



Monthly G.K Capsule

July, 2020



make  exam

Download India's #1 Competitive Exam Prep. App



www.makemyexam.in



support@makemyexam.in

NATIONAL NEWS

1. CBSE partners with Facebook to launch free training program for teachers, students

- The Central Board of Secondary Education-CBSE has partnered with Facebook to launch a free and comprehensive training program for teachers and students of its affiliated schools.
- The program will cover teacher training on augmented reality and student training on digital safety and online well-being.
- The training program will be of three weeks in which 10 thousand teachers will be trained on augmented reality while 10 thousand students will be trained on digital safety and well-being.
- The participants will also receive a joint e- certificate from CBSE and Facebook on successful completion of the course.

2. India's Rank 117th in SDG Index 2020, Sweden Tops: Sustainable Development Report 2020

- In accordance with the “Sustainable Development Report 2020- The Sustainable Development Goals and Covid-19”, comprising of SDG index 2020, there will be severe negative impacts on most of the United Nations (UN)-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to COVID-19 pandemic. India, which has ranked at 117th position with a score of 61.92 is also facing major challenges in 10 of the 17 SDGs including zero hunger, good health, gender inequality among others.
- The index has been topped by Sweden with a score of 84.72.
- The 2020 report has reviewed the performance of 193 UN Member States out of which 166 were ranked under SDG index 2020.

3. Himachal Pradesh becomes first state to provide LPG connection to everyone

- Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country in which every household has an LPG gas connection. Announcing this while interacting with the beneficiaries of the Himachal GrihiniSuvridhaYojana today, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that as many as 2,76,243 families were provided free gas connections under the scheme.
- This scheme, he said, was launched for those households which were not covered under the Centre's Pradhan MantriUjjawalaYojana under which connections were provided free to poor women of rural areas. “As many as 1.36 lakh families of the state benefited from the Central Government's scheme,” said Thakur, adding that the availability of gas connection was saving women from the ill-effects of smoke and helping in the conservation of environment too.

4. Himalayan Golden Birdwing butterfly named as India's largest butterfly

- A Himalayan butterfly named Golden Birdwing is India's largest, a record an unknown specimen had held for 88 years.
- With a wingspan of 194 mm, the female of the species is marginally larger than the Southern Birdwing (190 mm) that Brigadier William Harry Evans, a British military officer, had recorded in 1932.
- But the male Golden Birdwing (*Troides aeacus*) is much smaller at 106 mm.
- The female Golden Birdwing with 194 mm wingspan was recorded at Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district's Didihat town, while the male Golden Birdwing with 106 mm wingspan was recorded at the Wankhar Butterfly Museum (in Shillong).

5. Tamil Nadu tops market borrowings among States in 2020-21

- According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Tamil Nadu has raised 30,500 crores in the fiscal 2020-21 and has topped market borrowings among States in the country.
- Tamil Nadu, which has accounted for 17% of the borrowings done through the issue of bonds (known as state development loans), has been followed by Maharashtra ₹25,500 crores (14%), Andhra Pradesh ₹17,000 crores (9%) and Rajasthan ₹17,000 crores (9%).
- Tamil Nadu raised ₹1,250 crores at the low-interest rate of 6.63% for the 35-year bonds and ₹1,250 crores at the rate of 4.54% for the three-year bonds in the auction conducted by RBI.
- On July 7, Tamil Nadu borrowed an additional amount of ₹500 crores rather than the ₹2,000 crores originally planned.
- The State had planned to raise ₹2,000 crores through the issue of bonds of ₹1,000 each with tenures of 35 years and 3 years respectively.
- Tamil Nadu had an option to raise a further ₹250 crore in each of these securities, through what is known as the 'greenshoe' option.

6. Skill India launches AI-based ASEEM digital platform for skilled workforce across sectors

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched 'Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping' (ASEEM) portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- It has been launched to improve the information flow and bridge the demand-supply gap in the skilled workforce market.
- Apart from recruiting a skilled workforce that spurs business competitiveness and economic growth, the Artificial Intelligence-based platform has been envisioned to strengthen their career pathways by hand holding them through their journeys to attain industry-relevant skills and explore emerging job opportunities especially in the post COVID era.

7. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launches CAPFs nationwide tree plantation drive

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah yesterday launched the Central Armed Police Forces-CAPFs nationwide tree plantation drive. Under this drive, saplings were planted by the jawans of Central Armed Police Forces in Chhattisgarh. The personnel of BSF, CRPF, ITBP and CISF - deployed in Chhattisgarh for Anti-Naxal operations, planted saplings in their respective campuses as well as in their places of deployment.
- The Inspector General of Border Security Force, J.S.N.D. Prasad said that by planting saplings, paramilitary forces are also playing their role in preserving and promoting the environment as well as to check the pollution and save the Earth.

8. MP govt to run 'Roko -Toko' campaign for those who do not wear masks

- Madhya Pradesh will now run a Roko -Toko means stop campaign for those who do not wear masks. Now selected voluntary organizations will provide masks to the people who do not wear masks in public places and will charge an amount of Rs 20 per mask from the concerned.
- The selected organizations will be provided 100 masks created under 'Jeevan Shakti Yojana' on credit. On sale of the mask, the organizations will pay the concerned urban body at the rate of Rs 11 per mask.

9. 206th birth anniversary of Nepali poet Bhanu Bhakta Acharya celebrated in Sikkim

- The 206th birth anniversary of Nepali poet Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya or Bhanu Jayanti is being celebrated in Sikkim.
- Bhanu bhakta Acharya was born in Nepal's Tanahu district.
- Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya laid the foundation of Nepali literature and is revered as a significant literary figure in Nepali communities.
- He is credited for translating the Ramayana from Sanskrit to Nepali, thereby making it understandable for a wide range of Nepali speaking communities globally

10. Sachin Pilot removed as Rajasthan Deputy CM

- Sachin Pilot was removed as the Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan on July 14, 2020. The announcement was made by senior Congress leader and the party's national spokesperson, Randeep Singh Surjewala.
- Sachin Pilot has also been removed as the Rajasthan Congress Committee Chief. Congress leader Govind Singh Dotasra has been appointed in his place as the new Rajasthan PCC Chief.
- Randeep Singh Surjewala claimed that Sachin Pilot and some of his associates have been swayed by the ruling party and are now conspiring to

bring down the Congress government in Rajasthan. He called the move unacceptable.

11. Govt aims to increase public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025

- The Union Health Ministry has pushed for an increased expenditure on public health.
- In a meeting with the 15th Finance Commission, the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan, highlighted that the government aims at gradually increasing the public health expenditure to 2.5 per cent of the nation's GDP by the year 2025.
- The Minister asserted that the outlay for primary health expenditure will also be made nearly two third of the total public health expenditure in the country.

12. Income Tax Department launches tool for Banks and Post Offices to ensure TDS rates on cash withdrawals

- The Income Tax Department on July 12 launched a new tool for the banks and post offices that will ensure tax deduction at source (TDS) on the cash withdrawals beyond the threshold.
- With the help of the tool, post offices and banks will be able to ascertain the TDS applicability rates on the cash withdrawals of above Rs. 20 lakh in case a person is a non-filer of the income tax return and that of above Rs. 1 crore in case of a filer of Income-tax return.
- On the launch of the tool, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) informed that so far more than 53 thousand verification requests have been executed successfully on this facility.

13. PM Narendra Modi to virtually address ECOSOC on United Nation's 75th anniversary on July 17

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually give a keynote address at the valedictory session of the High-level Segment of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) on July 17 in New York. The session will be on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.
- This has been considered as an important development, as the address will be PM Modi's first speech at the UN after India's elections to the Security Council. The PM will be joined by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Norway PM Erna Solberg.
- The theme of the High-Level Segment which is held annually by ECOSOC is "Multilateralism after COVID 19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary". PM Modi had earlier delivered his address at the 70th anniversary of ECOSOC on January 22, 2016.

14. Union HRD minister launches World's Most Affordable COVID-19 kit "COROSURE"

- On July 15, 2020, the Union Minister of Human Resource and Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishnak launched world's most affordable COVID-19 kit. The kit was developed by IIT Delhi.
- The kit called "COROSURE" has been billed as the world's most affordable RT-PCR based COVID-19 diagnostic kit. The base price of the kit is Rs 399.
- Around 10 companies have been given licenses to manufacture the kit. The technology of preparing the kit is to be transferred to the companies by IIT Delhi.

15. Shipping Minister Mandaviya reviews development activities of India's first trans-shipment hub in Cochin port, Kerala

- On July 15, 2020, the Minister of State for Shipping Shri Manasukh Mandaviya reviewed the development activities of Vallarpadam terminal at Cochin. The terminal accommodates India's first trans-shipment hub.
- A Trans-Shipments Hub handles containers and stores them temporarily. Later it transfers them to other ships for onward destination.
- The Vallarpadam terminal of Cochin sea port where the hub is located is the most preferred gateway for South India and also a leading trans-shipment hub for South Asia.

16. 8.9% of the world's population, went hungry in 2019: UN's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 Report

- In accordance with the United Nations'(UN) annual report "The state of food security and nutrition in the world- Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets", nearly 690 million people, or 8.9% of the world's population, went hungry in 2019, an increase of 10 million since 2018 and of nearly 60 million since 2014. The report warned that the COVID-19 pandemic may add an additional 83 to 132 million people to the ranks of the undernourished in 2020.
- The number of hungry people worldwide has been slowly rising and if this trend continues, the number of undernourished people will exceed 840 million by 2030.

17. Ministry of Ayush announced the names of the winners of My Life-My Yoga Video blogging contest

- Ministry of AYUSH announced the names of the winners of the video blogging contest 'My Life, My Yoga'. This global contest on the digital platform was jointly hosted by the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). The event was launched on 31 May

2020 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of the 6th International Day of Yoga.

- The contest was held in six categories- Professional, Adult (above 18 years) and Youth (under 18) with Male and Female contestants considered separately. A total of 35141 entries were received from India and nearly 2000 entries were received from other countries. The entries of other countries are being evaluated by the respective Indian Missions.
- The first winners in the professional category are Ashwath Hegde (male) and Rajni Gehlot (female). Rajpal Singh Arya and Shailee Prasad are first in adult (above 18 years) category and Pranay Sharma and Navyaa.S.H are first in youth (under 18 years) category.

18. India's Only Golden Tiger 'KAZI 106F' spotted in Kaziranga National Park

- 'Kazi 106F', described as the country's only Golden Tiger, has emerged as the social media sensation right after its picture tweeted by an IFS officer went viral.
- Kazi 106 F, the tigress, resides in world heritage Kaziranga National Park of Assam. It is also known as 'Tabby tiger' or 'Strawberry tiger'. The skin of tigers is orange-yellow with black stripes and whitish abdominal region.
- The yellowish background is controlled by a set of 'agouti genes' and their alleles and the black colour stripes are controlled by 'tabby genes' and their alleles. Suppression of any of these genes may lead to colour variation in tiger.

