

July 2020

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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Banking

1. RBI launches inflation expectations survey

The Reserve Bank of India has launched the inflation expectations survey of households and responses of the participants will be gathered over telephone in view of the coronavirus pandemic. The results of the survey are used as inputs for monetary policy. **Hansa Research Group, Mumbai -engaged to conduct the survey.**

2. RBI releases India's International Investment Position data

RBI released data relating to India's International Investment Position as it stood at the end of March 2020. **The ratio of overseas financial assets to India's GDP in 2019-20 (at current market prices) moved up to 26.5 per cent in March 2020.** The ratio of net IIP to GDP also improved to (-) 14 percent.

3. World Bank approves \$750 million fund to support COVID hit MSMEs in India

The World Bank announced a \$750 million **MSME Emergency Response program** to support increased flow of finance to MSMEs, severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. This will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some 1.5 million viable MSMEs. World Bank Country Director in India- Junaid Ahmad.

Established in 1944, the **World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C.** The World Bank is like a cooperative, made up of 189 member countries. These member countries, or shareholders, are represented by a Board of Governors, who are the ultimate policymakers at the World Bank. **The WB President is selected by the Board of Executive Directors for a five-year,** renewable term. The World Bank Group has set two goals for the world to achieve by 2030: 1) End extreme poverty by decreasing the percentage of people living on less than \$1.90 a day to no more than 3%. 2) Promote shared prosperity by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40% for every country. **WB President- David R. Malpass.**

4. RBI asks banks to reclassify MSMEs as per revised criteria

The RBI has asked banks, financial institutions & NBFCs to reclassify micro, small and medium enterprises on the basis of Govt notified new criteria for the classification of MSMEs on the basis of turnover and investment in plant & machinery. **MSME Development Act came into existence in 2006.**

5. Equitas SFB unveils video call KYC account

Equitas Small Finance Bank has unveiled a video KYC account. With this facility, any person, anywhere in the country, can open a savings account with Equitas SFB, complete the full KYC through a video call with the bank. Bank's Operations began in 2016; **HQ: Chennai.**

The customer has to submit their Aadhaar and PAN details on the video call for the bank to verify.

6. ADB becomes observer of network for greening the financial system

Asian Development Bank has joined the central banks & supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System as an observer, which is a group of central banks willing to contribute to the development of environment and climate change risk in finance sector. **HQ: Mandaluyong, Philippines**; President: Masatsugu Asakawa.

Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) was **launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on 12 December 2017**. ADB's inclusion to the NGFS is aligned with the goals in its corporate strategy, the Strategy 2030, particularly in tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability; fostering regional cooperation and integration; and strengthening governance and institutional capacity. The NGFS presently consists of 66 members and 13 observers.

7. YES Bank launches instant loan disbursement facility

YES Bank has launched a solution for instant disbursement of retail loans for the bank's pre-approved liability account holders. **Called Loan in Seconds**, the algorithm assesses a loan application in real-time and eliminates the need for documentation. YES Bank MD and CEO: Prashant Kumar.

8. SBM Bank India partners with Mastercard to facilitate cross-border transactions, remittances

Government of Mauritius-promoted SBM Bank India and global payments technology major Mastercard have joined hands to facilitate cross-border payments and remittances services. Using 'Master Send' SBM India can make business to consumer transactions quickly SBM Bank CEO: Parvataneni Venkateswara Rao.

SBM Bank India is the first bank to receive a universal banking licence from the RBI to set up and operate as a scheduled commercial bank through the wholly owned subsidiary mode.

9. Fino Payments Bank launches 'Bhavishya' savings account for minors

Fino Payments Bank Limited announced the launch of a savings account scheme for **minors aged between 10-18 years**. 'Bhavishya', a subscription-based savings account, can be opened by paying a nominal amount. It is initially introduced in UP, Bihar & MP. Fino Payments Bank **HQ: Mumbai**. CEO: Rishi Gupta.

Benefits of Bhavishya savings account includes no minimum account balance requirement and a free debit card, which can be used at ATMs only to withdraw cash with Aadhaar authentication. Further, on attaining 18 years of age, the Bhavishya savings account **will be upgraded to regular savings account** on submission of Re-KYC with updated information.

10. KVB ties up with Star Health Insurance

Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has entered into an arrangement with Star Health Insurance Co to offer a wide range of health insurance options to its customers. The tie-up will help the bank provide cost-effective insurance products and quick settlement of claims. It is to be made available in all 780 branches of the bank.

Star Health and Allied Insurance: Chairman & MD: V Jagannathan, Anand Roy.

Headquarters: Chennai. Karur Vysya Bank: Headquarters: Karur, Tamil Nadu.

Tagline: Smart way to Bank.

11. Karur Vysya Bank in corporate agency pact with Bajaj Allianz Life

Karur Vysya Bank (KVB), an old private sector bank has signed up a corporate agency partnership with Bajaj Allianz to offer life insurance solutions to its customers. Under this, KVB will market all retail and group products of Bajaj Allianz. **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra.**

12. CBDT launches tool for banks to ascertain TDS applicability rates on cash withdrawals

Income Tax Dept facilitated a functionality for banks & post offices to calculate TDS applicability rates on cash withdrawal of **above ₹20 lakh in case of a non-filer of the income-tax return & that of above ₹1 Crore in case of a filer of income-tax return.** Central Board of Direct Taxes Chairman: Pramod Chandra Mody.

TDS is deductible at the rate of 2% if cash withdrawal exceeds ₹1 crore (if the person withdrawing is a filer of IT return) and if the cash withdrawal exceeds ₹20 lakh. TDS is deductible at 5% if it exceeds ₹ 1 Crore (if the person withdrawing is not a filer of IT return).

In order to discourage cash transactions and move towards a cashless economy, the Finance (No.2) Act, 2019 has inserted section 194N in the Income Tax Act w.e.f. **1 September 2019** to provide for levy of TDS at 2% on cash withdrawal exceeding ₹1 crore from a bank/post office account(s) subject to certain exceptions.

13. NABARD to provide bank refinance of Rs 5,000 Cr for watershed development projects

National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development announced Rs 5000 Cr of refinance scheme for banks & financial institutions to provide finance **2,150 watershed development projects.** It organised its first 'Digital Choupal' to mark its 39th foundation day. NABARD Chairman: Govinda Rajulu Chintala.

NABARD also announced another Rs 5000 crores for turning **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), into multi-service centres.** It also introduced a grant-based scheme for PACS which will enable these ground-level entities to provide seamless credit services to their farmer members.

14. RBI sets up panel to study QR codes for contactless transactions

The Reserve Bank of India has set up a high-level committee to study the use of Quick Response (QR) codes to process contactless transactions in light of the ongoing Covid-19 situation. **Professor Deepak Pathak of IIT Bombay heads the six-member panel.** 25th Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das.

Former Punjab National Bank CEO Sunil Mehta, NPCI CEO Dilip Asbe, CC Avenues CEO Vishwas Patel, Director of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology DRBT A S Ramasastri, and Arvind Kumar, a scientist at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), are its other members.

The committee – comprising academicians, scientists and industry executives -- has been asked to figure out the economics of QR deployment at merchant locations, the benefits of having an interoperable and open-loop system as well as recommend guidelines for standardising deployments. In June, NPCI processed a record 1.34 billion transactions worth Rs 2.62 lakh crore.

15. PSBs to purchase NBFC Bonds/CPs worth Rs 14,667 Cr under extended PCGS

According to Finance Minister under the **Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS)** public sector banks have approved the purchase of bonds and commercial papers issued by 67 NBFCs amounting to ₹14,667 crore. PCGS was revamped under Atma-Nirbhar Bharat package. Commercial Notes are short-term, unsecured promissory notes.

The PCGS was revamped to support the liability side of NBFCs by providing a **20% portfolio guarantee** to Public Sector Banks for the purchase of Bonds/Commercial Papers rated AA and below issued by NBFC.

16. NPCI raises scope and limit of debit transactions on NACH platform

The National Payments Corp of India (NPCI) has enhanced the limit for giving e-mandate on debit card and net banking transactions through their **National Automated Clearing House (NACH)** platform to Rs 10 lakh from the current Rs 1 lakh. NPCI is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India. HQ: Mumbai.

The facility has been extended to all categories of service providers who generate periodic bills, except for prepaid recharge. An e-mandate allows a customer to make recurring payments by giving one-time standing instruction to their bank. The feature will soon allow customers to give banks the consent to automatically debit payments for monthly bills, loan, credit card, SIP payments by giving a one-time e-mandate.

17. A&N Islands: NABARD launches development projects worth Rs 44 lakhs

In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, NABARD has launched development projects worth rupees 44 lakhs in order to strengthen the **concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat** through rural entrepreneurship. It includes the formation and development of Self-Help Groups. NABARD has also tied up with CARI, Port Blair.

18. RBI issues Fair Practice Code guidelines for ARC

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a fair practices code for **asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)**, stating that these entities must follow transparent and non-discriminatory practices in acquisition of assets. RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das

19. PNB launches campaign to fight COVID-19

As part of its CSR initiative, the country's second-largest lender Punjab National Bank launched a nationwide initiative to combat the spread of COVID-19. The campaign to entail providing COVID-19 related prevention materials like masks, sanitisers, etc. PNB Managing Director: S S Malikarjuna Rao.

The campaign was launched by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. The Bank is distributing preventive equipment in 662 districts throughout the country. **Punjab National Bank Headquarters: New Delhi.**

20. RBI committee recommends multiple interoperable QR codes

Currently, there are three types of QR codes operating in the country. Bharat QR, Unified Payments Interface QR and proprietary QR codes. A committee by RBI recommended that payment system providers should make these codes interoperable. **The 6-member committee was headed by DB Pathak.**

The 'Committee for Analysis of QR Code' also recommended that tax incentives be given to merchants who accept payments through electronic mode. Further, the government should provide incentive schemes to ensure popularity of QR code transactions among consumers in the country.

The committee felt that QR code-enabled apps can explore additional features such as **'Save QR', 'Invoice relay through Dynamic QR' and 'Setting up eMandate'** for recurring payments. The committee also recommended that the regulator may accept the existing bank account as a valid KYC for faster merchant onboarding. The merchant acquiring bank, however, shall be responsible for the KYC of the merchant.

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

Bank of Baroda has launched **'Insta Click Savings Account'**, a digital self-assisted online savings account, for all its customers. The bank's Insta Click Savings Account will offer innovative digital offerings for customers, from the comfort of their homes. Sanjiv Chadha: MD and CEO - Bank of Baroda.

The Insta Click Savings Account uses a new form of digital KYC and Aadhar based OTP authentication of the customer, which can be operated from the bank's website. The Insta Click Savings Account also offers the customers an option to subscribe to a wide range of digital channels like Mobile Banking, Internet Banking, UPI, and Debit Card. **The bank intends to be 100 per cent paperless by 2023.**

22. NPCI rolls out 'Autopay' feature on UPI for recurring payments

National Payments Corp of India (NPCI) has gone live with its **'Autopay'** feature on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform. It allows bank customers to make recurring transactions below Rs 2,000 through their UPI apps. Aadhaar's chief architect- Nandan Nilekani.

23. Banks' gross NPA ratio may rise to 12.5% by March 2021, says RBI

The central bank said the **gross non-performing assets (GNPA)** ratio of the country's scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) may increase from 8.5 percent in March 2020 to 12.5 percent by the same period next year, under the baseline scenario. **RBI projected Gross NPA by the end of FY20 as 8.5%.**

RBI publishes the Financial Stability Report.

24. Banks sanctions about Rs 90,000 crore concessional credit to 1.1 crore Kisan Credit Card holders

Banks have sanctioned Rs 89,810 crore to about 1.1 crore **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** holders to help farmers meet finances for kharif sowing and allied activities. This marks an increase of Rs 26,940 crore over Rs 62,870 crore sanctioned. Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.

25. Bank of Maharashtra on-boards Uniken for Omni-channel security

Uniken has been chosen by the state-owned Bank of Maharashtra for its innovative and unique REL-ID technology. **MahaSecure, secured by REL-ID**, is a next-generation secure digital banking app for all your online banking needs. Bank of Maharashtra, CEO: A. S. Rajeev.

26. IRCTC and SBI Card launch Co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform

IRCTC and SBI Card together launched their new Co-branded Contactless Credit Card **on RuPay Platform**. The new credit card was dedicated to the service of the nation by Sh. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry. Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

27. SBI launches WeCare term deposit scheme for senior citizens

SBI has launched a special fixed deposit scheme called the **SBI WeCare Senior Citizens' Term Deposit scheme**, keeping in mind the needs of senior citizens. It has been drafted with the objective of protecting their incomes by offering additional interest. Chairperson SBI: Rajnish Kumar. HQ: Mumbai.

Features of the Scheme: **ELIGIBILITY**: The scheme is open to resident **senior citizens more than 60 years of age**. However, the scheme is not open to NRI senior citizens. Also, those interested will have to invest in the scheme before September 30, 2020, and it is also available on the renewal of fresh deposits and recurring deposits. **TENURE**: The **minimum tenure is five years and the maximum is 10 years**.

INTEREST RATES: The deposits under this scheme will attract 0.8 per cent more than the interest rate applicable to the general public. It is important to note that if the fixed deposit interest rates as applicable to the general public change, the deposits under WeCare will reflect a corresponding change. **PAYMENT OF INTEREST**: For term deposits, investors can choose between monthly or quarterly interest pay-outs.

For **special term deposits, the interest will be paid on maturity** and the interest amount will be adjusted against TDS and credited to the investor's account. **TDS**: For senior citizens, TDS is deducted if the total interest earned in a financial year is more than Rs 50,000. For calculating TDS, interest earned from fixed deposits, recurring deposits, and other deposits will be taken into account. Senior citizens opting for SBI Wecare Deposit FD can also avail loans against their fixed deposits.

Economy

1. Amendments in Indian Stamp Act, 1899 to come into effect from 1st July 2020

Amendments in the Indian Stamp Act brought through Finance Act 2019 & Rules made thereunder will come into effect from 1 July. It enables states to collect stamp duty on securities market instruments at one place by one agency through one Instrument. Stamp duty- Tax levied on single property purchase/ documents.

