVID-19 crisis, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has launched a mobile application "Air-Venti" to help residents in the city to know about the availability of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds and Ventilators.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the acute shortage of ventilators for the 'Respiratory Intensive Care Unit' for severely ill patients.
- The mobile app 'Air-Venti' launched by the civic body in Mumbai aims to provide overall statistics of ICU beds and ventilators that are occupied and vacant in both govt and private hospitals besides location map, ability to contact hospital through telephonic call and email is also available.

11. ISRO receives patent for protective garment for human spaceflight

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has received a patent for its Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment (LCHG).
- It is made of biocompatible fabrics and components to provide a comfortable temperature and removal of sweat for astronauts, for use in space for protection from hot and cold environments.
- LCHGs are used in space, military applications, fire fighting and also for personal cooling and heating purposes for protection from hot and cold environments of industrial areas or in extreme temperature and humidity conditions that may exist in work environments.
- These garments have a system for circulating temperature controlling fluid into and out of the garments, for instance, through tubes inside the garment.

12. India becomes World's First Country to Use Drone Mounted ULV Sprayer for Locust Control

- Under the Make in India initiative the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) has initiated to develop a vehicle mounted ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayer for locust control to reduce the limitations of importing equipment.
- This initiative is led by the Mechanization and Technology Division of DAC&FW with a sprayer prototype developed by Indian manufacturer. The initial trial of the sprayer has been conducted in Ajmer and Bikaner districts of Rajasthan and is awaiting approval for commercial launch.

SPORTS

1. Indian writer Kritika Pandey wins 2020 Commonwealth short story prize in Asian Region

- Kritika Pandey, a 29-year-old Indian Writer from Ranchi, was announced as the winner of regional award for Asia in 2020 Commonwealth short story prize for her story "The Great Indian Tee and Snakes" – about love in an age of hatred and prejudice.
- She is currently doing her MFA degree at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

2. India to host AFC 2022 Women's Asian Cup

- India is to host the 2022 Women's Asian Cup. The hosting rights have been awarded to India by the Asian Football Confederation. This is the second time India will be hosting the event. India hosted the event for the first time in 1979. The information was passed by the All India Football Federation.
- Women's Asian Cup will be held in the second half of the year 2020. Women players are expected to bring social revolution in the event.
- The football tournament will feature 12 teams. The number of participating teams has been expanded from the previous slot of eight teams. As India hosts the tournament, India will qualify directly in the tournament.
- The event will serve as the final qualification tournament for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

3. India retains 108th rank in FIFA Ranking, Belgium topped

- On June 12, 2020, the FIFA ranking was released. Indian team retained its 108th position as the international football for the year 2020 has been suspended since March.
- Belgium remained at the top spot and was ahead of France and Brazil. England and Uruguay continued to remain at fourth and fifth position. Croatia and Portugal were at sixth and seventh position respectively. They were followed by Spain, Argentina and Colombia.
- FIFA is Federation Internationale de Football Association. It is an international governing body of association football. It was founded in 1904 and is headquartered in Zurich. Around 211 member countries are associated with FIFA.

4. Asian Champion Gomathi Marimuthu gets four-year ban for doping

- Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has banned athlete Gomathi Marimuthu for 4-years after testing positive for banned substances.
- Her ban starts from 17th May 2019 to 16th May 2023. All of Gomathi's competition results between March 18 and May 17, 2019, stand annulled.
- The Gold Medal she bagged in the 2019 Asian Championship that was held in Doha, Qatar with the timing of 2 minutes and 2.70 seconds has been stripped by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) when the B sample of Gomathi returned positive.

5. Russian high jumper Shustov receives four-year ban for doping

- Russian high jumper Alexander Shustov, the 2010 European champion, has received a four-year ban for anti-doping violations.
- Shustov, who retired from competition in 2017, has been suspended until 2024 for "use or attempted use of a banned substance or prohibited method".
- Russia's athletics federation was suspended in 2015 after a report commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) found evidence of mass doping in the sport.