19. Hand sanitisers are essential commodity but will attract 18% GST

- Even as the government classifies hand sanitisers as an essential commodity, it will attract a 18 per cent GST on them. The Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) has said that a GST of 18 per cent will be levied on all alcohol-based hand sanitisers.
- Merely classifying any goods as an essential commodity will not be the criteria for exempting such goods from GST, the AAR ruling added.
- Essential Commodities are goods that are considered essential to maintain a minimum acceptable standard of living.

20. WHO advises 140 tests per day per million population of COVID-19

- The World Health Organization released its Guidance Note on Public Health Criteria to adjust Public Health and Social Measures. Under the guidance note, the organization advised comprehensive surveillance for suspected cases.
- WHO advises that a country has to conduct 140 COVID-19 tests per day per million population. With the various coordinated efforts made by the Centre

and the States/UTs, 22 States/UTs in India are already conducting 140 and more tests per day per million.

- With 865 labs in the government sector and 358 private labs, the total number of testing labs is 1223, as on date. In addition to the gold standard for a test, RT PCR, TrueNat and CBNAAT are also used to augment this facility. During the last 24 hours, 3,20,161 samples have been tested. The testing per million for India is consistently rising. Today it has touched 8994.7.

21. Indian Railways' 1st cable-stayed rail bridge "Anji Khad bridge" being constructed in J&K

- Indian Railways' Anji Khad Bridge Project is a big milestone for a better and more connected India. The country's "first cable-stayed" Indian Railways bridge, the magnificent Anji Khad Bridge will soon connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The ambitious project of Indian Railways is being constructed with superior technology and engineering excellence. The country's first cable-stayed railway bridge is being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, which is a Government of India undertaking.
- The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

SSC ALL EXAMS - BOOKS

CGL | CPO | CHSL

All Tiers

9 Comprehensive Books



₹1485/-

22. India emerged as among top ten nations in intellectual property filings

- As per World Intellectual Property Indicators-2019 Report, India has emerged as the top tenth nation in the ranking of the total (resident and abroad) Intellectual Property (IP) filing activity. With government push to schemes like 'Make in India', 'Skill India' and now 'Atma-nirbhar Bharat', IP Filing and grant activity is likely to increase.
- Industry 4.0 is witnessing new inventions and breakthroughs as it faces challenges in providing the right environment to stimulate innovation,

especially in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. IP-intensive industries have been identified as an important and integral part of a country's economy and account for more jobs and a larger share of its GDP.

- The National IPR Policy, launched in May 2016, to promote strong IP regime in the country encourages innovation to achieve Country's industrial and economic development goals. This will provide an efficient IP ecosystem and build up pace of industrial growth in the country.

23. There will be no postal ballot facilities to electors above 65 years in Bihar Polls

- The Election Commission will not be extending postal ballot facilities to electors above 65 years of age in the Bihar assembly poll and other bye-elections.
- The facility of optional postal ballot will be extended to electors who are above 80 years of age, voters with physical disabilities, electors engaged in essential services and those who are COVID-19 positive or are in quarantine (home or institutional) in these elections. The limit the number of voters to be served by each polling station to 1,000, for the ease and safety of voters in Covid-19 situation.
- The 1,000 voter-limitation had increased the total number of polling stations in Bihar to 1.06 lakh, a rise of 34,000, which would require deployment of 1.8 lakh more polling personnel and other additional resources including vehicles.

24. Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission addressed by the Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal virtually addressed the opening session of Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing. The session will hold a two-day event. It will include digital conferences, trade fairs, and Business-to-Business service (B2B) meetings.
- The Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing will offer a unique platform for India and Italy to explore partnership opportunities. This Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing is expected to start a new digital journey and pave the way for a closer connection between the food processing ecosystems of the two countries. The Mission comes as many food processing companies are attempting to diversify and expand their product line-up. The move aims to expand its global outreach.

25. Odisha Government to include Transgenders under Madhu Babu Pension Scheme

- On July 18, 2020, Odisha Government announced that transgenders are to be included under MadhuBabu Pension Yojana.
- Madhu Babu Pension Yojana is a social security scheme that was launched in the state of Odisha. Under the scheme, around 5,000 transgenders are to receive Rs 500, Rs 700 and Rs 900 per month as pension. The women currently fighting in divorce cases are also to be brought under the scheme.
- The scheme was launched in the state of Odisha in 2008. It is a merger of two pension schemes namely Revised Old Age Pension Rules, 1989 and Disability Pension Rules, 1985. Under the scheme, the state government will provide pension to the state beneficiaries. This includes persons with disabilities, widows and now transgenders have been included.

26. India to launch 5 portals to promote Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

- Government of India announced that five portals are being developed by different organizations to promote innovation in India. This will help boost AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The portals being developed are for specific sectors and are as follows
 - BHEL for power sector
 - CMFTI for manufacturing sector
 - HMT for machine tools
 - ICAT and ARAI for automotive sector.
- The portals were launched to bring the problem solvers and solution seekers together. The portal will focus on academia, industry, research institute, startups and experts.

27. AIIMS Delhi starts registration for human clinical trial of “Covaxin” coronavirus vaccine

- AIIMS Delhi has begun the registration process for conducting human trials of the indigenously developed coronavirus vaccine- COVAXIN
- Dr. Sanjay Rai, the Principal Investigator for conducting these trials at AIIMS Delhi said that the response for registration has been overwhelming. Rai stated that the first dose of the vaccine is likely to be administered to the volunteers on July 23rd.
- AIIMS-Delhi is one of the 12 institutes chosen by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) to conduct phase I and phase II human trials of COVAXIN. The phase I human trials is likely to involve around 375 volunteers, among whom about 100 would be from AIIMs.

28. Bangladesh bans free internet for social media to stop ‘unhealthy’ competition

- The Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has directed the telecom companies to stop free internet services to its subscribers for accessing social media.
- The regulatory authority asked the telecom service providers to stop the free-internet service because it gives rise to unhealthy competition between the companies.
- The authority also stated that the facility was being used by some people for carrying out criminal activities on social media.

29. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launches employment scheme for Scheduled Castes

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday launched ‘Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana’ for an all round development of the Scheduled Castes.
- He transferred a financial assistance of 17.42 crore online to 3,484 people under the ‘Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swarojgar Yojana’ and interacted with some beneficiaries from Rae Bareli, Gorakhpur, Basti, Meerut, Azamgarh and Moradabad districts through video conferencing.
- The state government is extending financial help to make people self-dependent.

30. India ranked among 10 worst countries for working people: ITUC

- On July 20, 2020, the International Trade Union Confederation released its ranking of 144 countries on degree of respect for workers’ rights
- Unfortunately, India was among the least performing 10 countries in the list. The other least performing countries include Brazil, Bangladesh, Columbia, Kazakhstan, Honduras, Philippines, Egypt, Zimbabwe and Turkey.
- The middle east region has been named the worst region in the world for working people. This is mainly due to the ongoing insecurity and conflicts in Syria, Palestine, Syria, Libya, Yemen coupled with most regressive region of worker representation and union rights.
- The ranking of the countries has been made based on the value of Global Rights Index. The index is prepared based on 97 metrics. This includes workers’ rights, right to strike, freedom from violent conditions.

31. Private Trains To Begin Plying By March 2023: Railways Ministry

- The Railway Ministry has said that the private trains are slated to run from March 2023.
- The Ministry has issued the clarification regarding timeline of introduction of private trains, as some section of the media had mentioned that the private trains project will start in March 2024.

- The Railways said the tenders will be finalised by March 2021 and trains will operate from March 2023.

32. Maharashtra becomes the first state to use drones to inspect power lines

- Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited(MSETCL) has started to use drones for aerial surveillance and inspection of extra high voltage(EHV) power transmission lines and towers. Maharashtra becomes the 1st state to do so. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Director General of Civil Aviation(DGCA) gave approval for this purpose.
- MSETCL becomes the 1st power utility to get approval from DGCA for powerline inspections with drones in the country
- MSETCL will use 16 drones that will fly at a maximum height of 50 metre. These drones will reduce the risk posed to its staff, as the workers earlier must use ladders and chairs to inspect transformers.

33. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal approves 'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana' for doorstep delivery of ration

- On July 21, 2020, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched “Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana”. The scheme is to help the eligible beneficiaries get ration delivered at home. The scheme is to run for 6-7 months. Under the scheme, the Delhi government will deliver wheat, rice, flour and sugar in hygienically packed bags. The packets are to be delivered at door step of the people.
- The Delhi Government is to start One Nation One Ration Card scheme and Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Yojana on the same day.
- The scheme will benefit lakhs of people in the capital. Currently, subsidized ration is being provided under National Security act, 2013. The new scheme will add benefit to the act.

34. Mega food park launched in Mizoram to create 5,000 jobs, benefit 25,000 farmers

- The Union Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated a mega food park in Mizoram on July 21, 2020 that will benefit around 25,000 farmers and generate around 5,000 job opportunities.
- The Minister virtually inaugurated the park in the presence of Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Rameswar Tel and DoNER Minister Jitendra Singh and other senior Ministers of Mizoram.
- Speaking during the inauguration, Badal emphasised that the food processing sector has the potential to generate huge job opportunities for the youth and boost farmers' income and reduce food wastage in the country.

35. Sikkim to impose week-long lockdown from July 21 amid rising COVID-19 cases

- The Sikkim government ordered a statewide lockdown from 6 am tomorrow to 6 am on 27th July in view of the recent surge in COVID19 cases.
- All government offices, shops, commercial establishments, markets and factories will remain closed except those granted exemptions.
- All activities, congregations and movement of people and goods and passenger vehicles have been prohibited barring some exceptions.

36. CBDT and MoMSME Signs Formal MoU for Sharing of Data

- On 20th July 2020, the Central Board of Direct Taxes(CBDT) and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MoMSME) signed the formal memorandum of understanding(MoU) for sharing of data related to income tax returns by the CBDT to the Ministry of MSME.
- Anu J Singh, the principal director General of Income tax (systems) and Devendra Kumar Singh, Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner of MSME Ministry signed the MoU.
- The MoU came into force on 20th July 2020, marking the era of cooperation and synergy between CBDT and MoMSME.

37. Union HRD Minister launches “Manodarpan” initiative for students

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launched ‘Manodarpan’, an initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- It provides psychosocial support to students for their mental health and well-being.
- It will cover a wide range of activities to offer Psychosocial Support to students for their Mental Health & Well-being amid the COVID-19 outbreak and beyond.
- The ‘Manodarpan’ initiative is a part of the ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN launched by the Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in May 2020.