In order to facilitate ease of doing business and to bring in uniformity of the stamp duty on securities across States and thereby build a pan-India securities market, the Central Government, through requisite amendments, has created the legal and institutional mechanism. This rationalized and harmonized system through centralized collection mechanism is expected to ensure minimize cost of collection and enhance revenue productivity. Collecting agents- Stock Exchanges/ authorized Clearing Corporations and the Depositories.

2. Fitch slashes India's growth projection from 9.5% to 8% for FY22

Fitch Ratings Inc in its Global Economic Outlook (GEO), has lowered India's growth forecast for **FY 2021-22 to 8% from 9.5 %** projected in May 2020 due to the toughest lockdown imposed by the central government to prevent the outbreak of Coronavirus. Fitch Ratings Headquarters- New York, President- Ian Linnell.

It retained its projection of Indian economy contracting by 5 per cent in the current fiscal. Indian economic growth stood at an estimated 4.2 per cent in 2019-20. In its June update of Global Economic Outlook, Fitch projected Indian economy to grow 5.5 per cent in 2022-23. **S&P has forecast a 5 per cent contraction in the fiscal year starting April, and the growth to recover to 8.5 per cent next fiscal.** Moody's expects India's real GDP to contract by 4 per cent in fiscal 2020 due to the shock from the coronavirus pandemic and related lockdown measures, followed by 8.7 per cent growth in fiscal 2021 and closer to 6 per cent thereafter.

3. Govt launches Special Liquidity Scheme of Rs 30,000 Cr to improve liquidity for NBFCs and HFCs

Government launched the **Special Liquidity Scheme of Rs 30, 000 Cr** to improve the liquidity position for Non-Banking Finance Companies- NBFCs and Housing Finance Companies- HFCs. The scheme was launched through a Special Purpose Vehicle set up by SBICAP. **SBICAP- SBI Capital Markets Limited.**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced it on 13th of March this year. Reserve Bank of India will provide funds for the Scheme by subscribing to government guaranteed special securities issued by the Trust. The total amount of such securities issued outstanding shall not exceed 30 thousand crore rupees at any point of time. The Central Government will provide an unconditional and irrevocable guarantee to the special securities issued by the Trust; The Scheme will remain open for three months for making subions by the Trust.

The period of lending by the Trust will be for a period of up to 90 days. The financing would be used by the NFBCs and HFCs only to repay existing liabilities and not to expand assets; This facility is a part of the Central Government and RBI's efforts to alleviate the concerns of the market participants on the availability of funds to the sector; Any NBFC including Micro-finance Institutions registered with RBI and any HFC registered with the National Housing Bank complying with the given conditions will be eligible to raise funding from the said facility.

4. Bharat Bond ETF second tranche launched, base issue size of Rs 3,000 Cr

Edelweiss Mutual Fund launched the second tranche of the Bharat Bond exchange-traded fund for a base size of Rs 3,000 cr. Finance Minister N Sitharaman had announced the launch of 2nd tranche with Edelweiss as the fund manager & AK Capital as govt advisor. **The new Bharat Bond ETF series will mature in April 2025 & 2031.**

Bond ETF was a part of the government's effort to deepen the bond market. Edelweiss Group chairman: Rashes Shah.

5. Mukesh Ambani's RIL becomes first domestic firm to cross Rs 11.5 lakh Cr m-cap mark

Reliance Industries Limited's market valuation crossed Rs 11.5 lakh crore mark, the first by any domestic company. Last month, it crossed the 11 Lakh crore mark, the first company to do so in India. The stock has gained over 22 per cent this year so far. Reliance Industries Headquarters: Mumbai.

6. India's foreign exchange reserves touches all time high of 513.25 billion dollars

India's foreign exchange reserves have surged by a massive 6.47 bn \$ to reach a fresh all-time high of 513.25 billion \$ in the week ended 3rd July 2020. Foreign currency assets, a major part of the overall reserves, rose by 5.66 billion \$ to 473.26 bn \$. **Reserves crossed half a trillion-mark first time in June.**

7. ICRA expects 9.5% contraction in FY21 due to COVID-19 lockdowns

The domestic rating agency ICRA has revised its forecast for contraction in India's **GDP in FY21 to 9.5 percent from 5 percent** it expected earlier, as continued lockdowns in some states have affected the recovery seen in May and June. It expects **agricultural GVA to rise by 3.5-4% in FY21.**

It said the country's economy may have contracted by a sharp 25 percent in the first quarter of FY21, and expects a shallow recovery in the subsequent quarters, with a contraction of 12.4 percent in the second quarter of FY21 and a milder 2.3 percent in the third quarter, followed by a growth of 1.3 percent in the fourth quarter of FY21.

8. Nirmala Sitharaman discusses global economic outlook at 3rd G20 Finance Ministers meet

Sitharaman participated in the **3rd G20 Finance Ministers meet** & discussed the global economic outlook held at Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) through video conferencing.

G20 Action Plan was reiterated aimed at coordinating G20 efforts to fight the pandemic.

G20 forum was bolstered after the 2008 Financial Crisis

9. Centre's fiscal deficit to shoot up to 7.6% in FY21; twice budget target: Report

The **Centre's fiscal deficit is expected to touch 7.6% in 2020-21**, more than double the Budget Estimate as India spends extra to minimise the impact of the pandemic while facing a shortfall in revenues, according to a report by India Ratings and Research. **It has also predicted a GDP contraction of 5.3%.**

At a combined level, the fiscal deficit of the Centre and states together will come at 12.1% with the states contributing 4.5%. States like Assam, Goa, Gujarat and Sikkim are expected to witness a double-digit contraction. India Ratings & Research: Ind – Ra is a credit rating agency. It is a 100% owned subsidiary of the Fitch Group. Chairman: Rohit Karan Sawhney.

10. India's GDP to contract 6.1% in FY21: Nomura

According to the foreign brokerage, Nomura Economic activity continues to remain weak and will lead to a **6.1% contraction in India's GDP** in the current fiscal. June quarter to be the 'nadir' from a growth perspective and the economy to contract by 15.2%. **Nomura HQ: Tokyo, Japan.** CEO: Koji Nagai.

11. GDP to shrink 6% in FY21: DBS report

Citing the yet to be stabilised infection curve & Covid-19 caseload in economically key states Singapore brokerage DBS forecast deeper distress for India which will lead to a **6% growth contraction in FY21**. Earlier it predicted 4.8% for the current fiscal. **Singapore Currency: Singapore Dollar.**

According to the report, just 7% of the districts in economically key states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, accounting for 30.5% of the national economic output, and in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh account for as much as 70% of the caseload.

12. India announces 400-million-dollar currency swap for Sri Lanka

Reserve Bank of India has signed necessary documents for extending a 400-million-dollar currency swap facility with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This currency swap arrangement will **remain available till November 2022**. Sri Lanka Capital-Colombo, Currency- Rupee.

13. SEBI proposes one-time settlement to brokers for bogus trades

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a one-time settlement scheme to hundreds of errant brokers and individuals against whom the regulator had initiated legal proceedings for bogus trades in BSE's stock options segment. **SEBI was given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992.**

National

1. IIT Madras launches world's first online BSc degree in Programming and Data Science

IIT Madras launched an online BSc degree course on Programming & Data Science which is the world's first such programme. The Programming and Data Science course was launched by **HRD Min. Ramesh Pokhriyal**. Data Science is one of the fastest-growing sectors. Anil Sahasrabuddhe, Chairman, AICTE.

2. Indian Railways claims 100% punctuality record for first time in history

Indian Railways claimed it has achieved 100% punctuality rate for the "first time in its history" on July 1. However, it should be noted that 230 trains are running which is less than 2% of the 13,000 trains that normally run on the railway network. Previous best was 99.54% on the 23rd of June.

3. Union HRD Minister and Union Health Minister jointly launch the Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020

Human Resources and Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan jointly launched the **Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020**. It is an online competition and anybody from anywhere in the country or world can participate. First of its kind, it aims to support the drug discovery process

4. Unique Urban Forest inaugurated at the Office of the CAG in New Delhi

Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the **urban forest at the Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) Office Park in New Delhi**. The objective is to reduce high air pollution levels particularly at the ITO Crossing. It has been created in area that is little over 1 acre in size.

5. HRD Minister, Sports Minister to launch 'Fit India Talks' to inspire school children

The government's flagship program Fit India is launching a series of interactive sessions with some of the top sportspersons (Badminton star P V Sindhu and Football skipper Sunil Chhetri) of the country intended to inspire the school children. The talks to be held in presence of union HRD & Sports ministers

6. AIR begins broadcast of its first ever news magazine programme in Sanskrit

All India Radio started the broadcast of its first ever news magazine programme in Sanskrit. The programme titled, **'Sanskrit Saptahiki'** will be of 20 minutes duration. In it under Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, five commonly used words will be translated AIR & Doordarshan function under Prasar Bharati.

Its components will be Sukti, Prasang, Saptahiki, Sanskrit Darshan, Gyan Vigyan, Bal Vallari, Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat and Anvikshiki. Under the Sukti, a quote from Sanskrit literature in the form of a Shloka will be explained. Prasang will tell the story of the week from the field of art, culture, tradition, history and epics like the Ramayana, the Mahabharat, Upnishads, Vedas, etc.

Under Gyan-Vigyan, an interview with a leading light in Sanskrit will be a key element. The Bal Vallyary segment will have poetry or storytelling by children and youngsters in Sanskrit to popularise the language. **Under Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat**, five commonly used words will be translated from Sanskrit to Hindi and another Indian language every week. The closing segment, Anvikshiki will take a look at the major historical event of the week with the focus on India's rich culture and tradition.

7. Delhi LG Anil Baijal inaugurates world's 'largest' COVID care centre

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal inaugurated the 10,000-bed Sardar Patel COVID care centre, the "largest" of its kind in the world, at the Radha Soami Satsang Beas. The centre has been set up in Chhatarpur for treating mild and asymptomatic patients.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police- nodal agency operating it.

The centre is 1,700 feet long, 700 feet wide -- roughly the size of 20 football fields -- and has 200 enclosures with 50 beds each. Authorities say it is the largest of its kind in the world.

8. MeitY-NITI Aayog launches Digital India Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge

Electronics & IT Ministry in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog has launched a Digital India Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge to build a strong ecosystem of Indian app. Govt will adopt suitable apps, list on Govt e-Marketplace. **The Innovation Challenge will have 8 broad categories.**

The challenge will have two tracks: the promotion of existing apps and the development of new apps.

9. Govt approves Rs 574 crore annual plan for national highway works in J&K

Central government has approved an **annual plan worth Rs 574.16 crore for national highway works in Jammu and Kashmir for 2020-21**, including construction of 3.23 km 3 fly-overs in Srinagar on NH-44 (Jammu-Srinagar highway) at Bemina, Sanatnagar & Nowgam. Union Highway Minister: Nitin Gadkari; MoS: Mansukh Mandaviya.

The other works incorporated in the approved annual plan includes expressway, four-laning, construction of 6 km 3rd bypass on NH-444 Shopian bypass with Rs 120 crore, and construction of 13.60 km bypass in Pulwama and Kulgam with Rs 62.98 crore.

10. 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 in the first phase from August to November 2020 in virtual mode. Participants to receive an e-certificate from CBSE & Facebook.

The program will cover teacher training on augmented reality and student training on digital safety and online well-being. CBSE Chairman: Manoj Ahuja. Facebook CEO: Mark Zuckerberg.

11. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel CoVID Hospital (SPCCH) built by DRDO in record time of 12 days becomes operational

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel hospital is a 1000-bedded facility with 250 ICUs. It was built in a record time of 12 days by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with MHA, MoHFW, Armed Force, Tata Sons and other industrial players. SPCCH is roughly the size of 20 football fields.

The hospital consists of a separate reception-cum-patient admission block, medical block with pharmacy and laboratory, duty doctors and nurse's accommodation and four modular patient blocks each consisting of 250 beds. Patient facilities include oxygen supply to each bed, x-ray, ECG, haematological test facilities, ventilators, COVID Test Lab, Wheelchairs, Stretchers and other medical equipment.

12. Indian Railways sets up solar plant in Bina to directly power railway overhead line

Indian Railways has set up a solar power plant in Bina, located in Madhya Pradesh to directly power the Railway Overhead Line. According to **Railway Board Chairman V K Yadav**, for the first time in the world, such a unique power plant has been installed. Union Minister for Railways – Piyush Goyal.

This project is unique because, for the first time in the world, the power generated by the solar power plant will be directly fed to the overhead power lines of the national transporter to power the traction system of the electric locomotives to run trains.

The pilot project of 1.7 MW solar power plant has been set up by Indian Railways **in collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL)** on railway land. The 1.7 MW solar power plant can produce around 25 lakh units of energy annually and save about an amount of Rs 1.37 crore for Indian Railways every year.

13. NHRC forms expert panel to study COVID impact on human rights

The National Human Rights Commission has constituted an 11-member committee to study impact of Covid-19 on human rights and future response of the government. The expert panel would be headed by Dr K S Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation of India. NHRC Chairman – H L Dattu.

The expert committee would assess the impact of Covid-19 on human rights of people, especially marginalised and vulnerable sections of the society, including migrant labourers.

14. PM Modi to unveil Asia's largest solar plant in MP on July 10

PM Narendra Modi will open **Asia's largest 750MW Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Plant in Madhya Pradesh** via video conferencing. It is established in the Rewa district of Vindhya region of Madhya Pradesh. It is one of the largest single-site solar plants in Asia. Noor Complex - World's largest concentrated solar power plant.

The Union Budget for 2020-21 has provided for a budgetary allocation of Rs. 2,516 crores for the solar power sector, including both grid-interactive and off-grid projects.

15. Indian Railways to transform itself as 'Net Zero' Carbon Emission Mass Transportation Network by 2030

The Indian Railways is taking decisive steps to transform itself as a **'Net Zero' Carbon Emission Mass Transportation Network by 2030**. It is endeavouring to be self-reliant for its energy needs by utilising its vacant land for renewable energy projects. This would help in making Railways green as well as Atma-Nirbhar

The Railways Ministry has decided to install solar power plants on its vacant unused lands on mega-scale.