6. Ukrainian boxing champion and Olympic medalist Oleksandr Gvozdyk retires

- The 33-year-old Ukrainian lightweight boxing champion Oleksandr Gvozdyk also known as "The Nail" announced his retirement. He was born on 15th April 1987 in Kharkiv, Ukraine.
- He won the Bronze medal in the 2012 Olympic games. He won the 2018 World Boxing Councils(WBCs) light heavyweight world title against Adonis Stevenson in Quebec.
- He lost the 2019 championship against Artur Beterbiev, Russian fighter which was the only loss in his pro career (17-1).He was the Former light heavyweight champion of North American Boxing Federation(NABF).

7. 4th edition of Asian Youth Para Games to be Held in Bahrain in December 2021

- The Asian Paralympic Committee(APC) announced that the 4th Asian Youth Para Games will take place in Bahrain from December(1-10) 2021. The event will be organised in partnership with the National Paralympic Committee(NPC) of Bahrain with the support of the local government.
- This is the 1st time Bahrain will host a big para-sport event
- The competition will take place across numerous venues in Khalifa Sports City, a multi-use stadium in Isa Town, and Isa Sports City.

8. AIFF recommends Indian Football Legend I.M. Vijayan for Padma Shri

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has recommended former Indian skipper I.M. Vijayan for India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri.
- The legendary Indian striker had debuted in the early 90s and scored 40 goals in 79 matches. He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2003.
- I.M. Vijayan had led the Indian team between 2000 and 2003 and formed a formidable pair with fellow striker Bhaichung Bhutia.
- Vijayan had scored one of the fastest international goals in just 12 seconds during a match against Bhutan in the 1999 SAF Games.

9. Mamedyarov wins Sharjah Online Chess championship

- Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov bagged top honours at the World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship.
- Grandmaster Mamedyarov won the coveted title and pocketed \$3000 with 7.5 points from 10 rounds Indian Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna finished second with 6.5 points after losing his 10th and final round game to Radoslaw Wojtszek.
- Both Mamedyarov and Harikrishna had chances to win the title as at the start of the final round they were on 6.5 points each.
- Luck eluded the Indian as he lost his 10th and final round game to Poland's Radoslaw Wojtszek. Harikrishna finished second with 6.5 points.
- Mamedyarov, who remained the only unbeaten player in the double round-robin tournament, got the better off UAE Grandmaster Salem Abdulrahman Mohamed.

10. National champion Niki Poonacha elected to ITF Men's player panel

- National champion Niki Poonacha has been elected to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) men's player panel and will represent the Asia-Oceania zone along with Ti Chen of Chinese Taipei.
- Aldin Setkic and Francesco Vilardo were elected from Europe, while Juan Pablo Paz and Jose Bendeck were elected to represent South America.
- The ITF also has a women's player panel with Akgul Amanmuradova of Uzbekistan from Asia.
- The men's and women's panels will be headed by Mark Woodforde and Mary Pierce, respectively, who are already athlete representatives on the ITF board of directors.
- A coach will also be included into the player panels.

11. World's No.1 Tennis Player Novak Djokovic tests positive for COVID-19

- Novak Djokovic, the world's no.1 tennis player, has tested positive for COVID-19. A statement was issued confirming the news. Djokovic recently took part in an exhibition tennis tournament in the Balkans.
- As per the statement, he has tested positive for a virus COVID-19 although he is not showing any symptoms. Novak Djokovic was tested along with his family members with whom he was in Belgrade and Zadar.
- He confirmed that his wife, Jelena Djokovic has also tested positive while the results of their children remain negative. Djokovic is a Serbian professional tennis player who is currently the world's No. 1 in men's singles tennis.

12. Wasim Jaffer appointed head coach of Uttarakhand cricket team

- Former India opener Wasim Jaffer has been appointed head coach of the Uttarakhand cricket team for the upcoming domestic season.
- The highest run-getter in Ranji Trophy, Jaffer had announced retirement in March this year after playing for over two decades, primarily for domestic giants Mumbai and Vidarbha.
- This will be his first stint as a head coach with a team. Uttarakhand had reached the quarterfinals in their debut Ranji Trophy season in 2018-19, where they lost to Vidarbha, by an innings and 115 runs.