38. Karnataka Deputy CM, inaugurates first plasma bank under Mission COPE

- Karnataka Deputy CM C.N. Ashwathnarayan inaugurated state’s maiden plasma bank at HCG Hospital, Bengaluru as a part of Mission COPE (Covid Plasma Endeavour).
- The state government in association with HCG Hospital and COVID India Campaign has launched Mission COPE to control the spread of COVID-19 and to promote plasma donation among the recovered patients.
- Currently, there are only 4 to 5 plasma banks in India and the first was launched in New Delhi in early July 2020. The latest state to launch the plasma bank was Odisha.

39. Consumer Protection Act, 2019 comes into force; Replaces Consumer Protection Act 1986

- The Consumer Protection Act (CPA), 2019, which has replaced old Consumer Protection Act 1986 has come into force aiming to enforce and protect the rights of consumers, and provide an effective mechanism to address consumer grievances. The act was briefed by Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan through video conference with media.
- Notably, the rules for prevention of unfair trade practice by e-commerce platforms will also be covered under this Act. The rules for this new act will be finalized after the meeting of former Secretaries of the Consumer Affairs Department and Members of Parliament which will be held this month.

40. Rajya Sabha Secretariat Launches “Arun Jaitley Financial Assistance for Group C Employees” Scheme for Employees Welfare

- The Rajya Sabha Secretariat launched “Arun Jaitley Financial Assistance for Group C Employees”, an Employees Welfare Scheme in the name of former Union Minister of Finance, Arun Jaitley. The Scheme will be funded by the pension his family receives as he has been a member of the upper house. The scheme was formulated and approved based on the decision of Sangeeta Jaitley, wife of Arun Jaitley.
- After the demise of Former Finance minister Arun Jaitley on 24th August 2019, Sangeeta Jaitley, submitted a request to the Chairman of Rajyasabha, M Venkaiah Naidu, to utilise the family pension (Rs 3 lakhs at present) entitled to her for the benefit of Group C employees of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat with low salaries.
- The wards of the Group C employees will be awarded 3 scholarships for higher technical or professional education in engineering, medicine and MCA/MBA/LLB. Financial support in case of death and medical emergencies will be provided to the Group C employees.



Moonson Sale

Flat 30% OFF

LIVE COURSE | VIDEO COURSE | TEST SERIES

Use Code **MMEOFF**

The advertisement features a dark blue background with white rain falling. On the left and right sides, there are illustrations of colorful umbrellas (pink and green) and white clouds with raindrops. The text is centered and uses a mix of white and pink colors.

41. Govt extends work from home for IT, BPO companies till Dec 31 due to COVID-19

- Government has extended connectivity norms for work from home for IT and BPO companies till December 31 this year due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- It has further extended the relaxations in the terms and conditions for other service providers up to 31st December 2020 to facilitate work from home in view of the ongoing concern due to COVID-19.
- The time period for work from home was expiring on July 31.

42. Punjab govt. signs MoUs with IIT Ropar for skill development

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh Tuesday paved the way for closer cooperation between government and IIT Ropar and IIM Amritsar, particularly in the area of skill development. The Punjab government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, in the area of skill development.
- The MoU provides for the IIT's technical education department to become an academic mentor for the state's engineering colleges at Gurdaspur and Ferozepur, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Skill Institute at Chamkaur Sahib, five government polytechnics and 10 government ITIs.
- The institute will also help the state in developing a model ITI and a model polytechnic. Others would be modelled on similar lines subsequently.
- Punjab Government helps to resolve the IIT's land acquisition-related issues, while urging the institute to develop its campus as a green campus, with extensive landscaping and afforestation.

43. India's GDP To Shrink By 6% This Year: DBS Report

- Singaporean brokerage firm DBS Bank Ltd has estimated that the Indian economy will contract by 6 percent in FY21 (2020-21).
- In its previous forecast, DBS had estimated – 4.8 percent growth for FY21.
- The reason for this downward revision is the prolonged sub-normal reopening as the country is yet to stabilize the infection curve and the pandemic is going to take a deeper economic bite.

44. Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan tests positive for COVID-19

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has tested positive for COVID-19. The Chief Minister announced the same through a tweet on July 25, 2020.
- In a series of tweets, the MP Chief Minister revealed that he had developed symptoms of COVID-19 and underwent a COVID test, the report of which came positive. He has now appealed to all his colleagues who came in

contact with him recently to get their COVID test done. The close contacts of the Chief Minister have been suggested to move to quarantine.

- The Chief Minister further informed that he has quarantined himself as per the advice of the doctors and is following all COVID-19 guidelines. He will be participating in the daily coronavirus review meeting through video conferencing.

45. Indonesian Defence Minister General Prabowo Subianto to pay three-day India visit

- Indonesian Defence Minister General Prabowo Subianto will pay a three-day visit to India.
- During the visit he will hold talks with the leadership to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation.
- General Prabowo will be visiting India from July 26 to 28 and will lay a wreath at the National War Memorial. He will be also presented with a Guard of Honour at South Block Lawns.

46. PM Modi to inaugurate three new high throughput labs of ICMR

- PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate three new high-throughput labs of the Indian Council of Medical Research at 4.30 pm on July 27, 2020. The Prime Minister will be inaugurating the labs through video conferencing.
- The three new high-throughput ICMR labs have been constructed in Mumbai, Noida and Kolkata. The labs will majorly boost the nation's COVID-19 testing capacities.
- The Union Government has adopted the test-track-treat strategy for early detection and containment of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under this, the ICMR has ramped up its testing capabilities to effectively deal with Coronavirus crisis.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. India and Afghanistan inks 5 MoUs for the development of educational infrastructure

- India and Afghanistan signed five Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) on July 5, 2020. The MoUs between the two countries have been signed for the development of educational infrastructure in 4 provinces of Afghanistan namely Farah, Nooristan, Kapisa, Badakhshan.
- The five MoUs were signed by Indian Ambassador Vinay Kumar, Higher Education Minister Abdul Tawab Balakarzai, Afghan Economy Minister Mustafa Mastoor, and Deputy Education Minister Abdul Subhan Raouf.
- As per the Indian embassy, the government of India remains committed to taking forward the India-Afghanistan Development Partnership based on the people of Afghanistan and the national priorities of the government.

2. India overtakes Russia, records world's 3rd highest COVID-19 cases after US, Brazil

- India overtook Russia to record the world's third-highest COVID-19 cases on July 5, 2020. India surpassed Russia's coronavirus case count as new infections rose by almost 25000 during the day, which is a record high. India also recorded 425 new deaths, taking the total death toll to 19693.
- India's total coronavirus case tally currently stands at 697413, which is only behind the COVID count of the United States and Brazil, which have recorded 29,32,047 and 16,04,585 coronavirus cases so far.
- In the first five days of July itself, India's COVID-19 case count crossed another lakh with new infections touching record high everyday.

3. A New Shipping Service b/w Kolkata Port & Chattogram Begins to Ease Indo-Bangla Trade

- Amid frequent disruption of cross-border trade via the Petrapole-Benapole land ports, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP) [erstwhile Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT)] has started a new shipping service between Kolkata Dock System (KDS) and Chattogram (Bangladesh) through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route to transport containers with the aim to increase the Indo-Bangla trade.
- The Container Ship 'M.V Asiatic Moon (Singapore Flag) is expected to transport 300 containers of Indian exports to Bangladesh.
- The new service was launched by Zim Integrated Services in association with Bengal Tiger Lines and inaugurated by S Balaji Arunkumar, deputy chairman, SPMPT.
- The shipping line is also in consultation with FIEO (Federation of Indian Export Organisations) to make aware of the new service to all exporters.

4. United States submits notice to U.N Secretary-General to withdraw from WHO by 6th July 2021

- The formal notification to the United States Congress was provided on 7th July 2020 by President Donald Trump-led Administration on the decision of ending the United States relations with the World Health Organization (WHO: Specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for public health globally).
- As per the notification, the United States Government has submitted its notice to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to withdraw from the WHO by the 6th of July 2021.
- The withdrawal of membership from the WHO will be a year long process as several factors are likely to come up in between in which the Donald Trump-led administration won't have control. One such factor is the Presidential Elections in November 2020, if Trump loses and Democratic

Party candidate Joe Biden is elected as the President of United States then United States will remain as a member of the WHO.

5. Russia becomes first nation to complete human trials of Coronavirus vaccine

- Russia has become the first nation to successfully complete the human trials of COVID vaccine. Russia's COVID vaccine has proven to be effective, as per the results of the trials.
- Chief Researcher Elena Smolyarchuk informed on July 12, 2020 that the human trials of Russia's COVID vaccine have been completed and the volunteers will be discharged soon. Smolyarchuk is the head of Center for Clinical Research on Medications at Russia's Sechenov University.
- Smolyarchuk confirmed that the research has been completed and it proved that the vaccine was safe. The first group of volunteers is expected to be discharged on July 15, while the second group will be discharged on July 20.

6. Iran drops India from Chahbahar Rail Project due to delay in funding

- India has been dropped out from the construction of a railway line from Chahbahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan, as the Iranian government has decided to proceed with the construction on its own.
- The agreement was signed by Iran and India four years ago to build a railway line. As per the Iranian government, the decision has been taken because of the delay in funding and the start of the project from the Indian government.
- Mohammad Eslami, Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister has already inaugurated the track laying process for Chahbahar-Zahedan line which will be of 628 km. The line will be extended to Zaranj across the border in Afghanistan.

7. Nepal's Prime Minister claimed that Real Ayodhya is in Nepal not in India and accused India over cultural Encroachment

- On the occasion of Bhanu Jayanti, Nepal's Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli attended an event organized at his residence in Kathmandu in which he has now accused India of Cultural Encroachment.
- According to Nepal's Prime Minister's Knowledge, India has manipulated the history, Lord Rama was Nepali, Not Indian, and the Ayodhya City in which Lord Rama was born is a part of Nepal's Parsa district's Birgunj city.
- He has further added that the holy place where King Dashrath had executed the rites to get the son and the Balmiki Asharam is also in Nepal.

8. UK bans its companies from sourcing 5G equipment from Chinese telecom company Huawei

- The UK has banned its companies from sourcing 5G equipment from Chinese telecom company Huawei. The move comes despite Beijing's threat to retaliate to any such action by Britain.
- The new guidelines require the British telecom operators to remove all 5G-related equipment, supplied by the Chinese company, from their infrastructure by 2027.
- The cumulative cost of the actions against the Chinese telecom giant would come to around £2 billion.

9. South American country Suriname elects Indian-origin 'Chan' Santokhi as President

- South American country Suriname brought an end to dictatorial rule by electing a new President Chan Santokhi. Santokhi is an Indian-origin former police chief, who won a landslide victory in the election that took place in May this year.
- 61-year-old Santokhi belongs to the Progressive Reform Party and sworn in as President on July 16. Santokhi was the sole nomination for President of Suriname.

10. Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Barack Obama's twitter accounts hacked in Bitcoin scam

- The Twitter accounts of some of the world's top business magnates, politicians and celebrities were hacked in an alleged Bitcoin scam. Some of the accounts include those of former US President Barack Obama, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, Democratic US Presidential nominee Joe Biden, Apple's Mike Bloomberg, and Celebrities Kim Kardashian and Kayne West.
- The unidentified hackers broke into these verified twitter accounts and posted fake tweets that offered \$2,000 for every \$1,000 sent to an anonymous Bitcoin address. The tweets were taken down immediately after the account owners informed that they were not posted by them. Twitter Support tweeted saying that they are aware of the security incident and they are investigating the matter and are taking steps to fix it.
- Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey also tweeted saying that is a tough day for all at Twitter and they feel terrible this happened. Dorsey assured that twitter is diagnosing the problem and will share everything when they have a more complete understanding of exactly what happened.

11. India and Bhutan opened a new trade route between Jaigon in West Bengal and Pasakha in Bhutan.

- On July 16, 2020, India and Bhutan opened a new trade route between Jaigon in West Bengal and Pasakha in Bhutan.

- The land route will help to move industrial raw materials and goods destined for Pasakha Industrial Estate. The route will help boost trade and commerce and will lead to decongestion of vehicular traffic.
- India had recently proposed to build road in Yeti territory of Bhutan which China claimed recently. The road will also help India access Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh quickly. The road will reduce distance between Guwahati and Tawang by 150 kilometres. China claims Tawang to gain absolute control over Tibet.

12. India-Israel sign agreements to expand cooperation on Cyber Security

- India and Israel signed agreements to expand their collaboration in dealing with cyber threats. The agreement was signed between Director General of Israel's National Cyber Directorate (INCD) and India's Ambassador to Israel Sanjeev Singla.
- The agreement also involved Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) that operates under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and INCD. The agreement will expand the scope of exchange of information between the countries on cyber threats.
- The agreement lays down cooperation in capacity building and mutual exchange of best practices in the field.

13. India forms "Air travel Bubble" with US, UK, UAE, Germany and France

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced that India is to resume operation of international commercial flights with France and US. The Government of India has signed agreements with US, UK, France and countries in UAE. Negotiations with Germany is in its final stages. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has planned to bring down the air travel charges by 25%.
- Under the agreements signed with the countries, United Airlines and Delta are to operation from the US. The Air France is to operate from France. No UK based airlines are to operate to India. Rather, Air India will fly to UK. Lufthansa of Germany will operate from Germany. Under the agreements signed with the countries, United Airlines and Delta are to operate from the US.
- According to the agreement signed, India is to allow only overseas citizens, Indian nationals and card holders and a certain category of people with business and diplomatic visas. People with valid tourist visa will not be allowed to enter India by the flights being scheduled.

14. Tunisia's Prime Minister Elyes Fakhfakh resigns

- Tunisian Prime Minister Elyes Fakhfakh resigned. Ennahdha had earlier tabled a no-confidence motion against Fakh fakh, who took office in

February after winning approval from lawmakers following four months of deadlock.

- He is currently under investigation over allegations of conflict of interest of owning shares in companies that had received public contracts.

15. UN designates Pakistan Taliban Commander Noor Wali Mehsud as global terrorist

- The United Nations on July 16, 2020 designated Pakistan-based terror group, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan's leader, Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud, as a global terrorist.
- The Security Council Committee in pursuant to resolutions concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals and entities has approved the addition of Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud's name to the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List.
- Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud has been listed in pursuant resolution 2368 (2017) for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of, or in support of" entities associated with Al-Qaida.

16. Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda appointed as Gabon's First Woman Prime Minister

- Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon appointed Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda(56), as the First Women Prime Minister of Gabon succeeding Julien Nkoghe Bekale. She is the sixth Prime Minister under Bongo's Presidency since 2009.
- Raponda is an economist in public finance from Gabonese Institute of Economy and Finance.
- Raponda has served as Budget Minister since 2012. She was elected as First Woman Mayor of Libreville (Capital of Gabon), from Bongo's Gabonese Democratic Party in 2014.

17. UAE launches its first space mission "Hope" to Mars from Japan

- UAE's historic journey to Mars has been successfully started from the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan. The spacecraft Hope Probe took off in an early morning launch.
- H2A, the rocket carrying the Hope Probe to space, was launched from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Japan.
- It is the Arab world's first interplanetary landmark mission, putting UAE firmly ahead of all the countries in the Middle East in the area of space and technology.
- Hope Probe Spacecraft is expected to reach the Red Planet by February 2021, to coincide with UAE's 50th anniversary of its formation.

- The orbiter Hope is expected to take images and send back data of the distant Red Planet.

18. South Korea's first-ever military satellite "ANASIS-II" launched

- South Korea launched its first-ever military communications satellite on July 20, 2020. The satellite was launched by private operator SpaceX.
- The military satellite, ANASIS-II is aimed at enhancing the nation's ability to defend itself against nuclear-armed North Korea. The South Korean military satellite blasted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida aboard a Falcon 9 rocket.
- The ANASIS-II satellite was successfully deployed about 32 minutes after the lift-off, confirmed SpaceX. It is expected to reach its pre-planned orbit of 36,000 kilometres in about two weeks.

19. China launched "Tianwen-1" ambitious Mars rover mission

- China launched its first ambitious Mars Rover Mission- 'Tianwen-1' on July 23, 2020 aboard Long March 5 rocket from Hainan Island's Wenchang Satellite Launch Center.
- As per China's space agency, the rocket carried the Mars probe for 36 minutes before successfully placing it on the looping path, which will take it beyond Earth's orbit and eventually into Mars' more distant orbit around the sun.
- Tianwen-1 includes a Mars orbiter, a lander and a rover. The mission, if successful, will mark a huge first in human history, as it includes a Mars orbiter, lander and rover all in one go.
- Tianwen-1 is China's first fully homegrown Mars mission. The name of the Mars probe has been taken from a poem by Qu Yuan, who lived from the 4th -3rd B.C. and it means "Questions to Heaven."

20. Turkmenistan gets observer status in World Trade Organization

- Turkmenistan has been granted Observer status by the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council. Turkmenistan has become the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the trade body, a WTO Spokesperson said yesterday.
- The Central Asian country filed a request for Observer status in May and expressed willingness to trigger the talks on accession to the WTO within five years.
- Neighbouring Central Asian countries -- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Afghanistan have acceded to the WTO, while Uzbekistan has been in on-and-off negotiations on WTO accession since 1994.

21. India and Israel join hands to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds

- Israel and India will work together to develop a new generation set of Covid-19 tests that aim to bring the entire testing process down to a few seconds.
- Using artificial intelligence and machine learning, these breakthrough technologies will be tested in India. If it is successful, it will be manufactured in India, and marketed jointly by Israel and India to the world.
- To achieve this, Israel is to send a high level research delegation to India. The team will conduct a series of final stages of testing and this is a part of the cooperation.

22. Nicaragua becomes the 87th Country to sign the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement

- The Republic of Nicaragua became the 87th country to sign the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement, an initiative to promote sustainable energy, led by India.
- E. Jaime Hermida Castillo, Permanent Representative to the UN of the Republic of Nicaragua, signed the Agreement at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York.
- On 30th November 2015 the initiative was jointly launched by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Francois Hollande, former French President at the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference held in Paris.

23. India-UK affirm shared commitment towards Free Trade Agreement

- India and the United Kingdom affirmed their shared commitment towards a Free Trade Agreement during the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee meeting on July 24, 2020.
- The virtual meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and UK Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss. The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Hardeep Singh Puri and UK's Minister of State for International Trade Ranil Jayawardena had also attended the meeting.
- At the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided that a deliberation led by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and UK Trade Minister Elizabeth Truss will be held in August in New Delhi to carry forward the dialogue.

24. French refinery leaks toxic chemical into marine life area

- On July 25, 2020, an orange brown chemical spread over 6 hectares of nationally recognised marine life area in the French Mediterranean Sea. The chemical spread was mainly due to the leak at a petrochemical plant in the southern France. The leak at the American-owned chemical company Kem-One spilled 200 gallons of iron chloride into the sea.

- The Sea is connected to Atlantic Ocean and is completely enclosed by land. The countries with coastlines of Mediterranean Sea are Albania, Bosnia, Algeria, Croatia, Herzegovnia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

Banking

1. World Bank provides \$400 million to enhance support for rejuvenating the Ganga

- The World Bank and the Government of India today signed a loan agreement to enhance support for the Namami Gange programme that seeks to rejuvenate the Ganga river. The Second National Ganga River Basin Project will help stem pollution in the iconic river and strengthen the management of the river basin which is home to more than 500 million people.
- The \$400 million operation comprises a loan of \$381 million and a proposed Guarantee of up to \$19 million. The agreement for the \$381 million loan was signed today by Shri Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India and Mr Qaiser Khan, Acting Country Director (India), on behalf of the World Bank. The Guarantee instrument will be processed separately.
- Shri Khare said that the Ganga is India's most important cultural, economic and environmental resource, and the government's Namami Gange program seeks to ensure that the river returns to a pollution-free, ecologically healthy state. The new project will extend the Government of India and World Bank's engagement in this critical national programme to make the Ganga a clean, healthy river.

2. YES Bank Launches a Digital Solution, 'Loan in Seconds' for Instant Disbursement of Retail Loans

- YES Bank launched a digital solution, 'Loan in Seconds' for instant disbursement of retail loans. It is available for the bank's pre-approved liability account holders. The algorithm evaluates the loan application in real-time and eliminates the need for documentation.
- The solution aims to provide customers, hassle-free loans to help them meet their immediate financial needs.
- All the eligible customers under the solution will receive communication from the bank with the link to apply for the loan.
- Those customers have to verify and accept the final offer.

3. MoU Signed By CBDT And SEBI For Data Exchange

- A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for data exchange between the two organizations.
- The MoU will facilitate the sharing of data and information between SEBI and CBDT on an automatic and regular basis.
- In addition to regular exchange of data, SEBI and CBDT will also exchange with each other, on request and suo moto basis, any information available in their respective databases, for the purpose of carrying out their functions under various laws.
- The MoU comes into force from the date it was signed and is an ongoing initiative of CBDT and SEBI, who are already collaborating through various existing mechanisms.
- The MoU marks the beginning of a new era of cooperation and synergy between SEBI and CBDT.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Dwayne Johnson named as Instagram's highest-paid celebrity

- Wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson has been named Instagram's highest-paid celebrity, the title which was earlier held by Kylie Jenner and Selena Gomez.
- The 48-year-old star charges approximately USD 1,015,000 (Rs 7,59,93,050) for a sponsored post.
- According to a BBC report, Kylie Jenner, who earlier held the position, used to charge USD 1.2 million (Rs 8,98,44,000) for a sponsored post last year.
- As of now, while Kylie has 184 million followers, and Johnson has 189 million followers.
- Before this, Dwayne Johnson was also named Hollywood's highest-paid actor of 2019 by Forbes.