16. World Bank to provide 400 million dollars to enhance support for rejuvenating River Ganga

World Bank to provide \$ 400 mn to enhance support for rejuvenating the Ganga. The Second National Ganga River Basin Project will help stem pollution in the river & strengthen the management of the river basin which is home to more than 500 million people. World Bank Headquarters: Washington, US. President: David Malpas

The 400-million-dollar operation comprises a loan of 381 million dollars and a proposed Guarantee of up to 19 million dollars.

17. MoU Signed between National Medicinal Plants Board and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources

National Medicinal Plants Board and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources have entered into an MoU to conserve the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources (MAPGRs) and acquire hands-on training on plant germplasm conservation techniques. National Medicinal Plants works under Ministry of AYUSH.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR): Headquarters: New Delhi. President: Narendra Singh Tomar. Minister of AYUSH: Shripad Yesso Naik.

18. Finance Commission Holds Meeting with World Bank, NITI Aayog, HLG On Health Sector

The 15th Finance Commission held a meeting with representatives of World Bank, NITI Aayog & member of its High-level Group to discuss the health sector. World Bank recently successfully concluded a 20-year long partnership with Government of India in HIV. **The meeting was chaired by NK Singh.**

For the first time, the Fifteenth Commission will devote an entire chapter on health financing. The World Bank was represented by Dr Junaid Ahmad, Country Director, Mr Muhammad Ali Pate, Global Director, and other senior officials. Dr Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS, Dr VK Paul, Member NITI Aayog, Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO, Ayushman Bharat also took part in the meeting.

19. Cabinet approves Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund'

Cabinet gave approval to Agriculture Infrastructure Fund. It is to provide a medium-long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest

management Infra & community farming assets via interest subvention & financial support. **Total outflow as budgetary support from GoI is Rs10736 crore.**

- Under the scheme, **Rs. One Lakh Crore will be provided** by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Group (SHG), Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Start-ups, Aggregation Infrastructure Providers and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership Project
- Loans will be disbursed in four years starting with the sanction of Rs. 10,000 crores in the current year and Rs. 30,000 crore each in the next three financial years.
- **All loans under this financing facility will have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crores.**
- Moratorium for repayment under this financing facility may vary subject to a **minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years.**
- Agri Infra fund will be managed and monitored through an online Management Information System (MIS) platform. It will enable all the qualified entities to apply for a loan under the fund.
- **The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).**

20. Rajnath Singh e-inaugurates six strategic bridges in Jammu & Kashmir

Rajnath Singh inaugurated six strategic bridges in the border areas close to the International Border and Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir through videoconferencing. This was built in record time by the Project Sampark of Border Road Organisation. Director-General of BRO: Lt Gen Harpal Singh.

The total outlay of the following bridges was Rs 43 crores.• Tarnah – I Bridge (160m)• Tarnah – II Bridge (300 m)• Palwan Bridge (91 m)• Ghodawala Bridge (151m)• Pahadiwala Bridge (61m)• Panyali Bridge (31m)

21. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Facebook host webinar for sensitization of MPs on GOAL project

Ministry of Tribal Affairs hosted a webinar along with Facebook India in New Delhi for sensitization of Members of Parliament from Scheduled Tribe Constituencies on **Going Online As Leaders (GOAL) Project**. Union Minister for Tribal Affairs - Arjun Munda. Minister of State for Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta.

22. T-Hub partners with MeitY, Digital India for hardware start-ups

T-Hub has announced its partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Digital India to provide scale-up opportunities to the start-ups and make them ready in terms of product, investment and new market access. **T-Hub to lead India's ScaleUp program for hardware &IoT start-ups.**

23. NITI Aayog organizes a virtual workshop to monitor performance of 29 select Global Indices

NITI Aayog organized a virtual workshop with 47 Central Ministries/Departments, chaired by Rajiv Gauba in furtherance of the Government's decision to monitor the performance of 29 select Global Indices to drive reforms and growth in the country. NITI Aayog CEO – Amitabh Kant.

24. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launches AI-based ASEEM digital platform

To improve the information flow and bridge the demand-supply gap in the skilled workforce market, the MSDE launched '**Atma-Nirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)**' portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities. Union Minister for Skill Development: Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey.

25. India's 2018 Tiger Census sets a new Guinness World Record

India's 2018 tiger census has entered Guinness Book of World Record for being the largest camera trap wildlife survey, yet. **The fourth edition of the tiger census, in 2018-19** was the 'most comprehensive' to date, in terms of both resource and data amassed. India now has an estimated 2967 tigers as per the latest census.

26. Indian Railways will be the largest Railway in world to have 100 per cent electrification by 2030

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said that Indian Railways will be the largest Railway in the world to have 100% electrification replacing diesel. He expressed hope that it will be the world's first Green Railways running on 100 per cent clean energy by 2030. **Indian Railways is 4th largest rail network in the world by size.**

27. NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission launches app development module for school students

The Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog launched a free online app development course. Named, '**ATL App Development Module**', the online course aims to make mobile application-developers of school students under Atal Tinkering Lab initiative of AIM. It has been jointly developed by AIM and Indian start-up Plezmo.

28. Dr Harsh Vardhan releases White paper on Focused Interventions for Make in India Post COVID 19

Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan released a white paper on Focused Interventions for Make in India: Post COVID 19 and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients: Status, Issues, Technology Readiness and Challenges at a virtual function in New Delhi. TIFAC Chairman: Dr V. K. Saraswat.

A whitepaper is a persuasive, authoritative, in-depth report on a specific topic that presents a problem and provides a solution.

29. NITI Aayog presents India's second Voluntary National Review at UN's High-Level Political Forum

NITI Aayog presented India's second **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020. **HLPF meets annually in July for 8 days** under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council of UN. Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog.

30. Ministry of Tourism presents 41st webinar titled 'NadiVigyan: A complete solution for spinal disorders'

Ministry of Tourism presented a webinar on 'NadiVigyan: A complete solution for spinal disorders' under Dekho Apna Desh webinar series. The origin point of Nadi is called as Kandasthana which is the nabi (navel area) of the human body. Ministry of Tourism, Officeholder: Prahlad Singh Patel.

31. Union HRD Minister virtually releases PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education

Union Human Resource Development minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually released PRAGYATA guidelines on digital education in New Delhi. The closure of schools has impacted over 240 million children of the country who are enrolled in schools. Minister of State for HRD: Sanjay Dhotre.

The PRAGYATA guidelines include eight steps of online/ digital learning that is, Plan- Review- Arrange- Guide- Yak (talk) – Assign- Track- Appreciate.

32. Centre okays Rs 107 Cr for firefighting facilities at Haldia Dock Complex

The Ministry of Shipping approved Rs 107 crore for augmentation of firefighting facilities on five jetties of **Haldia Dock Complex, Kolkata Port**. This is to enable the Haldia Dock Complex in the safe handling of the movement of petrochemical products. Minister of State for Shipping: Mansukh Mandaviya.

The current facility does not ensure the safety in handling the Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and other petroleum products according to the guidelines of the Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

33. PM presents new Mantra of 'skill, reskill and upskill' for youth to remain relevant in changing business environment

PM Modi addressed a virtual conclave on World Youth Skills Day organised by the Ministry of Skill Development. He presented a new mantra for the youth to skill, reskill and upskill to remain relevant in changing business environment & market conditions. Minister of Skill Development: Mahendra Nath Pandey.

34. Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister e-inaugurates NSTI, Extension Centre in Imphal

Minister of Skill Development Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey e-inaugurated a National Skill Training Institute Extension Centre located at the campus of Govt ITI in Imphal on the occasion of the World Youth Skills Day & **5th anniversary of 'Skill India' mission**. Imphal is the capital of Manipur.

35. Anji Khad bridge: Indian Railways' 1st cable-stayed rail bridge

The **country's first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge** – the magnificent **Anji Khad Bridge** to soon connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir. According to the Railways Minister it is being constructed with superior technology and engineering excellence. It is being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited.

The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. The Anji Khad Bridge has a single pylon, standing at a height of 331 metres above the riverbed. The total length of the Anji Khad Bridge is 473.25 metres.

36. CoalMin plans to link mining plan portal with PARIVESH website

Coal ministry plans to link the mining plan portal with PARIVESH website. It is a single-window hub for online submission, monitoring, & management of proposals submitted to Environment Ministry by project proponents to seek various types of clearances. Union Minister of Coal: Pralhad Singh Joshi.

PARIVESH: Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub. It was launched by PM Narendra Modi.

37. Shripad Naik inaugurates Conference on Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies

Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik delivered the inaugural address at the **Fifth Edition of the Conference on Aerospace & Defence Manufacturing Technologies in New Delhi**. Theme of the conference was Empowering India with Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Mission. **Govt aims to achieve \$ 26 bn domestic defence production by 2025.**

According to the Minister of State, the Aerospace and Defence Industry of India is estimated to reach around 70 billion \$ by 2030.

38. Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing inaugurated

Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal addressed the opening session of **Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing** which was held virtually. Under the 2-day event, conferences, trade fair & B2B meetings are being held. Italy Capital-Rome, Currency- Lira.

39. NITI Aayog & USAID Co-chaired Sustainable Growth Pillar Meeting

A joint working group meeting of the Sustainable Growth Pillar was co-chaired by NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog & US Agency for International Development. Meeting on SG Pillar will boost the India-US Strategic Energy Partnership. **India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF)** was also launched.

40. Government Sets Up Single-Window Clearance for Aviation Sector

Civil aviation ministry has set up a single-window Investment Clearance Cell mechanism to expedite various investment proposals in the domestic aviation industry. **The 10-member ICC will be headed by Amber Dubey**, joint secretary in the aviation ministry. Union Civil Aviation Minister: Hardeep Singh Puri

41. Capitals of NE states to be connected to rail network by 2023: Railway Board

Railway Board Chairman VK Yadav has said that all capitals of North-Eastern states will be **connected to rail network by 2023**. Capitals of Assam, Tripura & AP are already connected. In Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland & Meghalaya, the work is in progress. Katra-Banihal rail link project is to be completed by Dec 2022.

42. Govt to start e-campaign on Voluntary Income Tax Compliance

The 11-day campaign by the Income Tax Dept will focus on taxpayers who are either non-filers or have discrepancies in their returns for the FY 2018-19. It aims to facilitate taxpayers to online validate their transaction information available with IT Dept. It also promotes voluntary compliance.

Under this, the IT Department will send emails or text messages to identified taxpayers to verify their financial transactions related information received by the department from various sources such as the statement of **financial transactions (SFT), tax deduction at source (TDS), tax collection at source (TCS)**, foreign remittances.

Central Board of Direct Taxes: CBDT is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963. It is a part of the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance. Chairman: Pramod Chandra Mody.

43. Indian Navy Conducts Drills in The Andaman Nicobar Islands to be Battle-Ready

In a subtle message to China, Indian Navy conducted drill near the Andaman & Nicobar Islands with several warships, destroyers, frigates and submarines taking part in the exercise. This exercise was led by eastern naval fleet Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan. **Admiral Karambir Singh – 24th Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)**.

44. India's first public EV charging plaza inaugurated in New Delhi

Power Minister RK Singh inaugurated **India's first public electric vehicle (EV) charging plaza at Chelmsford Club in New Delhi**. The plaza has been established by EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Ltd) in collaboration with NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council). The plaza to hold five chargers of different specifications.

The minister also launched **RAISE (Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor air quality for Safety and Efficiency)** national programme.

45. HRD Minister to launch Manodarpan initiative to provide psychosocial support to students

Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal will launch the Manodarpan initiative of the HRD Ministry. The initiative under Atma- Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, aims to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health & well-being. Minister of State for HRD: Sanjay Dhotre.

This initiative has been included in the Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, as a part of strengthening human capital and increasing productivity and efficient reform and initiatives for the education sector.

46. Consumer Protection Act, 2019 comes into force; covers e-commerce

The Consumer Protection Act 2019 comes into force replacing Consumer Protection Act 1986, with its salient features including the establishment of the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. Union Minister for Consumer Affairs: Ram Vilas Paswan.

Main Features:

- The CCPA would make interventions to prevent consumer detriment arising from unfair trade practices. The agency can also initiate class action, including enforcing recall, refund and return of products.
- The Bill also envisages a simplified dispute resolution process, has provision for Mediation and e-filing of cases.
- On misleading advertisements there is provision for a jail term and fine for manufacturers. There is no provision for jail for celebrities but they could be banned for endorsing products if it is found to be misleading.
- There is also a provision for class action lawsuit for ensuring that rights of consumers are not infringed upon. The **authority will have the power to impose a penalty on a manufacturer or an endorser of up to 10 lakh rupees** and imprisonment for up to two years for a false or misleading advertisement.
- The Bill also enables regulations to be notified on E-commerce and direct selling with a focus on the protection of interest of consumers.
- e-commerce platforms have to **acknowledge the receipt of any consumer complaint within forty-eight hours** and redress the complaint within one month from the date of receipt under this Act.

The Central Consumer Protection Council Rules are provided for constitution of the Central Consumer Protection Council, an advisory body on consumer issues, headed by the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution with the Minister of State as Vice Chairperson and 34 other members from different fields. The **Council, which has a three-year tenure**, will have Minister-in-charge of consumer affairs from two States from each region- North, South, East, West, and NER.

47. Union Home Minister to launch Vriksharopan Abhiyan

Vriksharopan Abhiyan will be organized by **Ministry of Coal** during which large scale plantation would be carried out in mines, colonies, offices & other suitable areas of Coal/Lignite PSUs & seedlings to be distributed in nearby areas to promote plantation. It is to be launched by Home Minister Amit Shah.

He will also inaugurate and lay the Foundation stone of 6 Eco parks/ Tourism sites. The event will take place through Video Conferencing across more than 130 locations spread in 38 Districts of 10 coal/lignite bearing States. Going Green is the key thrust

area of coal sector involving maximization of green cover through ecological reclamation of mined-out areas and overburden dumps, plantation in and around mines and avenue plantation at suitable places. Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary affairs: Pralhad Joshi.

48. APSEZ Becomes the First Indian Port to sign up for Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi)

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) is one of the few Indian companies to sign up for **Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi)**. APSEZ is the only Port in the country and 7th Port in the world to sign the commitment letter to SBTi. Karan Adani - CEO & Whole Time Director of APSEZ. HQ: Gujarat.