13. Australia, New Zealand to jointly host FIFA Women's World Cup 2023

- FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 will be hosted by Australia and New Zealand. The announcement was made by the Federation of International Football Associations on June 25, 2020.
- FIFA's official statement said that the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 will be staged in Australia and New Zealand. This was decided following a vote taken by the FIFA Council during its meeting held via video conference, the result of which was announced by FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

OBITUARIES

1. Famous Music composer Wajid Khan dies due to COVID-19

- Music composer, director and singer Wajid Khan died due to COVID-19.
- The 42 year old music composer was also suffering from kidney ailments and had undergone a kidney transplant a few months ago.
- Wajid Khan, of the famous Sajid-Wajid music composer duo, composed most of the songs of actor Salman Khan's movies.

2. Former Tamil Nadu BJP president KN Lakshmanan passes away

- Former two-time Tamil Nadu State BJP president K N Lakshmanan died.
- Born in Salem on October 20, 1930, he completed schooling at the Gokulnatha Hindu Mahajana school and did his BA at what was then the Salem Municipal College.
- In 1944, he joined the RSS and in 1957 started the Jana Sangh in Salem district along with nine others.
- In 1969, he and senior RSS leader Vasudevan started the Vidya Mandir school at Shevapet in Salem city. From 1970 to 1974, he started branches of the school in 24 towns across the State.
- When the Jana Sangh became the BJP, Lakshmanan was appointed the party's State president and held the post from 1984-89.
- He also held the post from 1996 to 2000. In 2001, he was elected to the State Assembly from the Mylapore constituency in Chennai.

3. NBA legend "Wes Unseld" who played for Washington Wizards dies at 74

- NBA legend Wes Unseld, who played for the Washington Wizards died following lengthy health issues. Unseld who led Washington Wizards (the then Baltimore Bullets) in 1978 to its only NBA championship is considered as one of the greatest players in league's history.

- A five-time All-Star selection, Unseld spent his entire 13-year career with the same team and appeared in a franchise-record 984 games, averaging 10.8 points, 14.0 rebounds and 3.9 assists over his career.
- He was inducted into 'The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame' as a player in 1988 and was voted as a 'top 50 player in league history' in 1996.

4. Veteran filmmaker Basu Chatterjee passes away at 93

- Veteran filmmaker Basu Chatterjee, known for his soulful cinema, passed away following age related health issues. He was 93.
- The veteran filmmaker's cinema was progressive, unhurried and a slice of everyday life. He preferred actors like Vidya Sinha, Amol Palekar and Zarina Wahab for his inspiring middle-class stories. Some of his best known works are "Us Paar", "Chitchor", "Rajnigandha", "Piya Ka Ghar", "Khatta Meetha", "Baton Baton Mein", Swami, Apne Paraye and Shaukeen.
- His work with Amitabh Bachchan in "Manzil", Rajesh Khanna in "Chakravarty", Dev Anand and Tina Munim in "Man Pasand" has developed cult classic status over the years.
- In 1992, Basu Chatterjee won the National Film Award for best film on family welfare for Durga.

5. Former Indian footballer Hamza Koya died of COVID-19 in Kerala

- Former Indian footballer Hamza Koya has died of COVID-19 in Kerala. He was a former football player who had represented Maharashtra at the Santosh Trophy and also an India team member in Nehru trophy.
- The deceased is a native of Parapanagadi, who had returned from Mumbai recently and passed away in Manjeri Medical College in Malappuram.

6. Former Union minister and Odisha MP Arjun Charan Sethi passes away at 79

- Former Union minister Arjun Charan Sethi died in a hospital following a brief illness.
- An eight-time MP from Bhadrak Lok Sabha constituency, Sethi was the Union Water Resources Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government from 2000 to 2004.
- Active in social and political spheres since his youth, soft-spoken Sethi was also elected to the Odisha Assembly twice.
- During his long stint as an MP and an MLA, the late Arjun Sethi had earned the goodwill of the people for his dedicated service and commitment.

7. Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza dies of 'cardiac arrest' at 55

- Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza has died after suffering a cardiac arrest. After 15 years in power, Mr Nkurunziza was due to step down in August.
- In 2015, the announcement that he would run for a third term plunged the country into chaos.
- He was also due to receive a \$540,000 (£440,000) retirement pay-out and a luxury villa.

8. Former New Zealand cricketer Matt Poore dies at 90

- Former New Zealand Test cricketer Matt Poore, who is remembered for catching a stray dog during a match in Bangalore in 1955, has died at the age of 90.

- He was featured in 14 Tests for New Zealand, scoring 355 runs and picking up nine wickets between 1953-1956.
- He also played 61 Tests for Canterbury and scored 2,336 runs and ended up with 68 wickets.

9. Army officer and two soldiers martyred during violent face off with Chinese Army in Ladakh

- A violent face-off reportedly took place between Indian and Chinese troops at Galwan Valley in Ladakh Monday night during de-escalation process. One Indian Army officer and two soldiers were martyred. Senior military officials of both nations are currently conducting talks at the place to defuse the situation.
- This unprecedented escalation at the border is the first between the two sides along the India- China border since 1975. According to an ANI tweet quoting Editor In Chief of a Chinese Newspaper, the Chinese side also suffered casualties during the physical clash at Galwan.

10. Maha Vir Chakra awardee and 1971 war hero, Lt Gen Raj Mohan Vohra dies of COVID-19

- Lt Gen (retd) Raj Mohan Vohra, who was a 1971 war hero and a Maha Vir Chakra awardee, has died due to COVID-19.
- Then a lieutenant colonel, Vohra commanded the elite Hodson's Horse in the Shakargarh Sector during the Indo-Pak War of 1971 and was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for his conspicuous bravery and leadership.
- During the Battle of Basantar, the regiment came under heavy fire from the enemy and faced huge resistance, but 27 enemy tanks were destroyed under his able command.
- The Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) is the country's second highest gallantry award.
- It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air.
- Vohra had received the coveted award in 1972.

11. Former Goa minister Achyut Usgaonkar passes away

- Former Goa minister Achyut Kashinath Sinai Usgaonkar passed away following age-related ailments.
- Usgaonkar was a leader of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), the oldest regional outfit in Goa.
- He served as a cabinet minister from August 13, 1977 to April 27, 1979 in the then Shashikala Kakodkar government of Goa, Daman and Diu.
- Before serving as a minister, Achyut Usgaonkar was the deputy speaker of Goa during the Dayanand Bandodkar-led government.
- Bandodkar was the first chief minister of the coastal state.

12. Malayalam filmmaker Sachidanandan passes away

- Malayalam writer-director KR Sachidanandan, popularly known in the industry as Sachy, passed away. Sachy was on ventilator support prior to his death for almost two days.
- He suffered a cardiac arrest and hypoxic brain damage, wherein the brain does not get enough oxygen. Sachy debuted in the film industry as a writer, collaborating with fellow writer and screenwriter Sethunath.

- The duo, known as Sachy-Sethu, went on to write hits such as Chocolate, Makeup Man, Robin Hood, and Seniors.
- Sachy started off as a writer in the Malayalam film industry, and then moved on to direction, debuting as a director in 2015 with the Prithviraj-starrer Anarkali.

13. Maj Gen Lachhman Singh Lehl, renowned veteran of 1948, 1971 wars, dies at 97

- Major General (Retd) Lachhman Singh Lehl, who commanded the 20 Mountain Division of the Army that exhibited massive courage and valour during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, has died aged 97 in Delhi.
- Major General (Retd) Lehl had assumed command of the 20 Mountain Division on November 13, 1970.
- The famous battles of "Hilli" and "Bogra" were fought in 1971 operations, which were decisive battles in the Eastern Theatre," the official said.
- The Instrument of Surrender taken by the officer against Pakistan's 16 Infantry Division speaks of the valour of the 20 Mountain Division on the eastern front under his command.