2. Dr. Vidhu P. Nair appointed India's next Ambassador to Turkmenistan

- Dr. Vidhu P. Nair has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan.
- Dr Nair, who is a 2002 batch IFS officer, is presently Director in the External Affairs Ministry.
- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

3. BCCI appoints Hemang Amin as its interim CEO

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Hemang Amin as the interim CEO of the board. The announcement was made on July 13, 2020.

- The BCCI's made announcement after former CEO Rahul Johri's resignation was accepted by the board. The board employees have been informed about the arrangement.
- Hemang Amin was serving as BCCI's IPL Chief operating officer. Amin's appointment to the post is only for the interim period. The BCCI is expected to appoint the next CEO of the board in the next 8-12 months.

4. ADB appoints Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa as its new Vice President

- On July 15, 2020, Ashok Lavasa was appointed as the vice president of Asian Development Bank.
- Ashok Lavasa, a 1980 batch retired IAS officer was serving as the Election Commissioner and is next in line to become Chief Election Commissioner. He has now been appointed as Vice President of ADB for Public-Private Partnerships and Private Sector Operations.
- Lavasa would be the second election commissioner to step down from the poll panel before the completion of his term. Similar stepping down occurred in 1973 with Chief Election Commissioner Nagendra Singh. He was appointed as judge in the International Court of Justice at the Hague.
- Lavasa is to succeed Diwakar Gupta whose term ends on August 31.

5. Ashwini Kumar Tewari appointed as MD & CEO of SBI Cards

- SBI Cards and Payment Services has appointed Ashwini Kumar Tewari as Managing Director & CEO, as a nominee of State Bank of India (SBI). Hardayal Prasad, the current Managing Director & CEO will cease to be at helm from July 31 after opting for voluntary retirement from SBI.
- The NBFC said Tewari would take over from August 1 for a term of two years. Associated with SBI since 1991, Ashwini Kumar Tewari since April 2017 was the country head of SBI's American operations, prior to which he was also the Regional Head of the East Asia region for two years.

6. Sumit Deb succeeds N Bajendra Kumar as CMD of National Mineral Development Corporation

- Sumit Deb has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), iron ore mining major of the country.
- Deb, at present Director (Personnel) in the NMDC, will have tenure till February 28, 2023, i.e. the date of his superannuation.
- He succeeds N Bajendra Kumar who superannuates this month-end.
- NMDC Limited, previously known as National Mineral Development Corporation, is an Indian state-controlled mineral producer.
- It is 72.43% owned by the Government of India, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel.

7. Sahil Seth appointed as honorary adviser for BRICS CCI

- Sahil Seth has been appointed an honorary adviser to the steering committee for the BRICS Chamber of Commerce (CCI) young leaders for the period of 2020-2023. He is a deputy Commissioner of Mumbai Customs.
- Mr. Seth who is a 2011 batch Indian Revenue Service Officer, expressed his pleasure on being appointed as an honorary adviser which gives him a chance to represent his country. He added that BRICS CCI young leaders is a step in motivating the youth of India. The role of an honorary adviser is on a voluntary basis and there are no financials involved which makes it a no/remuneration appointment.
- BRICS CCI aims at creating an enabling support system especially for the MSME segment and young entrepreneurs from all over the world.

8. Sonu Sood launches 'Pravasi Rojgar' app to help migrants find job opportunities

- Actor Sonu Sood has launched a free online platform called 'Pravasi Rojgar' to help migrants find job opportunities in various sectors across the country.
- Mr Sood catapulted to the national spotlight for his work in helping migrants reach their homes amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The app will provide all the necessary information and right linkages to find jobs.
- The online platform has over 500 reputed companies related to construction, apparel, health care, engineering, BPOs, security, automobile, e-commerce and logistics sectors, offering job opportunities.
- The platform will also be offering specific job training programmes like spoken English.

9. Riva Ganguly Das appointed Secretary (East) in External Affairs Ministry

- India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Riva Ganguly Das is appointed by the Government as the Secretary East, in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Das is an Indian Foreign Service officer of 1986 batch.
- He will succeed Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh after her retirement on 30th September this year.

10. SBI General Insurance appoints P.C. Kandpal as MD, CEO

- Prakash Chandra Kandpal has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of the Non-life insurer SBI General Insurance.
- He has been serving as the deputy CEO of SBI General Insurance since June 2019.

- He will replace Pushan Mahapatra who has been appointed as director (strategic investments & digital initiatives).
- Prakash Chandra Kandpal has more than 33 years of banking experience with State Bank of India (SBI) in various aspects such as retail and international banking, human resource, technology, and learning and development.
- He has also served as the chief operating officer of the SBI Mutual Fund.

11. Dr Alok Misra appointed as CEO & Director of MFIN

- Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), the self-regulatory organization (SRO) for the microfinance industry, announced that Alok Misra will be taking over as its chief executive officer and director from August 1, 2020.
- Misra is currently professor and chairperson of public policy and governance at MDI Gurgaon.
- He will take over from the present CEO, Harsh Shrivastava, who has decided to move on after over two years at MFIN.
- Dr. Alok Misra has 28 years of professional experience in international development, rural finance, microfinance, inclusive finance and research at both policy and implementation level. Dr Misra has worked globally across 22 countries and with premier institutions like NABARD, NCDEX and MDI.

12. Mr.Partha Pratim Sengupta appointed as MD and CEO of IOB

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has appointed Mr.Partha Pratim Sengupta as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and his tenure ends by December 31, 2022 or until further orders. Mr.Partha Pratim Sengupta succeeds Shri. Karnam Sekar who was retired on June 30, 2020.
- Sengupta, 57, prior to his elevation of deputy managing director of SBI, was the Chief General Manager at the country's largest lender's Kolkata circle..
- He has more than three decades of experience in the Banking sector, in various domains.

13. Centre appoints senior IAS officer Rajesh Bhushan as new health secretary

- Rajesh Bhushan, IAS officer of 1987 Batch, Bihar Cadre has been appointed as the new Health Secretary in the Union Health Ministry.
- He was earlier holding the post of OSD in the Health Ministry and will succeed Preeti Sudan upon completion of her tenure on 31st of this month.
- Ms. Sudan was granted an extension for three months as Health Secretary in April this year.
- In another major reshuffle Ajay Tirkey has been appointed as Secretary, Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development.

- Ram Mohan Mishra will take over as Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

14. After demise of Lalji Tandon, President Kovind appoints Anandiben Patel as MP Governor

- President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Smt. Anandiben Patel the Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- Presently, she is the Governor of Uttar Pradesh.
- She has been given the additional charge of the Governor of Madhya Pradesh after the demise of Lalji Tandon.

BANKING

1. RBI Approves reappointment of Shyam Srinivasan as the MD & CEO of Federal Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) approved the reappointment of ShyamSrinivasan as the managing Director and Chief Executive officer of Federal bank Limited with effect from September 23, 2020 till September 22, 2021.
- Under Regulation 30 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), RBI approved the reappointment of Shyam after the completion of the current term which ends on 22nd September 2020, along with the remuneration proposed by the Federal Bank.

2. FamPay launches India's first numberless payments card for teenagers

- India's first Neobank for teenagers, in partnership with IDFC First Bank launched India's 1st numberless card, FamCard. FamPay with National Payments Corporation of India(NPCI) developed this card.
- This card is accepted across the RuPay payment network of merchants. It is similar to a debit card which enables teenagers to transact in a cashless manner.
- Teenagers can use the card independently without the intervention of the parents. The details of the card are saved on the FamPay app. There is no need to refer the physical card to fill in details during online transactions.

3. Bank of Baroda launches paperless 'Insta Click Savings Account'

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched 'Insta Click Savings Account', a 100 per cent paperless digital self-assisted online savings account.
- India's third-largest public sector bank said the Insta Click Savings Account uses a new form of digital KYC (know-your-customer) and Aadhaar-based OTP (one-time personal identification number) authentication of the

customer, which can be operated from the bank's website, through mobile phone, iPad, laptop, and PC.

- The account is activated in real-time, which means the customer can start transacting, using the Baroda M Connect Plus application with the MPIN received on the mobile number, immediately.
- The product also offers customers the option to subscribe to a wide range of digital channels like mobile banking, Internet banking, UPI (unified payments interface), and debit card.

Books and Awards

1. Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel's Book on Indian Banking's NPA Crisis to release soon

- Urjit Patel, who resigned as governor of the Reserve Bank of India in December 2018, will release a book later in July.
- Titled 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver', Patel's book focuses on Indian banking's bad loans crisis, its causes and how he dealt with it as the RBI governor.
- Patel, under whose governorship demonetisation was carried out, resigned from the RBI in December 2018.
- The resignation came at a time when relations between the government and the central bank had soured, with the former threatening to invoke a never-before used clause to give directions to the monetary authority.

2. IOC receives Green Building Leadership Award 2020 for its new headquarters

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that its new headquarters in Lausanne has been awarded the European 2020 US Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership Award.
- Olympic House, which also holds the rigorous LEED Platinum certification, is one of the most sustainable buildings in the world.
- The award recognises "those advancing the development of sustainable, healthy and resilient buildings, cities and communities in regions around the world".
- The building is powered by renewable energy, part of which is produced on-site.
- Ninety-five per cent of Olympic House construction waste was recycled, and more than 95 per cent of the former IOC building was recycled or reused.

3. His Holiness Dalai Lama's biography to release in 2020

- A new biography on the life and times of Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness Dalai Lama, will be released this year.
- Titled 'His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography', the book is written by Tenzin Geyche Tethong and will be published by Roli Books.
- It will also be published in other languages including Russian, German, Italian, Dutch.
- Tenzin Geyche Tethong has been associated with the Dalai Lama for over four decades as his close aide and advisor.
- The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso is the current Dalai Lama.
- He now lives in Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, fled from Tibet and came to India at the age of 23.
- His teachings of peace and non-violence and freedom has won him the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in the year 1989.

4. Indian Army to acquire 'Raven' and 'Spike Firefly' UAV's for reconnaissance missions

- Talks on sharpening the infantry of the Indian Army continues as the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is likely to acquire the remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle- Raven from the United States and Israel's Spike Firefly.
- As per media reports, procurement of 200 pieces of Aero Vironment RQ-11 Raven and talks for purchase of Israeli flying ammunition- Spike Firefly is in advance level.
- The RQ-11 Raven is a remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle that is launched with hand. It is manufactured by Aero Vironment (U.S. California based Defence Contractor).
- RQ-11 Raven can fly up to an altitude of 500 feet from the ground level with a speed of between 45-97 Kilometers per hour. RQ-11 Raven can fly up to 10 Kilometres.
- The Spike Firefly is developed under a joint venture of Israeli company- Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel's Ministry of Defence. The Spike Firefly has loitering capability and can be carried by a soldier as a part of his kit.