The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) is a collaboration between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The SBTi defines and promotes best practices in science-based target setting and independently assesses companies' targets. Over 800 companies have committed to set science-based emissions reduction targets. APSEZ has also signed commitment as a supporter to the **Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD)**, which develops voluntary, consistent climate-related financial risk disclosures for use by companies in providing information to investors, lenders, insurers, and other stakeholders.

A total of 16 Indian companies are supporting the TCFD out of which two are Adani Group's subsidiaries. The **Adani group has also set a goal to become the world's largest solar power company by 2025** and the world's largest renewable power company by 2030, through achieving an installed generation capacity of 25 GW of renewable power by 2025 which in turn will see a total investment of \$15 billion in the renewable energy space over the next 5 years.

49. DRDO establishes COVID-19 testing facility at Leh

DRDO established a COVID-19 testing facility at the Leh based laboratory Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research, DIHAR to enhance the rate of testing to identify Corona cases in Ladakh. The facility meets the safety standards and guidelines of ICMR. It was inaugurated by **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: RK Mathur**.

The testing facility 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.

50. India to have 60% renewable energy by 2030: Power Minister

According to the Union Minister of Power & Renewable Energy R K Singh, India will have around **60% of its installed electricity generation capacity from clean sources by 2030**. The renewable energy capacity would touch 510 GW including 60 GW of hydropower. Secretary of MNRE: Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi.

India's clean energy capacity including under development projects and hydroelectric power is around 190 GW, which is more than the **targeted 175 GW by 2022**. The

claim was made by the minister while participating in a webinar organised by The Energy Resource Institute (TERI).

He launched two reports:

1. Renewable Power Pathways: Modelling the Integration of Wind and Solar in India by 2030.
2. Bending the Curve: 2025 Forecasts for Electricity Demand by Sector and State in the Light of the COVID Epidemic. The two reports have been prepared by **Energy Transitions Commission (ETC) India**, which is a research platform based at the TERI headquarters in New Delhi.

51. HRD Ministry conducts first ever Ind-SAT Test 2020 under its Study in India programme

HRD conducted the **first-ever Indian Scholastic Assessment Test 2020** under Study in India programme. It was conducted in proctored Internet mode by National Testing Agency & designed to gauge the scholastic capability of students applying to study in India. IND-SAT was held in 12 countries on a pilot basis this year.

Around five thousand students from Nepal, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Sri-Lanka, Kenya, Zambia, Indonesia and Mauritius took Ind-SAT 2020. EdCIL (India) Limited, a PSU under MHRD and the implementing agency of SII handled the registrations and other aspects of the examination.

52. Largest solar power plant of Navy commissioned in Kerala

The Indian Navy's largest solar power plant has been commissioned at Ezhimala in Kannur, Kerala. The project was executed by **Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (KELTRON)**. The solar plant has an estimated life of 25 years. 24th Navy Chief - Admiral Karambir Singh.

All components have been indigenously developed, including 9180 highly efficient monocrystalline solar panels employing the latest technology.

The solar power plant project will help Naval Station Ezhimala reduce the carbon footprint and is one of the many initiatives undertaken by INA towards a clean and green environment.

Surplus power generated to also feed the KSEB electricity grid. 2 MW at Maharashtra Naval Station: Another 2 MW solar power plant was inaugurated at Naval Station Karanja in Uran city of Maharashtra, in early July.

53. Rs 8,767 Crore approved so far under SWAMIH for 81 stressed projects

Fin Min Nirmala Sitharaman informed that under the Special Window for **Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Investment Fund** Rs 8,767 crore for 81 stressed residential projects has been approved so far. It will enable the completion of 60,000 homes. Of these, 18 projects were given final clearance.

Additionally, the fund is actively evaluating options to provide relief to about 15,000 home buyers in certain long-stalled projects which are pending before the Supreme Court for resolution.

The recent initiative by the fund **to reduce the cost of capital to 12%** has resulted in an increase in the number of projects that meet the funding criteria laid out under the Special Window.

SWAMIH FUND: In November 2019, the Finance Minister had cleared a proposal to set up a 'Special Window' called SWAMIH in to provide priority debt financing for the completion of stalled housing projects. SWAMIH Investment Fund has been formed to complete the construction of stalled, brownfield, RERA registered residential developments that are in the affordable housing / mid-income category. The sponsor of the Fund is Secretary, DEA, Ministry of Finance. The fund is set up as a **Category-II AIF (Alternate Investment Fund) debt fund registered with SEBI.**

54. Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) allows exemption of Rs 220 cr to Tata Education & Development Trust

The ITAT bench consisting of Justices P. P. Bhatt, President, ITAT ruled in favour of the trust in their appeal against Commissioner of Income Tax appeal order wherein a demand of more than Rs 220 crore was levied by the Income Tax Department. ITAT, Founded: 25 January 1941.

55. India's first NABL-accredited honey testing lab inaugurated

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated India's first honey testing lab set up by **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) at Anand.** The new lab will test honey as per the norms specified by the food safety regulator FSSAI. National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Lab (NABL).

56. Arjun Munda inaugurates e-Symposium "Emergent North-East India: Strategic and Developmental Imperatives in Handicrafts"

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs inaugurated an e-Symposium on Handicrafts titled "Emergent North-East India: Strategic and Developmental Imperatives in Handicrafts" organized by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis, IIM Shillong. Arjun Munda, Constituency:- Khunti, Jharkhand.

57. World's first electrified rail tunnel fit to run double-stack containers to be operational in 12 months

The world's first electrified rail tunnel fit to run double-stack containers will be operational in the **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor** in the next 12 months. A double-stack container goods train will be able to run at a speed of more than 100 km. The tunnel passes through the Aravalli in Haryana.

The tunnel connects the **Mewat and Gurugram district of Haryana** and negotiates a steep gradient on the uphill and downhill slope of the Aravalli range. The D-shaped tunnel has a cross-sectional area of 150 square metres to accommodate double line with higher OHE (Over Head Equipment) to enable double-stack container movement on WDFC.

Cross-sectional area-wise, it is one of the biggest Railway tunnels in India. One end of the tunnel is near Rewari while the other end of the tunnel is at Dadri. The Dimension

of the tunnel is 14.5 meters and 10.5 metres height in straight portion and 15 metres wide and 12.5-metre height to provide extra clearance while negotiating the curve.

58. Govt Releases Guidelines for Schemes to Boost Domestic Manufacturing Of Bulk Drugs, Med Devices

The government released guidelines of four schemes for the development of bulk drug and medical device parks across the country to promote their domestic manufacturing. The idea is also to cement India's position as a global drug supplier. Pharma sector currently valued at around USD 40 billion.

The schemes—a **production-linked incentive (PLI)** scheme and industry park scheme each for bulk drugs and medical devices—seek to make India self-reliant in pharmaceuticals raw materials such as drug intermediates, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and key starting materials (KSMs), and medical devices.

59. Cabinet Approves New National Education Policy, HRD Ministry Renamed as Education Ministry

A panel led by former **Indian Space Research Organisation chief K Kasturirangan** had submitted the draft of the new NEP to Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'. The existing NEP was framed in 1986 and revised in 1992. National Assessment Centre- 'PARAKH' has been created.

The NEP approved by the union cabinet makes sweeping reforms in school and higher education including teaching. Some of the biggest highlights of the NEP 2020 are:

- 1) a single regulator for higher education institutions
- 2) multiple entries and exit options in degree courses
- 3) discontinuation of MPhil programmes
- 4) low stakes board exams
- 5) common entrance exams for universities. **SCHOOLING STARTS AT THE AGE OF 3 YEARS NOW: The New Education Policy expands the age group 6-14 years of mandatory schooling to 3-18 years of schooling.**

The NEP introduces hitherto uncovered three years of pre-schooling, age group of 3-6 years under the school curriculum. The new system will have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre-schooling.

With an emphasis on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), the 10+2 structure of school curriculum is to be replaced by a **5+3+3+4 curricular structure** corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively. **MOTHER TONGUE AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION:** The NEP puts focus on students' mother tongue as the medium of instruction even as it sticks to the 'three language formula' but also mandates that no language would be imposed on anyone. The NEP only recommends the mother tongue as medium of instruction, and not make it compulsory.

NO UGC, AICTE, NCTE: Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding

medical and legal education. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.

Govt will phase out the affiliation of colleges in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges. SCIENCE, ARTS, COMMERCE: Under NEP 2020, there will be no rigid separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams. Students can select subjects of their liking across the streams. Vocational education will start in schools from the 6th grade and will include internships.

FYUP PROGRAMME RETURNS & NO MORE DROPOUTS: Under the NEP, an **undergraduate degree will be of either 3 or 4-year duration** with multiple exit options within this period. College will be mandated to give certificate after completing 1 year in a discipline or field including vocational and professional areas, a diploma after 2 years of study, or a bachelor's degree after a 3-year programme.

Govt will also establish an Academic Bank of Credit for digitally storing academic credits earned from different HEIs so that these can be transferred and counted towards final degree earned.

60. Deadline for Mandatory Hallmarking Of Gold Jewellery Extended Till June 1 Next Year

The government has extended the deadline for mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts by over four months till June 1, 2021, Gold hallmarking is a purity certification of the precious metal and is voluntary in nature at present. Consumer Affairs Minister-Ram Vilas Paswan.

61. MoD with MyGov conducts quiz competition on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat – Swatantra Bharat

An online quiz competition on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat - Swatantra Bharat' is being conducted by Ministry of Defence in coordination with MyGov till 10th August in order to create a patriotic feeling among youth and masses. The first prize will be a sum of 25 thousand rupees.

62. Pawan Hans's first UDAN-RCS service launched in Uttarakhand

This service will enable connectivity between Dehradun, New Tehri, Srinagar & Gauchar. Commencement of the New Delhi services will enhance the aerial connectivity between hilly regions in Uttarakhand and bring down the average travel time to 20-25 minutes. Hardeep Singh Puri, MoS, I/C, Civil Aviation.

274 UDAN routes have been operationalized so far connecting 45 airports and 3 heliports since the launch of the first UDAN flight in April 2017 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** is provided to both operators and passengers under the UDAN scheme to keep the fares affordable for the common people.

63. FACT Ltd. starts movement of fertilizers through Coastal shipping

Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, a PSU under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has started using Coastal Shipping as a new mode of transport for the movement of fertilizers to East and the West Coast of the country. Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers D V Sadananda Gowda.

64. In a first, Railways uses NTC machine for track construction

NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar & Railway Board chairman inspected the Khurja-Dadri section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor, which is among the 1st tracks in India where the **New Track Construction (NTC) machine** is being used. Vinod Kumar Yadav, Railway Board chairman.

65. Centre launches pilot project to reduce emissions from agriculture

The Union government launched the **Green-Ag Project in Mizoram**, to reduce emissions from agriculture and ensure sustainable agricultural practices. Other states where the project will be implemented **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Uttarakhand**. The Green-Ag Project funded by the Global Environment Facility.



The advertisement features the book cover for 'English Simplified' by Oliveboard. The cover is white with a yellow and orange design. It lists various topics covered: CLOZETESTS, PREPOSITIONS, WORDS & IDIOMS, ERROR SPOTTING, NOUN, MODIFIERS, FILLERS, TENSES, READING COMPREHENSION, VERB, SENTENCE JOINING, CONJUNCTION, ADJECTIVE, GERUND, WORD USAGE, SYNTHESIS, PARA JUMBLES, PRONOUN, and ANTONYM. A cartoon woman is shown reading a book. The text 'SPECIAL EDITION' is at the bottom. Below the book cover, the text 'ENGLISH SIMPLIFIED' is written in large, bold letters, followed by 'SPECIAL EDITION' in a red banner. The price is shown as 'PRICE: ₹595' with a red line through it, and '₹395' in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'GRAB YOUR COPY TODAY' and 'AVAILABLE ON amazon' with the Amazon logo.

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International

1. NAFTA 2.0 comes into effect from 1st July 2020

A new free trade agreement between the **United States, Mexico, and Canada** comes into effect from 1st July 2020 onwards. It replaced the earlier 26 years old free trade agreement between the three countries- **North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**. The new agreement was signed in November 2018.

All three signatories of the new trade agreement have referred it by different names, United States called it USMCA- the United States Mexico Canada Agreement, while the Canadian Government has referred to as CUSMA, in Mexico by T-MEC.

2. Russian President Vladimir Putin records resounding victory in presidential polls

President Vladimir Putin has won a resounding victory in his bid to stay in power until the middle of the next decade- 2036, as Russians voted overwhelmingly to endorse the country's political status quo, according to preliminary results. Russia Capital- Moscow, Currency- Rouble.

Russians went to the polls to cast ballots in a nationwide referendum on Constitutional Amendments. The early results are reminiscent of the 2018 Presidential Election, when Putin won re-election in a landslide with three quarters of ballots cast.

3. WTO sets up dispute panel on India's ICT tariffs based on EU's complaint

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has agreed to a second request from the European Union for the establishment of a dispute settlement panel to rule on India's import tariffs on certain information and communication technology (ICT) goods. **WTO HQ- Geneva, Switzerland**, Director-General: Roberto Azevedo.

The EU's first request was blocked at the last DSB meeting on 5 March. The EU reiterated that India had taken the commitment not to apply import duties on the ICT products in question but that for several years India has adopted measures to reinforce and regularly increase import duties on those products, up to 20 per cent. The EU said the value of its annual exports of concerned goods to India amounts to around EUR 400 million. Chinese Taipei, Japan, the United States, Canada, Turkey, Korea, China, Brazil, Indonesia, Norway, Singapore, Thailand, Russia and Pakistan reserved their third-party rights to participate in the proceedings.

4. Uganda, First African Country to Submit Results of REDD+ to UNFCCC

Uganda has become the 1st African country to submit results for Reducing emissions from deforestation & forest degradation to UNFCCC. REDD+ is a mechanism developed by the parties to the UNFCCC to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. **UNFCC Headquarters- Bonn, Germany**.

The REDD+ strategy included developing plans and options for forest management to reduce carbon emissions and maintain valuable ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water supply, soil protection and wealth creation for sustainable livelihoods.

The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations collaborative initiative on **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD)** in developing countries. The Programme was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). **The world's first REDD+ Academy was launched in Indonesia.**

5. Germany to become first major economy to phase out coal, nuclear power

Germany has decided to phase-out of coal as an energy source. Bills approved by both houses of parliament envision shutting down the last coal-fired power plant by 2038 & spend 40 bn euros for transition. It also commits phase out nuclear power by 2022
German Chancellor: Angela Merkel; Capital Berlin.