14. Former India shooter Pournima Zanane passes away after two-year battle with cancer

- Former India shooter Pournima Zanane has passed away aged 42. An International Shooting Sport Federation-licenced coach, Zanane had been suffering from cancer for the past two years and also underwent extensive treatment for the same.
- She has represented India at multiple ISSF World Cups, Asian Championships, Commonwealth Championships, among others.
- Zanane, who was a national record holder in 10m air rifle event, took to coaching and was honoured with the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports award by the Maharashtra government.

15. 'Batman' movie director Joel Schumacher passes away at 80 after battling cancer

- Costume designer-turned director Joel Schumacher, known for helming films including 'St Elmo's Fire', 'Falling Down' as well as two 'Batman' movies, has passed away. Schumacher started off as a costume designer for 1970s films.
- Joel Schumacher's first movie was Batman Forever which starred Val Kilmer, Tommy Lee Jones, Jim Carrey and Nicole Kidman.
- He also directed the movie titled "The Phantom of the Opera" which received three Oscar nominations.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Milk Day is observed on 1 June

- World Milk Day is observed on 1 June every year. The day aims to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector. This year's theme is "20th Anniversary of World Milk Day".
- 2020 Milk day marks the 20th year since the initiative and the entire world celebrates the day to mark the significance of milk intake in the diet.
- World Milk Day aims to provide information about the need and importance of milk in a human being's life. The day will raise awareness about milk and its products. The day also aims to educate people about the nutrients that are present in milk like calcium, protein, vitamin B2, potassium, iodine, etc.

2. PM Modi greets people on 6th Telangana State Formation Day

- Telangana is celebrating the 6th anniversary of its Formation Day on 02 June.
- The Government of India declared this historic day for Telangana, the youngest state in India in 2014.
- This day signifies the sustained Telangana Movement history through the years for a separate state.

3. World Bicycle Day is observed on 3 June

- World Bicycle Day is observed on 3 June. The day aims to motivate and inspire people towards having more tolerance, understanding, and respect for one another. Bicycle signifies a sustainable means of transport which is good for the environment and economy.
- World Bicycle Day aims to devote special attention to the bicycle in cross-cutting development strategies. It also aims to include the bicycle in international, regional, national, and subnational development policies and programs. The day aims to adopt best practices and means to promote the bicycle across the world.

4. International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression: 4 June

- International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed globally on 4th June every year.
- This day affirms the UN's commitment to guard the rights of children. This day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the planet who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.
- The main aim of celebrating today is to spread the notice about the pain and sufferings faced by the victims as children.

5. World Environment Day observed on 5 June

- World Environment Day is observed on 5 June. The day aims to create awareness and action for the protection of the environment.
- The theme for the 2020 World Environment Day is 'Biodiversity'. The theme focuses on a concern that is both urgent and existential. The theme was based on the recent events including bushfires in Brazil, the United States, and Australia; locust infestations across East Africa; a global disease pandemic COVID-19. These have demonstrated the interdependence of humans and the webs of life, in which they exist.

6. World Day Against Child Labour is observed on 12 June

- World Day Against Child Labour (or Anti-Child Labor Day) is observed on 12 June every year. The day focuses on the impact of the crisis on Child labour. The economic crisis and labour market shock that is caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic is having a huge impact on people's lives and livelihoods. In such a crisis, the children are the first to suffer. The crisis due to the pandemic can push many vulnerable children into child labour.
- On the World Day Against Child Labour or Anti-Child Labor Day, a virtual campaign was conducted. It will be organized jointly with the Global March Against Child Labour and the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA).

- A joint ILO-UNICEF paper on the impact of COVID-19 on child labour will be released on 12 June. The report highlights some of the main channels through which the pandemic is likely to affect progress towards the eradication of child labour.

7. Every year, World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on June 14.

- Every year, World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on June 14. The day is celebrated to thank voluntary blood donors and also raise awareness about the need for regular blood donations. This year the World Blood Donor Day is celebrated under the theme.
- The World Blood Donor Day event was established in 2004. It is one of the eight official campaigns that are marked by the World Health Organization.