5. Ruskin Bond's new book will mark 70 years of his writing journey

- Ruskin Bond's new book, A Song of India is all set to release in July this year.
- Published by Puffin Books, the book is set in 1951, and traces the beginning of Bond's writing career.
- The illustrated book will mark the 70th year of the author's writing journey.
- It was in England where Bond worked on his first book 'The Room on the Roof' and realised his true calling of becoming a writer.

- The new book is the fourth installment in his memoir series after “Looking for the Rainbow” (2017), “Till the Clouds Roll By” (2017) and “Coming Round the Mountain” (2019).

6. Gurbux Singh, Palash Nandi to be conferred with prestigious Mohun Bagan Ratna

- Indian hockey great Gurbux Singh and former Bengal cricketer and coach Palash Nandi will be conferred with the prestigious Mohun Bagan Ratna this year.
- Last year Keshav Datt became the first sports person from a non-footballing background to get the award.
- The awards are given on July 29 every year which is celebrated as Mohun Bagan Day.
- July 29 was the date of Bagan’s IFA Shield triumph in 1911 when they defeated East Yorkshire Regiment 2-1.

7. Pema Khandu releases book “The Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh”

- The book titled ‘The Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh’ was released by Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu.
- The Tangams are a little-known community within the larger Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh and reside in the hamlet of Kugging in Upper Siang district’s Paindem circle.
- Tangams are now concentrated in only one village (Kugging), with 253 reported speakers.
- As per the UNESCO World Atlas of Endangered Languages (2009), Tangam — an oral language that belongs to the Tani group, under the greater Tibeto-Burman language family — is marked ‘critically endangered’.

8. Kate Winslet to receive TIFF Tribute Award during Toronto film festival

- The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), announced that Kate Winslet will be receiving the 2020 TIFF Tribute Actor Award at the virtual event of the 45th edition of TIFF.
- Kate will receive the honour in the virtual gala on 15th September 2020, following her film, Francis Lee’s Ammonite in which she played a fossil hunter Mary Anning.
- Kate Winslet debuted in the film Heavenly Creatures directed by Peter Jackson. She was known for her role as Rose DeWitt in James Cameron’s Titanic (1997). She won the Oscar for the best actress for the film The Reader.

- She received multiple Golden Globes for her movies like Revolutionary Road, Mildred Pierce and Steve jobs.

9. A book titled “The Endgame” authored by Hussain Zaidi released

- S Hussain Zaidi, a well known crime writer has recently written a novel named “The Endgame”. It was published by the HarperCollins India. The book speaks about the politics, betrayal, and unimaginable terror.
- “Black Friday”, “Mafia Queens of Mumbai”, “Dongri to Dubai” and “Byculla to Bangkok” are other notable books written by him. He was the associate producer of “Terror in Mumbai”, a famous HBO documentary based on 26/11 terror attacks.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh e-Inaugurated Six Strategic Bridges in Jammu & Kashmir

- On 9th July 2020, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has e-¹ Inaugurated 6 strategic bridges in sensitive border areas of Jammu & Kashmir. All the six bridges with strategic importance along the International Border and Line of Control were constructed in record time by working in extremely difficult weather conditions and terrains by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- The Former and First Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru is credited as the founder of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). It is headquartered in New Delhi and was founded on 7th May 1960.
- At present, BRO operates under 18 projects in the country. It maintains across 32,885 Kilometers of road and more than 12,200 meters of permanent bridges across the country. In the last two years, BRO has constructed around 5,800 metres of permanent bridges across the country.

2. Indian army bans 89 apps including Facebook, PUBG, Insta, Zoom, Tinder

- Indian Army has asked its personnel to delete 89 mobile applications including Facebook, Instagram, PUBG, Zoom, POPXO, TikTok, Snapchat, ShareIt and dating apps like Tinder and Bumble. The decision has been taken to curtail leakage of information, as per Indian Army sources.
- Some of the 89 banned apps are among those banned by the centre for being engaged in activities prejudicial to the integrity and sovereignty of India and defence security of the state and public order.
- The list of apps banned in Indian Army has been divided into different categories including messaging platforms, video hosting apps, content sharing apps, web browsers, video streaming apps, utility apps, gaming apps, e-commerce apps, dating apps, music apps, microblogging apps, news apps, lifestyle apps and antivirus apps.

3. India to invite Australia to Malabar naval exercise

- India plans to invite Australia to join the annual Malabar naval exercise that has so far included just Japan and the U.S.
- The exercise will bring together the navies of India, Japan, Australia and the U.S. in the Bay of Bengal at the end of the year.
- Malabar is an annual exercise between the navies of India, Japan, and the U.S. held alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- It began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S.
- Then it got permanently expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.

4. UAE to become first Arab nation send probe to Mars

- The United Arab Emirates has decided to send a probe to Mars, in a first for the Arab world. The UAE's Mars probe aims to provide a comprehensive image of the weather dynamics in Mars' atmosphere and pave the way for scientific breakthroughs.
- The Mars probe will serve as a foundation for a much bigger goal of building a human settlement on Mars within the next 100 years.
- Speaking on the probe, the mission's deputy project manager and UAE Minister of State for Advanced Sciences, Sarah al-Amiri said that the Mars probe will be a message of hope for the region to set an example of what is possible if we take the talent of the youth and use them positively.

5. Indian Army to order second batch of 72,000 assault rifles from US

- The Indian Army has decided to place another order for 72,000 Sig 716 assault rifles from the United States. This will be the second batch of rifles being ordered from the US, as the first lot comprising 72000 rifles has already been delivered to the Army.
- The first batch of American assault rifles will be used by the troops in Northern Command and other operational areas.
- According to defence sources, the Army has decided to place an order for 72000 more of such rifles under the emergency financial powers granted by the centre to the armed forces amid India's ongoing border dispute with China.

6. IIT Kanpur develops UV sanitizing device 'SHUDDH' to make room COVID free

- Due to Covid Pandemic People are nowadays afraid of touching anything around, specifically in the areas where masses have to come. To solve this problem Imagineering Laboratory department of IIT Kanpur has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing product named SHUDDH.

- Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper that is SHUDH has six UV lights of 15 Watts each that can be individually monitored from a distance.
- Initial testing has proved that the device at its full operation can disinfect a 10x10 squared feet room in about 15 minutes.
- SHUDH can assist in killing the spread of corona virus at the highly prone places such as hospitals, hotels, malls, offices and schools.

7. Indian Army to acquire ‘Raven’ and ‘Spike Firefly’ UAV’s for reconnaissance missions

- Talks on sharpening the infantry of the Indian Army continues as the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is likely to acquire the remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle- Raven from the United States and Israel’s Spike Firefly.
- As per media reports, procurement of 200 pieces of Aero Vironment RQ-11 Raven and talks for purchase of Israeli flying ammunition- Spike Firefly is in advance level.
- The RQ-11 Raven is a remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle that is launched with hand. It is manufactured by Aero Vironment (U.S. California based Defence Contractor).
- RQ-11 Raven can fly up to an altitude of 500 feet from the ground level with a speed of between 45-97 Kilometers per hour. RQ-11 Raven can fly up to 10 Kilometres.
- The Spike Firefly is developed under a joint venture of Israeli company- Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel’s Ministry of Defence. The Spike Firefly has loitering capability and can be carried by a soldier as a part of his kit.

8. ISRO Chief K Sivan named as the Recipient of 2020 Von Karman Award

- The International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) has announced Dr. Kailasavadivoo Sivan, Chief of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as the recipient of the 2020 Von Karman Award, the highest distinction of the IAA. The award will be presented to Dr. K. Sivan in March 2021 at Paris.
- The premier award of IAA was instituted in 1982 in the memory of Dr. Theodore Von Karman, renowned aerospace scientist and the founder and the first President of IAA.
- The Award is annually presented to recognise the distinguished contributions and lifetime achievements in any branch of science.

9. Google’s Sundar Pichai announces \$10 billion investment in India's digitalization

- Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced a \$10 billion investment in India at the Google for India virtual live-stream event.
- The event focused on contributing to accelerate India's digital economy with this investment over the next five to seven years.
- Firstly, the Rs 75,000 crore investment will focus on help in enabling affordable access and information to every Indian irrespective of the language.
- The huge investment will also help local businesses to move towards digital transformation.
- Pichai shared the success of programs like Internet Saathi and claimed that it has helped over 30 million women across India to learn digital skills and incorporate them into their lives and the communities.

10. NEOWISE Comet to be visible from naked eye till July-end

- NEOWISE Comet or C/2020 F3 will be visible to the naked eye for 20 minutes every day starting from July 14, 2020. The comet will be visible for around 20 days.
- The comet will be visible an hour before dawn initially and it will be visible in the evening later this month before fading away in August. The comet will be closest to Earth on July 22 at a distance of about 103 million kilometers when it will be crossing the planet's orbit.

11. MHA directs paramilitary forces to ban Facebook

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has directed the paramilitary forces to ban Facebook for their personnel and ex-servicemen. The Ministry issued the direction on July 13, 2020 through a letter to all paramilitary forces including CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and NSG.
- The Home Ministry has asked the paramilitary forces to ban Facebook not only for the personnel who are currently serving them but also for ex-servicemen as they remain in touch with the armed forces.
- The Home Ministry sent the directive after receiving an e-mail from Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy asking to extend the ban of foreign apps in paramilitary forces as well.

12. Government to allow Invalid Pension to Armed Forces Personnel with less than 10 years of qualifying service

- Government has decided to allow Invalid Pension to Armed Forces Personnel with less than ten years of qualifying service.
- This pension is granted to the Armed Forces Personnel who is invalided out of service on account of disability which is accepted as Neither Attributable to Nor aggravated (NANA) by Military Service.

- It will be available to those Armed Forces Personnel who were in service on or after 4th January 2019. Earlier, the minimum period of qualifying service actually rendered and required for invalid pension was ten years or more.

13. DRDO's Research body developed fully indigenous P7 Heavy Drop System for IL 76 aircraft

- As a part of Make in India programme, DRDO has developed P7 Heavy Drop System (HDS) which is capable of para dropping military stores (vehicle/ ammunition/ equipment) up to 7-ton weight class from IL 76 aircraft [Ilyushin Il-76 or Gajraj (elephant king)]. This HDS consists of a platform & specialised parachute system. It has been inducted in the Indian Army.
- The design of this fully indigenous system has been developed by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), a pioneer Research & Development (R&D) lab of DRDO based in Agra, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- It's platform system manufactured by L&T (Larsen & Toubro) while parachutes manufactured by Ordnance Factory.
- Parachute System is a multi-stage parachute system comprises of 5 Main canopies, 5 Brake chutes, 2 Auxiliary chutes, 1 Extractor parachute and platform is a metallic structure made up of Aluminium/steel alloys.