The plan is part of Germany's 'energy transition' - an effort to wean Europe's biggest economy off planet-warming fossil fuels and generate all of the country's considerable energy needs from renewable sources. **Germany is the first industrialized country that leaves behind both nuclear energy and coal.**

6. Over \$1.2 Trillion Could be Lost By Global Tourism Sector Due to COVID-19: UNCTAD

The UN's Trade and development body warned that the loss could rise to \$ 2.2 trillion or 2.8% of the world's GDP if the break-in international tourism lasts for eight months, in line with the expected decline in tourism as projected by the UNWTO. UNCTAD 7th and current Secretary-General: Mukhisa Kituyi.

UNCTAD estimates losses in the most pessimistic scenario, a 12-month break in international tourism, at 3.3 trillion dollars or 4.2 per cent of global GDP. Travel and tourism account for a significant share of global GDP and more than half of many countries' national income.

UNCTAD, therefore, estimates that for every 1 million dollars lost in international tourism revenue, a country's national income could decline by 2 million to 3 million dollars. About UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the part of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. **Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.**

7. Israel launches reconnaissance satellite

Israel launched the latest in a series of reconnaissance satellites on the Shavit rocket. Israel Aerospace Industries announced the successful launch of the **Ofek 16 satellite**. It is an electro-optical reconnaissance satellite "with advanced capabilities. Israel Capital: Jerusalem. Currency: Shekel.

The satellite is the latest in a series of Israeli optical and radar reconnaissance satellites, built and launched in the country, dating back a quarter-century. Previous versions of the Ofek satellite are believed to produce imagery at a resolution of half a meter or better.

8. Google Cloud, Deutsche Bank Agree on Multi-Year Strategic Partnership

Deutsche Bank agreed a strategic, multi-year partnership with Google to give it access to cloud services and drive innovation in tech-based financial products for clients. It focuses on redefining how the bank develops and offers its financial services. Google CEO: Sundar Pichai. HQ: California, USA.

Deutsche Bank Headquarters: Frankfurt, Germany. CEO: Christian Sewing.

9. US formally notifies UN of decision to withdraw from WHO

USA formally notified UN of its decision to withdraw the US from the WHO, breaking off ties with the global health body amidst the raging coronavirus pandemic. The US is the single largest contributor to the WHO, providing over USD 450 million per annum. China's contribution is about USD 40 million, One-tenth of US.

World Health Organisation: Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland. Director General: Tedros Adhanom.

10. Maldives, Sri Lanka eliminate measles & rubella ahead of 2023 target

Sri Lanka & Maldives became the first two countries in the World Health Organisation's South-East Asia region to eliminate measles & rubella **ahead of 2023 target**. Since 2017, nearly 500 million children in the region have been vaccinated for the diseases. Bhutan, East Timor & North Korea succeeded in eliminating measles.

Last September, the 11 countries in WHO's South-East Asia region set 2023 as a target for the elimination of measles and rubella. The countries in the WHO region are Bangladesh, Bhutan, East Timor, India, Indonesia, Maldives. World Health Organisation: Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland. President: Tedros Adhanom. Sri Lanka: Capital: Colombo. Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee. Maldives: Capital: Male. Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa. Myanmar, North Korea, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

11. PM Narendra Modi to deliver inaugural address at India Global Week 2020

The India Global Week 2020 is a 3-day virtual conference, being held from July 9 to July 11, **themed 'Be The Revival: India and a Better New World'** will have 5000 global participants from 30 nations being addressed by 250 global speakers across 75 sessions. **It is being organised in the United Kingdom.**

Apart from the talks on the India-UK bilateral ties, there are a series of country-specific sessions to cover India's ties with countries such as the US, Australia, Singapore and Japan.

12. Global economy to contract by 5.2 per cent in 2020

The global economy is likely to contract by 5.2% in 2020 with the coronavirus still spreading and the economic prospects of countries looking muted, according to **Dun and Bradstreet's Country Risk and Global Outlook Report**, that covered 132 countries. It is the biggest decline since the Second World War.

According to the report, the global economy will not reach pre-pandemic levels of activity again before 2022. It is also a stronger contraction than the 1.7 per cent

recorded in 2009 during the global financial crisis. Dun & Bradstreet (D&B): - A company that provides commercial data, analytics, and insights for businesses.

Headquarters: New Jersey, United States.

13. WHO sets up panel to review handling of COVID-19 pandemic

The World Health Organisation has set up an independent panel to review its handling of COVID-19 and the response by various governments. Former New Zealand Prime Minister **Helen Clark** and former Liberian President **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to head the panel.** WHO Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

14. Mastercard to invest Rs 250 crore to help Indian SMEs amid COVID-19 crisis

Global leader in payment technology Mastercard announced an additional Rs 250-crore investment to help small businesses in the country, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It is focussed on helping the small businesses go digital and support women entrepreneurs. Mastercard CEO: Ajay Singh Banga.

15. US Navy welcomes first Black female Tactical Aircraft pilot

The US Navy welcomed its first Black female Tactical Aircraft pilot. **Madeline-Swegle** had completed naval flight school and would later this month receive the flight officer insignia known as the "**Wings of the Gold**". Swegle is the Navy's first known Black female TACAIR pilot.

16. First launch of China's Kuaizhou-11 carrier rocket fails

China's Kuaizhou-11 carrier rocket suffered a failure during its maiden flight. The rocket was launched from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China**, but a malfunction occurred during the flight, according to Chinese news agency Xinhua. Kuai Zhou is a low-cost solid-fuelled carrier rocket.

The rocket was designed to launch low-Earth and Sun-synchronous orbit satellites.

17. PM Lee Hsien Loong returns to power in Singapore

Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong secured a clear mandate with his ruling People's Action Party (PAP) winning 83 of the 93 contested parliamentary seats in the general election held amidst pandemic with the Opposition gaining ground by winning a record 10 seats Singapore Currency: Singapore Dollar.

18. Poland's incumbent Andrzej Duda narrowly wins presidential vote

Andrzej Duda, Poland's conservative, populist incumbent, has narrowly won the presidential election. Duda, who is backed by the ruling right-wing Law and Justice party (PiS), won 51.21 percent of the vote, liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, got 48.79%. **Poland Capital- Warsaw, Currency- Zloty.**

It is Poland's slimmest presidential election victory since the end of communism in 1989. One of the major issues of the election was the future of the country's strained relations with the European Union.

19. France, US establish 'air bubbles' for flights to India

Air France & United Airlines will operate a limited number of international flights under 'air bubble' arrangements with India. **Air bubble- travel corridor between 2 countries that wish to reopen their borders & re-establish connections with each other.** Negotiations are underway with Germany & UK for air bubbles.

International flights to and from India have been suspended since March 23 as the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic spread across the world. Civil aviation minister- Hardeep Puri.

20. PM Narendra Modi delivers keynote address at High-Level Segment of ECOSOC

PM Modi delivered a keynote address virtually at this year's High-Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. This was the first address by PM to the broader UN membership since India's election as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. Head of UNECOSOC: Mona Juul. **Headquarters: New York, USA.**

The theme of the High-Level Segment of the ECOSOC this year is **"Multilateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary"**.

21. UAE successfully launches its first spacecraft bound for Mars

United Arab Emirates launched its first-ever interplanetary Hope Probe mission to Mars from Japan's Tanegashima Space Centre. The spacecraft is expected to reach Mars orbit in about 200 days from now and then begin its mission to study Mars's atmosphere. UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi. Currency: Dirham.

Once it enters Mars' orbit in the first quarter of 2021, the **Hope probe will mark the UAE's 50th anniversary.** The Hope probe will be the first to study the Martian climate throughout daily and seasonal cycles. It will observe the weather phenomena on Mars such as the massive famous dust storms that have been known to engulf the planet, as compared to the short and localised dust storms on Earth.

It will also examine the interaction between the upper and lower layers of the Martian atmosphere and causes of the Red Planet's surface corrosion, as well as study why Mars is losing its upper atmosphere. The **UAE will be the first Arab nation to embark on a space mission to the Red Planet** in a journey that contributes to the international science community as a service to human knowledge. The interplanetary mission is the first by any West Asian, Arab or Muslim majority country. UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

22. Russia Successfully Holds Flight Test Of 3D-Printed Aircraft Engine

Russia has for the first time conducted a successful flight test of the MGTD-20 gas turbine engine made by a 3D-printed aircraft engine, and its production is scheduled for 2021-2022. The flight tests were held at Kazanbakh aviation centre in Tatarstan. **Vladimir Putin is the fourth president of Russia.**

23. Turkmenistan gets observer status in World Trade Organization

Turkmenistan has been granted Observer status by the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council, WTO's highest-level decision-making body. Turkmenistan has become the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the trade body.

World Trade Organisation HQ: Geneva, Switzerland.

Turkmenistan: It is a country in Central Asia bordered by the Caspian Sea and largely covered by the Karakum Desert. Capital: Ashgabat. Currency: Turkmenistan Manat. President: Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

24. First-ever container cargo from Kolkata via Bangladesh port reaches Agartala: MEA

The first-ever container cargo from Kolkata via **Bangladesh's Chattogram port** has reached Agartala. This movement was carried out under an agreement on the use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports for movement of India's transit cargo through Bangladesh. Union Minister of State for Shipping: Mansukh Mandaviya.

This development is in line with the vision that the two countries have towards further strengthening bilateral connectivity and a mutually beneficial partnership aimed at benefiting people on both sides. The Port of Chittagong is the busiest seaport on the coastline of the Bay of Bengal and the second busiest in the overall region of countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal. It is located in Bangladesh. **The Port of Mongla is the second busiest seaport of Bangladesh.**

25. Nicaragua latest country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement

Nicaragua became the latest country to join the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement an initiative, led by India to promote sustainable energy. The Central American country is the **87th country to sign the agreement**. Nicaragua Capital: Managua. Nicaragua President: Daniel Ortega. Currency: Córdoba.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. **The initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi** at the India Africa Summit and a meeting of member countries ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in November 2015. Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India. Director-General: Upendra Tripathy.

26. WHO launches Covid-19 Law Lab to aggregate legal info from over 190 countries

The World Health Organisation launched its Covid-19 Law Lab to gather and share pandemic-related legal documents from over 190 countries across the world. It is meant to help countries establish & implement strong legal frameworks to manage the pandemic. **Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus - WHO Director-General.**

It is a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

The Covid-19 Law Lab is essentially a database that aggregates documents related to laws implemented by countries in response to the pandemic. The law lab will also include research on such legal frameworks, along with its implications, with a focus on the human rights impact of public health laws. This is meant to further aid socio-economic recovery in post-pandemic times.

27. Somalia's Deputy PM Says Appointed as Acting Prime Minister

Somalia's Deputy Prime Minister Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid has announced his appointment as the interim prime minister following the vote of no confidence against the previous head of government, Hassan Ali Khairi. Somalia is bordered by Ethiopia to the west.

Somalia Capital: Mogadishu. Currencies: United States Dollar, Somali shilling.

28. NASA launches new Perseverance rover to search for signs of past Martian life

NASA's next-generation **Mars rover Perseverance** blasted off from Florida's Cape Canaveral atop an Atlas 5 rocket on a \$2.4 billion mission to search for traces of potential past life on Earth's planetary neighbour. Its arrival at Mars is planned for Feb. 18. NASA Administrator, Jim Bridgestone.



The advertisement features the book cover for 'English Simplified' by Oliveboard. The cover is white with a yellow and blue design. It lists various grammar topics like Cloze tests, Prepositions, Error Spotting, Words & Idioms, Modifiers, Fillers, Reading Comprehension, Verb, Sentence Joining, Conjunction, Adjective, and Pronoun. A cartoon girl is shown reading a book. The text on the cover includes 'A Complete Guide to English Language for Banking, Insurance & Other Competitive Exams' and 'SPECIAL EDITION'.

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State

1. Second Cabinet Expansion of Madhya Pradesh Cabinet to take place

In Madhya Pradesh, the second expansion of the State Cabinet will take place on 2nd July. The oath taking ceremony will be held at Raj Bhavan. About two dozen Ministers along with many new faces will be administered the oath in this expansion. MP CM- Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Governor- Anandiben Patel.

The first expansion of the Cabinet took place on 21st of April when five Ministers were inducted into the Cabinet.

2. Kerala Government announces, 'Dream Kerala' Project to help expats who lost jobs due to coronavirus

The Kerala government decided to roll out a '**Dream Kerala Project**' to tap the potential and experience of those returning from abroad and other states after losing their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Kerala Chief Minister- Pinarayi Vijayan. In 2018, NRI remittances were Rs 85,000 crore in the state.

It is expected a total of around 52% of the NRI's will return to the state after losing their jobs. Importance of NRI remittance in Kerala is much more than any other state. The Lok Kerala Sabha was established with the objective of harnessing the knowledge and skills of the NRIs for the development of Kerala. The expert committee will evaluate the proposals and recommend this to the respective departments.

3. Government declares entire Nagaland 'disturbed area' for 6 more months

The Centre declared the entire Nagaland as 'disturbed area' for a further period of six months till December-end with effect from 30th of June, 2020 in exercise of the powers conferred by **Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958**. Nagaland Capital- Kohima, Chief Minister- Neiphiu Rio.

A framework agreement was signed on August 3, 2015, by Naga insurgent group National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah) General Secretary Thuingaleng Muivah and government interlocutor R.N. Ravi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The AFSPA gives the armed forces sweeping powers to search and arrest, and to open fire if they deem it necessary for "the maintenance of public order".

4. Tamil Nadu announces monthly Rs 3,000 stipend for lawyers to overcome financial difficulties

Tamil Nadu government announced a monthly stipend of 3,000 rupees to junior lawyers for two years to help them overcome financial difficulties under the Advocates Welfare Scheme. The stipend has been a longstanding demand of the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu. Aims to prevent young advocates from migrating to other jobs.

5. Karnataka govt launches portal to connect job seekers and employers

Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa launched '**Skill Connect Forum**', a portal that connects job seekers with employers on a common platform. The portal provides

information on available jobs. An unemployed person will be imparted a skill & then enabled to get a job. It is also trying to introduce amendments to key labour laws.