8. International Day of Family Remittances observed on 16 June

- International Day of Family Remittances 2020 aka IDFR is celebrated each year on June 16 across the world.
- The day is organised by the United Nations and is universally accepted.
- This day is celebrated to recognise the efforts of migrants who help to improve the lives of their family members back home.

9. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: 17th June

- The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is a United Nations observance each June 17.
- Its purpose is to raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, highlighting methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought.
- The World Day to Combat Desertification And Drought was declared in the United Nations General Assembly resolution on January 30, 1995, after the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- This year the theme for World Day to Combat Desertification And Drought is "Food. Feed. Fibre".

10. Sustainable Gastronomy Day: 18 June

- Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed globally on 18th June every year.
- This day is observed to acknowledge gastronomy as a cultural expression related to nature as well as the cultural diversity of the world.
- As the COVID-19 pandemic is still unfolding across the globe, sustainable gastronomy - celebrating seasonal ingredients and producers, preserving wildlife as well as our culinary traditions - is today more relevant than ever.

11. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict: 19 June

- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed globally on 19th June every year.
- The day honours all the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world and pays tribute to the brave hearts who have devoted and lost their lives in raising voices.
- According to UN, conflict-related sexual violence is defined as a term that "refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked (temporally, geographically or causally) to a conflict".

12. Karnataka Government observed "Mask Day" on 18 June

- The Karnataka government observed June 18 as "Mask Day".
- The day was observed to spread awareness about the use of masks, sanitisers, washing hands with soap, and maintaining social distancing among other things aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19.
- To observe "Mask Day", the Karnataka government organised a march which featured the participation of public representatives, dignitaries and medical staff.

13. International Olympic Day: 23 June

- International Olympic Day is celebrated across the world on June 23 every year.
- The Olympic Day was celebrated for the first time ever on 23 June 1948.
- The day is observed every year to mark the importance of games and sports in our lives and to promote participation in games and sports across the world, irrespective of age, gender, cast or religion.

14. International Day of the Seafarer observed on 25 June

- The Day of the Seafarer is celebrated each year on June 25. On this day, people pay respect to Seafarers and sailors who help the entire world function by conducting sea transport.
- Even now, global trade still depends on ocean transport, which is why Seafarers and sailors are essential to the functioning of the world.
- Day of the Seafarer celebration was first started in 2010 by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

BANK & SSC ALL EXAMS**Online Video Course****IBPS | SBI | RBI****CGL | CPO | CHSL****BUY NOW****₹2999/-**

Now Govt. Job is in Your Hand !!

India's #1
Educational App

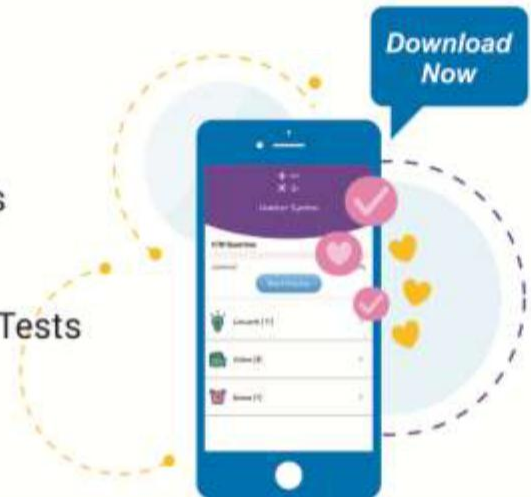
makemyexam



make **MY** exam



- 1000+ Videos
- 2000+ Concepts
- 3000+ Quizes
- 1000+ Practice Tests
- 500+ PDF



India's Best Video Course for Competitive Exams by IBT Faculties

BANK ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

395 Videos

₹3749/-



Videos by IBT Experts

RAILWAY ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

602 Videos

₹3499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SSC ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹3599/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SBI CLERK (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

RAILWAY NTPC

VIDEO COURSE

602 Videos

₹2699/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SSC CGL EXAM

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹2999/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SBI PO (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

RBI ASSISTANT (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SSC CHSL EXAM

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹2999/-



Videos by IBT Experts