14. Various important events including Captain Sourabh Kalia Cup cancelled in Kargil due to COVID- 19

- Though Kargil, Ladakh is slowly getting back to normalcy with relaxations in the Lockdown after unlock 2.
- However many important events and programmes are being cancelled due to the threat of Spread of Covid 19.
- The pandemic has also affected the celebration of this year 21st Kargil Vijay Diwas both from the Indian Army Side as well as from the Local Level as no event has been organised.
- The most popular Captain Sourabh Kalia cricket Cup has also been postponed due to the pandemic in Kargil.

15. World's largest aircraft carrier, Indian warships conduct naval exercise (PASSEX) with US Navy

- The Indian Navy conducted Passex (passing exercises) with the United States (US) Navy's USS Nimitz, which is a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.
- The Indian Navy ships Rana, Sahyadri, Shivalik and Kamorta, operated together with the USS Nimitz (CVN 68), along with the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group's Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59), Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Sterett (DDG 104) and USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114).

- The cooperative exercises took place near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and transited through the Indian Ocean region.
- The Indian Navy had recently conducted similar passing exercises with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and French Navy.

16. India's first public electric vehicle charging plaza inaugurated in New Delhi

- India's first public EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza has been inaugurated by the Minister for Power, New & Renewable Energy, R.K Singh at Chelmsford Club in New Delhi.
- The public EV Charging Plaza has been established by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) in collaboration with New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to make e-mobility ubiquitous and convenient in India.
- India's first public EV Charging Plaza will host 5 Electric Vehicle Chargers of different specifications and hence will make EV charging hassle free and convenient for the consumers.
- During the inauguration ceremony, Union Power Minister also launched "Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency (RAISE)".
- RAISE has been developed for healthy and energy efficient buildings and will help in alleviating the issue of bad air quality in workspaces across the nation.

17. First batch of 5 Rafale fighter jets to arrive in India by July-end

- The aircraft will be inducted at Air Force Station Ambala on 29th July.
- Indian Air Force aircrew and ground crew have undergone comprehensive training on the aircraft, including its highly advanced weapons systems and are fully operational now.
- India had signed an inter-governmental agreement with France in September 2016 for procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around Rs 58,000 crore.
- The aircraft is capable of carrying a range of potent weapons.
- Out of 36 Rafale jets, 30 will be fighter jets and six will be trainers. The trainer jets will be twin-seater and they will have almost all the features of the fighter jets.

18. Dhruvastra, India's anti-tank guided missile, test-fired successfully in Odisha

- On July 22, 2020, India successfully conducted the flight trial of Dhruvastra anti-guided missile at the Interim Test Range of Odisha.
- The trials of the helicopter launched Nag Missile (HELINA) were successful. The missile has now been renamed as "Dhruvastra".

- Helina is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile mounted on Advanced Light Helicopter. The missile system can engage targets in direct hit mode and attack mode. Also, the system has all-weather day and night capability, defeat battle tanks with conventional armour and explosive reactive armour.

19. Flipkart acquires Walmart India's wholesale biz to help transform kiranas

- E-commerce company Flipkart has acquired 100 percent stake in Walmart India Private Limited, which operates the Best Price cash-and-carry business. Flipkart announced on July 23, 2020 that it has acquired parent company, Walmart Inc's Best Price wholesale cash-and-carry business in India.
- The move will allow Flipkart to launch a digital marketplace called Flipkart Wholesale next month. This will also strengthen the e-commerce firm's wholesale offerings, to compete better with Amazon.
- Walmart has been running the Best Price wholesale cash-and-carry stores in India since 2009. The American retail giant had bought a controlling stake worth USD 16 billion in Flipkart in 2018.

20. DRDO sets up COVID-19 testing facility at Leh

- The DRDO has established a COVID-19 testing facility at the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) in Leh.
- It has been established to augment the existing capacity for identification of coronavirus cases in the union territory of Ladakh.
- The testing facility was inaugurated by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R. K. Mathur.
- It is capable of screening 50 samples per day.
- The DIHAR is one of the life sciences laboratories of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) working on cold arid agro-animal technologies.

21. Indian Navy's Largest solar power plant commissioned in Kerala

- Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla commissioned the largest Solar Power Plant in the Indian Navy, with a capacity of 3 MW, at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala.
- This is in line with the Government of India initiative of "National Solar Mission" to achieve 100 GW of solar power by 2022.
- The solar plant has an estimated life of 25 years.
- All components have been indigenously sourced, including 9180 highly efficient monocrystalline solar panels employing the latest technology.

- The solar power plant project will help Naval station in reducing the carbon footprint and is one of the many initiatives undertaken by INA towards a clean and green environment.

22. RIL becomes the 1st Indian company to reach Market Cap of Rs 13 lakh crore

- As stock market data, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) becomes the 1st Indian company to reach Market Capitalisation (m-cap) of Rs 13 lakh crore. It becomes the world's 48th largest company by m-cap, ahead of Abbott Labs, Oracle, Chevron and Unilever. It also crossed the stock price of Rs 2000 for the 1st time.
- Globally, Saudi Aramco is the company with the highest market cap of \$1.7 trillion, followed by Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, and Alphabet.
- Reliance is the 10th highest m-cap company in Asia. China's Alibaba Group is ranked 7th globally.
- The United States listed Reliance Jio among the companies that are becoming "Clean Telcos"(who reject doing business with tools of the Chinese Communist Party's surveillance state, like Huawei)

SPORTS

1. 2022 FIFA World Cup to be held in Qatar

- On July 15, 2020, the Federation Internationale de Football Association announced that the 2022 World Cup is to be held in Qatar. The governing body also released schedule of matches.
- The 2022 FIFA World Cup will be the first world cup to be held in Arab World and also the first in a muslim-majority country. The World Cup would be the last to involve 32 teams as the teams are to be increased to 48 in 2026 tournament.
- The tournament is to be held in November-December. The final match of the tournament has been scheduled on December 18, 2020, which is also Qatar National Day.

2. Sports Adda named former Cricketer Brett Lee as brand ambassador

- Sports Adda has signed former Australian fast bowler and cricket legend Brett Lee, as its brand ambassador.
- Sports Adda is Indian news and information website for cricket, football, and kabaddi.
- As ambassador, Lee will be conducting a host of fun activities including contests, quizzes, Q&As, bowling master classes, and giveaways that will feature exclusively on the Sports Adda app, website, and social handles.

- Lee has taken over 700 wickets in his international career across all three formats, and brings with him a wealth of knowledge - not only of bowling and playing at the highest level but also with his insight into the sport and stories from his playing days.

3. Germany's forward player & World Cup winner, Andre Schurrle announced retirement

- Germany's forward player & World Cup winner, Andre Schurrle has announced retirement from the sport.
- He helped his country to win the 2014 FIFA World Cup.
- He represented Germany in 57 matches, scoring 22 goals.
- He also played for Chelsea from 2013-15 and also won a Premier League winners medal in 2015.

4. Sri Lanka's Sripali Weerakkody announces retirement from international cricket

- Sri Lankan bowling all rounder, Sripali Weerakkody has announced her retirement from International Cricket with immediate effect.
- She made her international debut in 2006 and played 89 ODIs (One Day International) and 58 T20Is (Twenty20 International) for Sri Lanka.
- Sripali Weerakkody played her last international game in 2018 and scored 722 runs and 58 wickets in ODIs, and 209 runs and 31 wickets in T20Is.

5. Emirates Cricket Board receives 'Letter of Intent' from BCCI to host IPL 2020 in UAE

- The Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed on July 27 that it has received the official Letter of Intent from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to host Indian Premier League's 2020 edition.
- The IPL Governing Council Chairman Brijesh Patel had confirmed on July 26 that the BCCI has sent an acceptance letter to the Emirates Cricket Board. He had stated that both the boards will now work together to stage the tournament.
- The ECB had reportedly sent a proposal to the BCCI in April to host the 2020 edition of the IPL, which was originally supposed to begin on March 29 in India. However, the tournament was postponed indefinitely due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Patel further stated that the eight IPL franchises- Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Chennai Super Kings, Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Capitals, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Kolkata Knight Riders and Kings XI Punjab-will hold their respective pre-tournament training camps in the UAE.

OBITUARIES

1. Ennio Morricone, Oscar-winning Italian film composer, dies aged 91

- Ennio Morricone, the Italian composer whose symphonic scores backed everything from spaghetti westerns to romance, horror and sci-fi films, has died aged 91. Born in Rome in 1928, Morricone took up the trumpet and wrote his first composition aged six.
- Morricone went on to work in almost all film genres, and some of his melodies are perhaps more famous than the films for which he wrote them. Morricone's Chi Mai, is his most loved composition, and reached at No 2 in the UK Top 40 following its reuse in the BBC drama series The Life and Times of David Lloyd George.
- He won his Oscar for his work on Quentin Tarantino's The Hateful Eight (2015) and also was nominated for his original scores for Terrence Malick's Days of Heaven (1978), Roland Joffe's The Mission (1986), Brian De Palma's The Untouchables (1987), Barry Levinson's Bugsy (1991) and Giuseppe Tornatore's Malena (2000).

2. Veteran actor Jagdeep, Sholay's Soorma Bhopali, dies at 81

- Veteran Bollywood actor Jagdeep, known for his work in films such as Sholay, Andaz Apna Apna and Purana Mandir, has died.
- In his first film, BR Chopra's Afsana, he was a face in the crowd who later got a speaking part because he could say the dialogues in chaste Urdu.
- In 1988, Jagdeep also directed the film Soorma Bhopali based on his character from Sholay. In a career spanning over six decades, he acted in over 400 films.

3. Goa's former health minister Dr Suresh Amonkar loses battle against COVID-19

- Former health minister of Goa, Dr Suresh Amonkar, died due to Covid-19 infection.
- Dr Amonkar, 68, was found positive on June 22 and admitted to the state's dedicated Covid-19 hospital but his condition deteriorated in the following days.
- Dr Amonkar was a two-term MLA, being elected to the Goa Assembly in 1999 and 2002, as well as served as minister in the first Manohar Parrikar cabinet in 2000 as a minister of health.
- He was also the ex-president of the Goa unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

4. Renowned Gujarati Cartoonist Avad Bin Hassan Jami passes away

- One of the most senior and popular cartoonists of Gujarat, Avad Bin Hassan Jami, has passed away. He was 77. He was popularly known as "Jami". His

cartoons were published in Gujarati magazine “Abhiyan” for over two decades.