6. Goa govt allots land to MSME consortium to set up India's first Maritime Cluster

Goa govt allotted land to the **consortium of 49 Goan MSME units** for setting up Goa Maritime Cluster to create facilities for shipbuilding. The project, which is first Maritime Cluster of India, is supported by shipping ministry, DG of Shipping, and MSMEs. CMD of the project – Suraj Dialani.

7. MP: Yellow dustbins for only corona residual in Indore

In Madhya Pradesh to prevent corona infection, Indore Municipal Corporation is placing Yellow colour dustbins at all major places in the city. It is the third dustbin apart from blue & green colours dustbins & being placed for only corona infected material. It is seen as a good scheme for public health.

8. Odisha Govt Launches 'Balaram Yojana' To Provide Agricultural Loan To Landless Farmers

As an initiative to support Farmers during post lockdown period, **Odisha Govt launched 'Balaram Yojana'** to provide agricultural loan to landless farmers across the State. Under this, the landless cultivators will get loans through Joint Liability Groups. It aims to support 7 lakh farmers in the next two years.

The government has set aside Rs 1040 crore for this purpose. Chief Secretary of Odisha: Asit Kumar Tripathi.

9. Delhi Govt. launches e-portal for schoolchildren

Education Minister Manish Sisodia launched an e-learning portal - **LEAD (Learning through E-Resources Made Accessible for Delhi)** developed by the Delhi government that contains 10,000 instructional materials and course content for Classes I to XII. Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Bajjal.

The portals will give students access to textbooks, study material and course content as per the syllabus of the CBSE, NCERT and Delhi government's curriculum online. It will include digital QR coded textbooks, explanatory videos, practice questions and evaluation.

10. UT Ladakh Admn launches Ladakh Food Security Scheme

The Administration of UT of Ladakh launched the **Ladakh Food Security Scheme (LFSS)**, with effect from July 1. Under this scheme, the rationees shall be provided 5kg of food grains per person. Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh – R K Mathur.

The introduction of the scheme will benefit 6,101 beneficiary families under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, in addition to 43,916 families covered under the MMSFES.

11. MP: 'Intzaar Aap Ka' campaign started in order to attract tourists

Madhya Pradesh in order to attract tourists to the tourist places of the state '**Intzaar Aap Ka (waiting for you) campaign**' has started on social media platforms. It is

inviting tourists for safe outing at various religious, natural & archaeological sites. MP Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

At the same time, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation has started food home delivery services in the capital Bhopal, Gwalior and Jabalpur of the state. Food App for these Services has also been launched.

12. Karnataka launches Weavers' Sammaan Yojana

Karnataka CM B. S. Yeddyurappa **launched Weavers Sammaan Yojana**. Under this scheme, 19,744 handloom weavers in the state will get annual financial assistance of Rs 2,000 through Direct Benefit Transfer. The govt has allocated 10.96 crore Rs for this. Around 40,634 weavers registered with Seva Sindhu software.

Out of 1.25 Lakh workers in this sector, one-time financial assistance of two thousand rupees is approved for 8,897 workers.

13. CM Swavalamban Yojana becomes integral part of life of educated unemployed in Himachal Pradesh

In Himachal Pradesh, **CM Swavalamban Yojana** has become an integral part of the life of educated unemployed youth. Under this scheme, the number of youth going out of the state in search of jobs has come down as they are moving towards self-employment. 65 industrial units were set up in a district under this.

A loan of Rs 25 crore 46 lakh, as well as a subsidy of Rs 3 core 59 lakh, was provided through various banks to establish small industries in the district. Instead of opting for government and private sector jobs, the educated unemployed youth of the state are adopting Swavalamban Yojana as self-employment and giving priority to setting up industry near their homes.

14. CM Uddhav Thackeray launches Maha Jobs portal to make employment opportunities in the state

With rising unemployment and layoffs as the state continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray launched Maha Jobs Portal, run by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) to generate employment. Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari.

The portal is a joint venture between the Department of Industries, Department of Labour, and Skill Development-Entrepreneurship of the Government of Maharashtra.

15. New administrative building of IARI Jharkhand named after Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the newly constructed guest house of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Jharkhand, named it after **Late Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee** on his birth anniversary. He said that govt is committed to double farmers' income by '22.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR): Director General of ICAR: - Dr. Trilochan Mahapatra. Headquarters: New Delhi. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare: Ministers of State: Purushottam Rupala and Kailash Choudhary.

16. Haryana clears way for ordinance mandating 75% pvt jobs to locals

Haryana Cabinet cleared a proposal to draft an ordinance, '**The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Ordinance, 2020**', for reserving 75% private-sector jobs for its residents. Reservation to be given for jobs having a **salary less than ₹50,000/month**. Haryana Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.

17. Assam's Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary to get national park status

Assam government decided to upgrade the **Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary** into a national park amid an ongoing row over allowing coal mining within its jurisdiction. Assam has five national parks and Dehing Patkai, if upgraded, will increase the tally to 6. It is said to be largest lowland tropical rainforest in India.

Besides elephants, leopards, hoolock gibbons, pangolins and bears, Dehing Patkai is also home to over 200 species of birds, various reptiles and many species of butterflies and orchids. In a Wildlife Sanctuary, the restrictions are less and it is open to public. National Parks are restricted and are not accessible to random people without permission. No human activity is allowed in a National Park. Assam: Chief Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal, Governor: Prof. Jagdish Mukhi.

18. BSIP joins hands with Govt of UP to combat COVID 19 in the state

Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), joined hands with the Government of Uttar Pradesh to combat COVID-19 in the state. Director of BSIP - Dr Vandana Prasad. BSIP - one of 5 Central Government Research Institutes, Lucknow.

The availability of the ancient DNA BSL-2A laboratory in the Institute itself made it possible to prepare for testing immediately.

19. U.P Chief Minister Inaugurates 'Mission Vriksharopan-2020'

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated '**Mission Vriksharopan-2020**' in Kukarel forest in Lucknow. Under this programme, more than 25 crore saplings will be planted across the state. Geo-tagging of all plantation sites is also to be done. Uttar Pradesh Governor: Anadiben Patel.

Medicinal, fruit yielding, environmental, shady, fodder, and other important plants of more than 201 species were planted in a day through extensive public participation and interdepartmental coordination.

20. Himachal first state with LPG gas connections in 100% households

According to the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, the state has become the first state in the country where 100 per cent of households have LPG connections. Schemes like Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana and the PM Ujjwala Yojana helped achieve this feat. Around 2,76,243 families were provided free gas connections.

21. Asia's Largest Data Centre With 210MW Overall Capacity Inaugurated Near Mumbai

Maharashtra CM e-inaugurated **Asia's largest certified tier IV data centre** near Mumbai. The Yotta NM1 data centre building, is the largest of its kind in India, as well

as the **second largest in the world**. The private facility is owned by Hiranandani Group. It is aimed at catering for engineering & real estate businesses

Yotta NM1 itself offers a highly scalable data centre infrastructure, capable of hosting global cloud, content and OTT operators, besides mission-critical applications of enterprises and governments.

22. Manipur Chief Minister inaugurates five Water Supply projects

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated five Water Supply projects, one office building of Weight and Measures Department and Rapid Antigen Detection Testing Centre through video conferencing. It was constructed at a cost of Rs 48.39 crores. It has a total capacity of more than 26.15 million litres/day.

Manipur Governor: Najma Heptulla.

23. Rajasthan launches campaign to ensure purity of milk, dairy products

According to state health minister Raghu Sharma, a week-long campaign has been launched in **Rajasthan** to ensure purity of milk and its products. Samples of milk and dairy products will be collected under the campaign "**Pure for Sure**" from July 8-July 14. Rajasthan Governor: Kalraj Mishra.

24. Tamil Nadu tops market borrowings among States so far, in 2020-21

Tamil Nadu has raised ₹30,500 crores in the fiscal 2020-21 and topped market borrowings among States in India. **Tamil Nadu has accounted for 17% of the borrowings** done through the issue of bonds, known as state development loans, according to data from RBI. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister: Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

With borrowings of ₹25,500 crores, Maharashtra accounted for 14%, followed by Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh at 17% each, as per the data. According to CARE Ratings, in the current fiscal year (7 April – 7 July 2020), 23 states and 1 Union Territory have cumulatively raised ₹ 1.8 Lakh crore via market borrowings, which is a 75% increase from the borrowings in the corresponding period of 2019-20.

25. Odisha Govt Introduces 'BLUIS' To Prevent Land Encroachment in Bhubaneswar

'**BLUIS**' stands for '**Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligent System**' was launched by Odisha govt to put a check on increasing number of land grabbing incidents. It uses space technology and AI to monitor changes on Government lands & safeguard from encroachment. Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal. Odisha CM: Naveen Patnaik.

26. CIDC initiates skill Development Programme in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) established by the NITI Aayog has initiated a skill Development Programme in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide 'Employment oriented training and Skill development' for the marginalized section. It is a 3- month course for the local youth and school dropouts.

Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar: Admiral D K Joshi.

27. UP start-up policy aims 100 incubators and 10,000 start-ups in state

The Yogi Adityanath cabinet gave its nod to the **Uttar Pradesh Start-up Policy 2020**. The start-up policy aims at setting up 100 incubators in Uttar Pradesh and at least one in every district and developing an ecosystem to set up at least 10,000 start-ups. It plans to set up India's biggest start-up incubator in Lucknow

28. Hamirpur's Nadaun police station among the best in India

Nadaun police station is ranked the best in Himachal in the annual ranking of police stations for 2019. This ranking gives an insight into the functioning of police & provides valuable inputs to formulation of public policy in the realm of internal security. Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh: Jai Ram Thakur.

29. Maharashtra govt, SBI to set up stress fund for stuck slum rehabilitation projects

The govt of Maharashtra along with the State Bank of India is setting up a stress fund to restart stuck slum rehabilitation projects in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region & other urban areas of the state. **Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA)** is the nodal agency Government to infuse Rs 700 crore to Rs 1000 crore for revival.

30. Chhattisgarh organises India's first e-Lok Adalat

Under e-Lok Adalat, held in Chhattisgarh, virtual hearings were conducted through video conferencing. In the wake of pandemic, the High Court and Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority decided to organize e-Lok Adalat for resolving the pending cases. **This is the first 'State-Level' e-Lok Adalat of India.**

31. Jharkhand govt signs MoU with HDFC Bank for digital payment solutions

The Jharkhand government has signed a memorandum of understanding with private lender HDFC Bank to offer digital payment solutions to traffic violators. The bank will provide digital payment solutions to the transport department of Jharkhand. **HDFC Bank HQ: Mumbai.** CEO: Aditya Puri.

The traffic police will be equipped with POS machines to collect traffic-related penalties. The defaulters of traffic rules could also pay fines through HDFC Bank's online payment facility.

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

The Madhya Pradesh government to run **Roko -Toko (stop and campaign)** for those who do not wear masks as the use of masks is mandatory. Selected voluntary organizations to provide masks to people who do not wear one and will charge an amount of Rs 20/mask. Madhya Pradesh Governor: Lalji Tandon.

33. J&K Chief Secretary chairs 46th meeting of APCC of J&K SIDCO

In J&K, the Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam chaired the **46th meeting of Apex Projects Clearance Committee (APCC)** of J&K State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (SIDCO). He reviewed the Action Taken Report on the minutes of 45th APCC meeting. J&K Lt Governor- GC Murmu.

Legislation passed in August 2019 set the stage for downgrading Jammu and Kashmir from statehood to union territory status and splitting off a part of it, known as the Ladakh region, into a separate union territory.

34. J&K UT: Advisor to LG Baseer Ahmad Khan e-launches NeFMS at Civil Secretariat in Srinagar

Jammu & Kashmir, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, e-launched **National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS)**. It will pave the way for direct and faster release of wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme & other schemes. Jammu is the most populous district of Jammu and Kashmir.

National electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) is being implemented in all states for MGNREGA disbursements.

35. NABARD extends grant assistance of Rs 221.89 Cr to support 298 watershed projects in Karnataka

In Karnataka, NABARD, observing its **39th Foundation Day**, has extended grant assistance of 221.89 crore rupees to support 298 watershed projects in over three lakh hectares benefitting 66,500 families. The State has about 75 per cent of rainfed area. NABARD Chairman: Govinda Rajulu Chintala.

To mitigate the COVID 19 impact on the rural population, NABARD has released 2200 crore rupees in the state to the Co-operative and Regional Rural Banks under a special line of credit over and above the normal limits.

36. Tamil Nadu launches television-based learning programme for 10th standard students

TN CM launched a television-based learning programme for 10th standard students. The Kalvi channel will air two-and-a-half hours of teaching programmes during weekdays. It is aimed to help students to continue their studies through an alternative method. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister: Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

In another development, the department has prepared video lessons for the Twelfth-class students. It may be noted that the 11th and 12th students in Government schools are being given free laptops in the state for long.

37. Punjab Police to hire civilian domain experts to deal with complex probes

Punjab council of ministers gave the go-ahead for the state police department to recruit civilian domain experts in areas of information technology, legal forensics and finance to deal with complex investigations and will be first state in India to do so. Punjab CM: Captain Amarinder Singh.

At least 798 specialists will be hired directly as plainclothes support staff in the department's Bureau of Investigation (BoI). This aims to bring about a qualitative change in the investigation process, especially in drug cases.

38. Telangana Police launch 'CybHER', Virtual Awareness Campaign to Tackle Cyber Crime against Women & Children

Telangana Police launched a month-long virtual awareness campaign '**CybHER**' in the wake of cybercrime against the women and children in the state. SHE teams are constituted to handle eve-teasing cases and 'Bharosa' is the centre for assisting women. State CM- Chandrasekhar Rao, Governor- Tamilisai Soundararajan.

39. Andhra govt announces renewable energy export policy

The state government announced the **Andhra Pradesh Renewable Energy Export Policy, 2020**. The policy will apply to solar, wind and wind-solar hybrid projects. Under this policy, the land will be effectively used for renewable energy projects. AP CM: Jaganmohan Reddy. Governor: Biswa Bhushan Harichandran.

Taking into consideration the huge untapped potential of the state and the availability of land, the state government has decided to encourage, develop and promote renewable energy projects run by investors for the purpose of exporting energy outside the state.

40. J&K Administration Approves Rs 25 Lakh Insurance Cover for Panchayat Members

The Jammu and Kashmir administration announced a life **insurance cover of Rs 25 lakh** each to all elected members of Panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) and urban local bodies (ULBs) of the union territory in case of death due to a terror-related incident. Lieutenant Governor: GC Murmu.

The decision is aimed at strengthening the grassroots democracy by providing a sense of security to the elected members of local bodies who are under constant threat from terrorists.

41. Tamil Nadu signs eight MoUs worth ₹10,399 crore, to create employment for over 13,000 people

The Tamil Nadu government signed eight Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹10,399 crores that will create employment opportunities for over 13,507 people. The MoUs were signed in the presence of Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami. Governor of Tamil Nadu: Banwarilal Purohit.

The biggest deal was signed by Vikram Solar, a solar energy solutions provider.

42. In a first, Maharashtra to use drones to inspect power lines

Maharashtra became the first State in the country to get the go-ahead to use drones for aerial surveillance and inspection of extra-high voltage (EHV) power transmission lines and towers. MHA and the Director-General of Civil Aviation have permitted this. Drones can reduce maintenance costs & reduce loss from outages.

The Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd (MSETCL) will deploy drones to inspect faulty lines, reducing the risk posed to its staff.

43. Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal virtually inaugurates Mega Food Park in Mizoram

Food Processing Min Harsimrat Kaur Badal virtually inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Mizoram. **Zoram Mega Food Park** will benefit farmers, growers, processors, consumers and prove to be a boost to the growth of the food processing sector in NE Region. The food park aims to benefit around 25,000 farmers.

The Mega Food Park is equipped with a dry warehouse of 3000 metric tonnes capacity and cold storage of 1000 metric tonnes. It will also provide direct and indirect employment to 5,000 people.

44. First of its kind 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' launched in Chhattisgarh

Godhan Nyay Yojana, a first of its kind scheme has been launched on the occasion of the festival of Hareli. Under the scheme, the government will procure cow dung at Rs 2 per kilogram from livestock owners and use it to prepare organic fertilizers. Chhattisgarh CM: Bhupesh Baghel. Governor: Anusuiya Uikey.

Through this scheme, the government aims to give a boost to rural economy and to create employment opportunities in the rural areas. The scheme will encourage the use of organic fertilizers, minimizing the use of chemical ones. Implementation of **Suraaji Gaon Yojana** has already been started in villages under which more than 5,000 cowsheds have been constructed. Godhan Nyay Yojana will be implemented through these cowsheds. Gauthan Samitis will procure cow dung from farmers and cattle rearers at Rs 2/kg. women SHGs will prepare vermin compost using the cow dung procured. The compost will be sold at Rs 8/kg.

45. Transgenders in Odisha To Get Benefit Under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana

The Odisha Government has included transgender community under **Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)**, which aims at providing financial assistance to destitute elderly, differently abled persons and widows in the state. MBPY is a social security scheme. Odisha Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik. Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

Under the MBPY scheme, around 5,000 transgenders will receive **Rs 500, Rs 700 and 900 per month** as a pension under various categories depending on their age.

46. Yogi Adityanath launches employment scheme for Scheduled Castes

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launched Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana for all-round development of the Scheduled Castes. He transferred financial assistance of 17.42 crore online to 3,484 people under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swarojgar Yojana. Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel.

47. Haryana CM launches e-Sachivalaya portal

Haryana CM Manohar Khattar launched e-Sachivalaya portal a digital platform facilitating people to take online appointments for virtual meetings with CM, Deputy CM, Ministers & Heads of Depts. Haryana Udhyaam Memorandum portal launched to facilitate MSMEs. Haryana Capital: Chandigarh. Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya.

With the **e-Sachivalaya concept**, any person seeking appointment for meeting Ministers and Officers at their offices in Haryana Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh does not have to appear physically, rather through their mobile phones, laptops they can simply book their appointments digitally. After making the appointment, within 24 hours they will be given a time slot for the virtual meeting.

48. Tamil Nadu govt launches web portal for unorganised sector workers

The labour department has launched an online portal, <http://labour.tn.gov.in> for fresh registrations of workers of unorganised sectors, who were left out of the government COVID-19 welfare measures and to facilitate them with social security schemes. Tamil Nadu CM: Edappadi K. Palaniswami. Capital: Chennai.

49. 'One-stop' scheme to fast-track investments

A "one-stop-shop" scheme approved in Rajasthan is set to fast-track investments and help revive industries in the midst of pandemic by giving 98 types of clearances under one roof to the potential investors through the **Bureau of Investment Promotion (BIP)**. It is to expedite all process for investments above Rs 10 crore.

The Board of Investment will be headed by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

50. AP, AMUL sign up to help self-help groups, boost milk cooperatives

Andhra Pradesh Government which stands 4th in milk production signed an MoU with milk cooperative giant **AMUL (Anand Milk Union Limited)** to provide fillip to the empowerment of women self-help groups & by encouraging milk cooperatives in government sector. AP CM: YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandran.

Amul is an Indian dairy cooperative society, **based at Anand in the state of Gujarat**. CEO: R.S. Sodhi.

51. Punjab govt signs MoU with IIT Ropar for skill development

The Punjab government has signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, in the area of skill development. It provides for the IIT's technical education department to become an academic mentor for the state's engineering colleges. Punjab CM: Amarinder Singh. IIT-Ropar Director: S K Das.

52. Prime Minister lays foundation stone for ₹3,054-crore Manipur water supply project

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for **₹3,054-crore "Manipur Water Supply Project"**. Manipur will be in a position to supply potable water to all houses soon. Once this project is commissioned there will be no shortage of potable water. Manipur CM: Biren Singh. Capital: Imphal.

53. Karnataka Govt approves Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

The Karnataka cabinet decided to set up a company, the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission under section 8 to promote start-ups in the state. **State government will have 49 per cent share while industries will hold 51 per cent share.** Karnataka CM- B.S Yediyurappa, Governor- Vajubhai Vala.

54. SKUAST-K commences 3-month entrepreneurship training for Agri students

With an aim to inculcate entrepreneurial mindset and build business skills among the agriculture students, **Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir (SKUAST-K)** kick-started a 3-months Entrepreneurship Development Programme. J&K LG GC Murmu is the Chancellor of the University.

The programme is being conducted by the prestigious Lemon School of Entrepreneurship in collaboration with the university's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cell under ICAR-World Bank funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) for the IDP of SKUAST-K.

55. J&K drops NOC clause for land acquisition by security forces

The Jammu and Kashmir administration withdrew a 1971 circular, making it mandatory to get No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the local Home Department for acquisition and requisition of land in favour of the security forces in the Union Territory. **J&K Capital, Jammu(winter), Srinagar(summer).**

56. J&K govt orders fast tracking of Environment Clearance Process in minor minerals mining operations

J&K govt. ordered the fast tracking of Environment Clearance Process in minor minerals mining operations across the Union Territory. It added that it shall be lawful for the **new lessee to continue mining operations on the same land for a period of 2 yrs.** Jammu and Kashmir, Area, 222,236 sq.km.

57. J-K Announces Launch Of 'Macadamisation Program' For Improvement of Roads

Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu launched a '**Macadamisation Program**' for the improvement of roads across Jammu and Kashmir. Murmu has approved a program for 100% macadamization of all roads in the Union Territory including 11,000 km of fair-weather roads. He also announced a release of Rs 200 Crores for the project.

A Committee comprising of the Financial Commissioner (Finance), Principal Secretary (PW(R&B)), Secretary (Planning) and Secretary (Rural Development) has been constituted, which will prepare a roadmap and a financing plan for ensuring this program in a time-bound manner.

Sports

1. Nitin Menon becomes third Indian umpire to be inducted in ICC Elite Panel

India's Nitin Menon has been included in the International Cricket Council's Elite Panel of Umpires for the upcoming 2020-21 season, **replacing England's Nigel Llong**. He has officiated in three Tests, 24 ODIs and 16 T20Is. Srinivas Venkatraghavan & Sundaram Ravi- previous inductees.

2. Ravindra Jadeja named India's 'most valuable player' of 21st Century

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was named as the country's 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) of the 21st century by Wisden. Wisden used CricViz, a detailed analysis tool in cricket to analyse his performance. Jadeja's MVP rating was an astounding 97.3. BCCI President- Sourav Ganguly, HQ- Mumbai.

Jadeja's MVP rating was second only to Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan and thus making him the second most valuable Test player of the 21st century. Having made his debut in 2009, Jadeja has represented India in 49 Tests, 165 ODIs, 49 T20Is so far. The 31-year-old's bowling average of 24.62 is better than Shane Warne's and his batting average of 35.26 is better than Shane Watson's.

3. Chinese badminton superstar Lin Dan announces retirement

China's two-time Olympic champion Lin Dan aged 36, arguably the greatest **badminton player of all time**, announced his retirement. It means that Lin, who won gold at the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Games, will not compete at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics. Lin earned the nickname "Super Dan" at the peak of his career.

As well as the double Olympic golds, Lin was also a five-time world champion and a long-time former world number one.

4. Jaipur to get world's 3rd largest cricket stadium with 75,000 capacity

The world-class green stadium shall have modern grand pavilion stands, corporate boxes, plush sports field, modern club house and many other world class features for indoor games and sports training facilities, spread across over 100 acres of land. It is to come up in Chonp village, 25 km from Jaipur.

World's largest Cricket Stadium and the second-largest stadium overall: The Motera Stadium (Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium).

5. Aavishkar Salvi named head coach of Puducherry cricket team

Cricket Association of Pondicherry (CAP) has roped in former India pacer and Mumbai ace, Aavishkar Salvi, as its head coach for the upcoming domestic season. In 2018 Ranji trophy, Salvi was appointed the head coach but in 2019 was replaced by J Arunkumar. **Ranji Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket championship.**

Former Mumbai first-class cricketer Onkar Khanvilkar to be the assistant coach.

6. Foreign and Indian coaches will now have a four-year contract

Foreign & Indian coaches for training Indian Athletes to have a 4-year contract in alignment with Olympic cycle. It aims to help India's long-term roadmap for Olympic preparation for 2024 & 2028. The contract for all foreign coaches extended to Sep 30, 2020. Indian Olympic Association President: Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra.

7. Akash becomes India's 66th Grandmaster

G. Akash became India's 66th Grandmaster. He got his 3rd GM norm in the National senior chess championship in Sikkim last year, but his rating fell short of the required Elo mark of 2500. He played another 5 tournaments across the world to reach that rating. **First grandmaster of India: Viswanathan Anand.**

8. Asia Cup Cricket tournament postponed till June 2021

The Asia Cup Cricket tournament, which was scheduled to be held in September this year, has been postponed till June next year by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) owing to an upsurge in COVID-19 cases in the region. **It was to be hosted by Sri Lanka.** Current Chairman of ACC: Nazmul Hassan.

9. Hockey stalwart Ashok Kumar to receive Mohun Bagan Lifetime Achievement Award

Ashok Kumar, a key member of India's 1975 World Cup-winning hockey team, will be conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the city's iconic club Mohun Bagan on the occasion of its foundation day. **Mohun Bagan Day is celebrated every year on July 29.** He is Son of hockey wizard Dhyan Chand.

10. Former Australia Skipper Mile Jedinak announces retirement from Football

Former **Australia skipper and Crystal Palace midfielder Mile Jedinak** announced his retirement from football at the age of 35. He played 79 times for his country, featuring at three World Cups before bowing out of international football in late 2018. He captained Socceroos to win the 2015 Asian Cup on home soil.

11. SportsAdda signs former Australian pacer and legend Brett Lee as brand ambassador

SportsAdda – Indian news and information website for cricket, football, and kabaddi, signed former Australian fast bowler and cricket legend Brett Lee, as its brand ambassador. He will feature exclusively on the SportsAdda app, website, and social handles. He will also host fun activities on Sports Adda.

12. Former Chelsea Forward and World Cup Winner Andre Schurrle Retires At 29

Ex-Chelsea attacker and Borussia Dortmund forward Andre Schurrle announced his retirement from professional football. The World Cup winner won 57 caps for his country and feature for Chelsea and Wolfsburg prior to joining the Bundesliga club in 2016. He represented the German national team from 2010 to 2017.

13. Lewis Hamilton wins Hungarian Grand Prix with perfect drive to take F1 Championship lead

Lewis Hamilton delivered masterful performance to secure his **8th Hungarian Grand Prix victory**. The Mercedes driver & Michael Schumacher are now the only two men to have won 8 races at a specific circuit. He is now just 5 wins away from matching Schumacher. **Max Verstappen came second and Valtteri Bottas came third.**

14. Haryana to host 4th Khelo India Youth Games

Haryana will host the 4th Khelo India Youth Games. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced this through video conferencing. Khelo India Youth Games is scheduled to take place after Tokyo Olympics next year. The Games will be held at Panchkula in Haryana.

15. Jamie Vardy wins Premier League's 'Golden Boot'

Leicester City's Jamie Vardy won the Premier League's Golden Boot after most number of goals in the 2019-20 season. At 33, **Vardy is the oldest player to win the Golden Boot award** and the first from Leicester City. Vardy finished the season with 23 goals. Manchester City goalkeeper Ederson won the Golden Glove.

16. East Bengal announces Bruto Da Costa as new coach

East Bengal announced the appointment of Francisco Jose Bruto Da Costa as its coach for the upcoming season. The Goan will replace Spaniard coach Mario Rivera under whom East Bengal finished runners-up in the I-League last season. His first coaching stint was as a 20-year-old with Salcete FC.



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Agreements

1. MoU signed between Indianoil, NTPC Ltd, and SDMC for Waste to Energy plant in Delhi

Under the MoU, The Waste-to-energy Plant at Okhla landfill site will process 17500 tons per annum of **Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)** produced from combustible components of Municipal Waste to generate syngas which shall, in turn, be used to generate electricity. Anil Bajaj, Lt. Governor of Delhi.

2. Swiggy launches Digital Wallet in tie-up with ICICI Bank

Swiggy has launched its digital wallet in partnership with ICICI Bank, which will allow customers to store money to be used for orders on the platform. The digital wallet named '**Swiggy Money**', will provide users with a single-click checkout experience. Swiggy CEO- Sriharsha Majety.