- He was a drawing teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jamnagar and became a full-time cartoonist after retirement.

5. Legendry Dutch footballer Suurbier passes away at 75

- Netherlands and Ajax defender Wim Suurbier, a key member of the 1970s Dutch squad who played in two World Cup finals, died at the age of 75.
- With Ajax from 1964 to 1977 he won three European Cups and seven national titles.
- The club described him as the "first modern back of the Netherlands", able to attack deep as well as defend.
- Suurbier was also part of the Dutch sides that lost in the 1974 and 1978 World Cup finals, to West Germany and Argentina.

6. Neela Satyanarayan, Maharashtra's first woman Election Commissioner, passes away at 72

- Former IAS officer and Maharashtra's first woman Election Commissioner Neela Satyanarayan passed away.
- The 1972 batch IAS officer was admitted to the hospital after she was diagnosed with COVID-19.
- She was an additional Chief Secretary of Revenue department and post-retirement, in 2009, she was made the state election commissioner.
- Mrs. Neela retired on July 5, 2014.

7. India's 1st Para-Badminton Arjuna Awardee Ramesh Tikaram Athlete Passed Away at 51

- Arjuna awardee, para-athlete, and para-badminton player, Ramesh Tikaram passed away at 51 due to coronavirus in a Bengaluru hospital. He organized the World Cup for Para badminton in Bengaluru in 2002.
- He excelled in athletics before shifting to badminton. Tikaram was selected to represent India at the Barcelona Paralympics in 1992.
- As an athlete, he won many medals in shotput and Javelin throw including an international meet in Nottingham in 1995. He won gold in the Multi-Disability championship in Sydney for shot put.

8. Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon dies at the age of 85

- On July 21, 2020, Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon passed away at the age of 85. Upon the governor's death, the MP Government has announced 5-day mourning period between July 21, 2020 and July 25, 2020.

- Tandon was admitted to Madanta Hospital due to breathing problems and other health issues. He was diagnosed with chronic liver disease due to multiple ailments. After Tandon was admitted in the hospital, UP governor Anandiben Patel took additional charge of MP in June 2020.
- Tandon had served in Uttar Pradesh Legislative council for two terms between 1978 and 1984, also between 1990 and 1996. He also served as MLA in UP Legislative Assembly for three terms between 1996 and 2009. Also, Tandon was elected as MP in the 15th Lok Sabha. He has served as governor of the states of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.

9. Award-winning Spanish novelist Juan Marsé dies at age 87

- Juan Marsé, the Spanish novelist, has died at age 87.
- Marsé was one of Spain's most-respected novelists over the past few decades and the winner of the 2008 Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's top literary award.
- Marsé's most important novel was "Últimastardes on Teresa" ("Last Afternoons with Teresa") published in 1965.
- It chronicles the misadventure of a working-class adolescent who tries to win over a girl from the upscale side of Barcelona.
- Marsé, a native of the city, followed that success with several other novels that form a portrait of the social transformation of Spain during the latter part of the 20th century.

10. Legendary Jazz Singer Annie Ross passes away at age of 89

- Annie Ross, a popular jazz singer in the 1950s before crossing over into a successful film career, has died. She was 89.
- Ross rose to fame as the lead vocalist of one of jazz's most well-respected groups, Lambert, Hendricks and Ross.
- The trio became known for the 1952 hit "Twisted," a tune by saxophonist Wardell Gray and written by Ross.
- A decade later, Lambert, Hendricks and Ross went on to win a Grammy Award for the album High Flying."

11. Tanzania's former President Benjamin Mkapa died while being treated for an undisclosed illness.

- Tanzania's former President Benjamin Mkapa, who worked to end conflict in East Africa during and after his decade in power from 1995.
- Mkapa won the country's first multi-party elections in 1995 and was re-elected for a second five-year term in 2000.
- He led several regional peace mediation initiatives and afterwards continued to seek reconciliation in Burundi, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes region.

12. Nation remembers ‘People’s President’ Bharat Ratna Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam on his death anniversary

- The Nation remembers former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam on his death anniversary on 27 July.
- Popularly known as People's President and Missile Man of India, Dr. Kalam passed away in Shillong on 27th July 2015, while delivering a lecture to students.
- He was an Indian aerospace scientist and politician who served as the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007.
- He was intimately involved in India's civilian space programme and military missile development efforts.
- He also played a pivotal organisational, technical, and political role in India's Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998, the first since the original nuclear test by India in 1974.

13. Two-Time Oscar Winner, Olivia de Havilland passed away at the age of 104

- She was born on 1st July 1916, in Tokyo, Japan. On March 13, 1946, Olivia won an Oscar award for the movie ‘To Each His Own’ under the category Best supporting actress.
- Again in the year 1949, she won the second Oscar award for the movie ‘The Heiress’.
- In the year 2008, Olivia was honoured with, National Medal of Arts and France’s Legion of Honor (Légion d’honneur) award after two years.

14. Veteran Bollywood Actor Kumkum Passed Away at 86 in Mumbai

- Veteran Bollywood Actor Kumkum due to age related ailments passed away at the age of 86 in her residence in Bandra, Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was born as Zaibunnissa on 22nd April 1934 in Sheikhpura district, Bihar.
- She was casted for an uncredited role in ‘Aar Paar’ and featured in small roles in films like ‘Pyaasa’. She was popularly known for the songs featuring her like ‘Madhuban Mein Radhika Nache Re’ from Kohinoor (1960) and “Kabhi Aar Kabhi Paar” from Aar Paar(1954).

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Population Day is an annual event observed every year on July 11 every year.

- The day is observed in order to spread and raise awareness of the rising global population issues. The event was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989.

- This Day aims to increase people's awareness on various population issues such as the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human rights.
- As per reports, there were an estimated 7.8 billion people living on Earth as of March 2020.

2. Bastille Day celebrated on 14 July each year.

- Bastille Day is the common name given in English-speaking countries to the national day of France, which is celebrated on 14 July each year.
- In 1789, on this day, a violent uprising helped usher the French Revolution.
- Citizens stormed the Bastille fortress, which was used to lodge the state prisoners.
- French poet and philosopher, Voltaire was imprisoned in Bastille for nearly a year after he spoke out against the ruling French regent's family.
- Bastille had become the symbol of the harsh rule and tyranny of the French monarchy, especially King Louis XVI and his queen, Marie Antoinette.

3. World Youth Skills Day is observed on 15 July

- World Youth Skills Day is observed on 15 July every year. The day is aimed to recognize the importance of equipping young people across the world with skills for employment and entrepreneurship. The day also aims to highlight the crucial role of skilled youth in addressing current and future global challenges.
- World Youth Skills Day 2020 is to take place in a challenging context. The coronavirus pandemic and lockdown measures have led to the worldwide closure of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, threatening the continuity of skills development.

4. Nelson Mandela International Day is observed on 18 July every year

- Nelson Mandela International Day or Mandela Day is observed on 18 July every year across the globe. The day is aimed to honour Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president, Nobel Prize winner, and anti-apartheid icon.
- Mandela Day was first held on 18 July 2009, in New York. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recognized the day later that year. On 10 November 2009, the UNGA adopted a resolution A/RES/64/13 to recognize 18 July as the "International Day of Nelson Mandela". The day is designated to mark the contribution Nelson Mandela brings to peace through his active participation in resolving disputes, addressing racial issues, international democracy and reconciliation, and the promotion of human rights.
- Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in the Eastern Cape, South Africa on 18 July 1918. In 1942, he began his career in politics. In 1944, he

joined the African National Congress. Mandela was accused of treason in South Africa and was arrested on 5 December 1956.

5. 20 July to be observed as World Chess Day

- The International Chess Day is celebrated on July 20 every year as the founding day of the FIDE (World Chess Federation). This year will mark FIDE's 96th anniversary.
- In the fifth century, chess was invented in India. It was called "Chaturanga" at the time.
- Chess is one of the most ancient games of the period. This game was then spread to Persia.

6. Pi Approximation Day is celebrated on 22 July every year.

- The reason why this day is celebrated on 22 July is because of the value of Pi- 22/7.
- The fraction 22/7 is said to be the common approximation of Pi (π).
- Pi is the ratio of circumference of a circle divided by the distance across the circle, i.e., diameter of the circle.
- The value of Pi is 22/7 or 3.14. Pi is an irrational number,
- The first calculation of π was done by Archimedes of Syracuse (287–212 BC), one of the greatest mathematicians of the ancient world.

7. National Broadcasting Day is observed every year on 23 July

- On this day in 1927, the first ever radio broadcast in the country went on air from Bombay.
- In the last 93 years, Radio broadcast in the country has achieved several milestones.
- Since 1927, radio has been an important part in people's life in India.
- On 8th of June 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio.

8. National Thermal Engineer Day observed on 24 July 2020

- National Thermal Engineer Day is celebrated on July 24 to appreciate the contribution of thermal engineers in everyday life.
- The day commemorates the importance of thermal management in the electronics industry and the engineers and companies that make it possible.
- Irrespective of the market sector without the contributions of thermal engineers, the electronics that are an integral part of today's life and the cornerstone of our nation's technological advancement would not be possible. Thermal engineering deals with the research, design, and modeling of heat transfer equipment and processes.

9. CRPF Celebrates 82nd Raising Day on 27 July

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted all CRPF personnel on the 82nd Raising Day of the force. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is India's largest Central Armed Police Force.
- It functions under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of the Government of India. The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter insurgency.
- It came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939.

10. The World Health Organization observed 28th July every year as “World Hepatitis Day”.

- The day is celebrated to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes a range of health problems, including liver cancer.
- This year's theme is “Hepatitis-free future,” with a strong focus on preventing hepatitis B among mothers and newborns.
- The date of 28 July was chosen because it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus. There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus – A, B, C, D and E. Together, hepatitis B and C are the most common cause of deaths, with 1.3 million lives lost each year.

11. Every year July 29 is celebrated as Global Tiger Day

- Every year July 29 is celebrated as Global Tiger Day. The decision to celebrate the day was taken at the Saint Petersburg Declaration on Tiger conservation that was signed in 2010.
- India has 70% of total tiger population in the world. To commemorate Global Tiger Day, the Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released the All India Tiger Estimation-2018 report. Also, the Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan is to release a report on Tiger Census to commemorate Global Tiger Day. The day is also called International Tiger Day.
- The day is celebrated to create awareness for tiger conservation. It promotes a system to protect natural habitats of tigers and raise public awareness. This year, the Global Tiger Day is celebrated with the slogan, “Their Survival is in our hands”.

India's No.1 App
for
Bank | SSC | Railways
Competitive Exams

- Job Alerts
- Daily Quiz • Free PDF's
- Videos • Test Series • Current Affairs