3. NLC India, CIL sign pact to form JV to develop 5,000 MW solar, thermal power assets

NLC India has signed a pact with state-owned CIL to form a joint venture to develop 5,000 MW of solar and thermal power assets across the country. Equity participation in the proposed JV between Coal India Ltd & NLC India will be in the ratio of 50:50. Neyveli Thermal: Tamil Nadu; Barsingsar Thermal: Rajasthan.

JV company marks a new era in the power sector with the synergy and expertise of two central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Coal.

4. IndiaFirst Life to Offer Exclusive COVID-19 and Hospital Cash Cover to Bank of Baroda Credit Cardholders

IndiaFirst Life Insurance Co Ltd promoted by Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India, associated with BoB Financial Services Limited to offer unique group insurance coverage that provides financial support upon hospitalization or on CoVID-19 diagnosis. MD & CEO of BoB Financial Solution Ltd: Shailendra Singh.

IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company: Joint venture between Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank and UK's financial and investment company Legal & General. Headquarters: Mumbai. MD & CEO: R M Vishaka. Bank of Baroda: Third Largest public sector bank of India. Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat. MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha.

5. BDL signs licence agreement with DRDO for Akash Missile Weapon System

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed Licence Agreement and Transfer of Technology (LAToT) with DRDO for Akash Missile Weapon System (Indian Army Variant). Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) is the lead integrator for Akash Weapon System (Indian Army). BDL CMD: Siddharth Mishra. Headquarters: Hyderabad.

Akash is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile defence system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

6. NSDC and Microsoft collaborate to empower Indian youth with digital skills

With a vision to transform India into a skilled nation, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Microsoft today announced a strategic partnership aimed at providing digital skills to over 1 lakh youth in the country **over the next 12 months**. Microsoft India President: Anant Maheshwari.

Microsoft will collaborate with NSDC's eSkill India portal to provide free access to learning resources and conduct digital skilling awareness drives, equipping the next generation of learners with the skills they need to thrive in a digital economy. CEO & MD of NSDC: Dr Manish Kumar.

7. USAID, MNRE announce new partnership to expand clean energy development

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) announced the launch of a new partnership to increase India- US collaboration for clean energy development. MNRE secretary: Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi. **USAID Headquarters: Washington DC, USA.**

Under the partnership, the USAID-supported **South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE), a US government consortium**, will provide advanced technical knowledge on clean energy development from America's national laboratories to India's technical institutions and other public institutes.

8. MOU Signed by CBDT And SEBI For Data Exchange

An MoU was signed between the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) & the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for data exchange between the organizations. It will facilitate the sharing of data and information on an automatic and regular basis. Central Board of Direct Taxes: Pramod Chandra Mody.

A Data Exchange Steering Group has also been constituted for the initiative, which will meet periodically to review the data exchange status and take steps to improve the effectiveness of the data-sharing mechanism. SEBI: Regulator of the securities and commodity market in India. SEBI Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi. CBDT: Government agency undertaking direct tax collection of the Government of India.

9. IIT Alumni Council and CSIR-IGIB sign MoU for joint research on COVID-19 and patient data analysis

IIT Alumni Council signed an agreement with the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology to jointly conduct research on COVID-19 and patient data analysis. The first phase, with a capacity to carry out 10 lakh tests, will be ready by end of July. IIT Alumni Council President - Ravi Sharma.

The council had announced the setting up of the world's largest molecular diagnostic lab 'Mega Lab Mumbai'. **The IIT Alumni Council is the largest body of alumni, students and faculty** from all the 23 Indian Institutes of Technology and partnering Technical Institutes of Excellence and was formed last year to carry out projects of social importance. CSIR-IGIB (formerly Centre for Biochemical Technology) is a

constituent laboratory set up by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

10. IIT-Hyderabad and NVIDIA establish joint AI research centre

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad is collaborating with NVIDIA, a multinational technology company, to establish India's first 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre' (NVAITC) to accelerate research on Artificial Intelligence and its commercial adoption. **NVIDIA Headquarters: California, United States.**

This is aimed to bring synergy to help find solutions to uniquely Indian challenges, be it enhancing crop yield or safer cities including the country's first B.Tech in AI programme. **Telangana announced that 2020 will be the year of Artificial Intelligence.**

11. EESL inks agreement with NOIDA to promote electric vehicles & install charging stations

Energy Efficiency Services Limited, EESL signed an agreement with the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) to promote electric vehicles, install charging stations and related infrastructure. EESL is the world's largest energy service company. Chairman of EESL: Rajiv Sharma.

A.K. Tyagi - General Manager, NOIDA Authority.

12. ADB, IEA Renew Collaborative Agreement on Energy Sector Sustainability

The Asian Development Bank announced that it has renewed an MOU with the International Energy Agency (IEA) to scale up collaboration and advance progress on sustainability with an increased focus on energy sector resilience in Asia and the Pacific. ADB President - Masatsugu Asakawa.

13. Flipkart signs MoU with Karnataka government to promote local art, craft and handlooms

The homegrown e-commerce marketplace Flipkart under its Samarth programme has signed an MoU with Karnataka MSME and Mines department to promote the states arts, crafts and handloom sectors by bringing them on to e-commerce and providing market access. **Flipkart Headquarters: Bengaluru.** CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy.

14. BSE inks pact with IIT Alumni Council to encourage start-ups listing

The BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding with IIT Alumni Council to encourage listing of start-ups and develop 'high investor depth' in its start-up's platform. It will ensure a complete end-to-end ecosystem for the proposed social stock exchange. Ravi Sharma, President & Chief Volunteer of the IIT Alumni Council.

In addition, it will revitalise the start-up platform by attracting a wide range of venture capital and private equity funds to act as underwriters and market makers (backed by the BSE members in the front-end). Ashishkumar Chauhan- MD and CEO of BSE.

15. Visa Partners with Federal Bank For Rolling Out Visa Secure For E-Commerce

Visa has announced its partnership with Federal Bank to roll out Visa Secure to the bank's cardholders. Visa Secure is a global authentication program that uses the latest standards of the EMV 3DS (3D Secure) protocol. Alfred F. Kelly, chief executive officer, Visa.

16. UNICEF INDIA announced its partnership with FICCI for #Reimagine Campaign

UNICEF INDIA partnered with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) and Industry's Socio-Economic Development Foundation to jointly develop UNICEF's #Reimagine Campaign to support the most vulnerable populations during COVID-19 response in India. FICCI President: Sangita Reddy.

FICCI: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is an association of business organisations in India. Headquarters: New Delhi. UNICEF: The United Nations International Children's Fund is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. **Headquarters: New York, USA.**

17. AAI, BEL sign MoU for co-operation in civil aviation sector

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), to collaborate in tapping emerging global opportunities in the airport business, including those in the Asia-Pacific region. **AAI is a statutory body working under Ministry of Civil Aviation.**

Bharat Electronics Limited: BEL is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company. It is one of the nine PSUs under the Ministry of Defence. Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka. Airports Authority of India: AAI is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure in India. Headquarters: New Delhi.

18. CSL signs contract for construction of Autonomous electric vessels for ASKO maritime AS, Norway

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi signed contracts for construction and supply of Two nos Autonomous Electric Ferry for ASKO Maritime AS, Norway with an option to build 2 more identical vessels. CSL is the largest commercial shipbuilder in India. ASKO is the subsidiary group of Norges Gruppen ASA.

These vessels will be managed by M/s. Massterly AS, the first company setup to take technical management and operate autonomous vessels, a joint venture between M/s. Kongsberg, the world leader in autonomous technology and M/s. Wilhelmsen, one of the largest Maritime shipping companies. **The Vessels are designed by Naval Dynamics Norway** using Kongsberg Maritime systems, with detailed engineering to be carried out by CSL. They will be built under DNV GL Classification and flagged in Norway.

19. NTPC enters pact with NIIF to explore business opportunities in India

NTPC under the Power ministry has entered into a MoU with NIIF, acting through National Investment & Infrastructure Fund Ltd, to explore opportunities for investments in areas like renewable energy, power distribution among other areas of mutual interest. NTPC HQ- New Delhi, NIIF HQ- Mumbai.

NTPC targets to have nearly 30 GW of its overall power generation capacity from renewable energy sources by 2032. NIIF Limited manages over USD 4.3 billion of equity capital commitments across its three funds – Master Fund, Fund of Funds and Strategic Opportunities Fund, each with its distinct investment strategy. The **NIIF Master Fund is the largest infrastructure fund** in the country and invests in core infrastructure sectors such as transportation and energy.

20. Avenue Growth signs an MoU with Haryana to provide employment and help youth earn & learn

Avenue Growth, India's largest business growth platform signed a MoU with Govt. of Haryana to provide employment opportunities to the youth and give them a chance to Earn and Learn. Rachit Mathur is the Founder and CEO of Avenue Growth. Haryana CM- Manohar Lal Khattar.

Avenue Growth also provides opportunities to freelancers so that they get to work from their homes.

21. India and Israel sign agreement to expand cooperation in cyber security

India & Israel have signed an agreement to further expand collaboration in dealing with cyber threats amid rapid digitisation due to the COVID-19 pandemic that exposed the vulnerabilities of the virtual world. India's Ambassador to Israel- Sanjeev Singla. Israel capital- Jerusalem, Currency- Israeli shekel.

22. India-Bhutan open new trade route to facilitate connectivity between two countries

India and Bhutan have opened a new trade route between **Jaigaon in West Bengal and Pasakha in Bhutan** to facilitate connectivity between two countries in COVID-19 times. Ruchira Kamboj is the Ambassador of India to Bhutan. Bhutan Capital- Thimphu, Currency- Ngultrum.

23. Formal MoU signed between CBDT & MoMSME for sharing of Data

A formal MoU was signed between the Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for sharing of data by CBDT to the Ministry to facilitate seamless sharing of certain Income-tax Return related information. MSME Minister: Nitin Gadkari. Minister of State: Giriraj Singh.

This data will enable the Ministry to check and classify enterprises in Micro, Small and Medium categories. Both the organizations will appoint Nodal Officer and Alternate Nodal Officers to facilitate the process of data exchange.

24. MoD inks contract with BEML for procurement of 1,512 Mine Plough for T-90 tanks

With an aim to boost 'Make in India' initiative of the Government, Acquisition Wing of Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Bharat Earth Movers Limited for procurement of 1,512 Mine Plough for Tank T-90 S/SK at an approximate cost of Rs. 557 crores. BEML HQ: Bengaluru. CMD: Dr D K Hota.

A mine plough is a device that helps tanks clear minefields. These mine ploughs will be fitted on T-90 Tanks of Indian Armoured Corps which will facilitate individual mobility to Tanks while negotiating minefield.

25. Statement of Intent signed for partnership with UNICEF India, YuWaah India, UN in India

Youth Affairs Secretary Usha Sharma signed a Statement of Intent with UNICEF India, YuWaah India & UN in India to work together with young people for empowering them and to make them changemakers with access to aspirational socio-economic opportunities. Youth Affairs and Sports Minister - Kiren Rijiju.

YuWaah India is a multi-stakeholder platform formed by the UNICEF. UNICEF Representative in India - Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque. UNICEF: Headquarters: New York, USA. Head: Henrietta H. Fore.

26. NHPC, GEDCOL ink pact to develop floating solar power projects in Odisha

State-run hydro giant NHPC said it has inked an MoU through video conferencing with **Green Energy Development Corporation of Odisha Limited (GEDCOL)** to form a joint venture for developing floating solar energy projects with an initial capacity of 500 MW. Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar. Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

The two entities to form a joint-venture company (JVC) to plan and develop technologically feasible floating solar power projects under **UMREPPs (Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks) scheme** of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy), in a phased manner. Minister of State for Power, New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh.

27. LIC-UBI announce corporate agency pact

Life Insurance Corporation & Union Bank of India after its amalgamation have announced a corporate agency agreement to distribute LIC policies. The bank will market LIC products of term insurance, pension, plan, children plan, ULIPs & endowment schemes. LIC HQ: Mumbai. Chairman: M R Kumar.

Union Bank of India: HQ: Mumbai. CEO: Rajkiran Rai G. UBI recently amalgamated with Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank.

28. Airtel Payments Bank partners NSDC to train rural youth for financial services jobs

Airtel Payments Bank Ltd headquartered in New Delhi has collaborated with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to train and skill young people in rural areas on

financial services, enabling them to find jobs and become entrepreneurs in the sector.
MD & CEO of Airtel Payments Bank: Anubrata Biswas.

Airtel Payments Bank and NSDC will also encourage trainees to take up entrepreneurial roles such as distributors or resellers of financial services, which will lead to the creation of more jobs in their local geographies.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a not-for-profit public limited company set up by the Ministry of Finance as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. It aims to promote skill development by catalysing the creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions. Headquarters: New Delhi. MD & CEO: Manish Kumar.

29. PhonePe, ICICI Lombard team up to offer Hospital Cash cover

Digital payments platform PhonePe announced the launch of its Hospital Daily Cash benefit under Group Safeguard Insurance in partnership with private insurer ICICI Lombard. The cover can be availed of in less than two minutes. **Age Limit: 18 - 65 years.** Phone Pe Head Office: Bengaluru. ICICI Lombard HQ: Mumbai.

30. GAIL Ltd and CCSL develop Compressed Biogas project in India

An Indian-owned company, CCSL will construct four CBG plants independently, based on ten-year off-take agreements with GAIL's CDG companies. The two companies will then work in partnership to bring the number of plants in India up to 100. Carbon Clean Solutions Limited (CCSL) HQ- London.

31. India & EU renew Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation till 2025

India and European Union have renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation **for the next five years till 2025.** The Agreement was initially signed on 23rd November in 2001 and renewed two times in 2007 and 2015. EU is a political and economic union of 27 member states.

32. TRIFED signs MoU with IIT, Delhi for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)

TRIFED has entered a partnership with IIT Delhi for the **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), a flagship national programme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development,** Government of India. TRIFED is responsible for implementing the Van Dhan Yojana (VDY). Managing Director of TRIFED- Pravir Krishna.

33. IndianOil, Total form JV for high-quality bitumen derivatives

Indian Oil Corporation & Total announced the formation of a 50:50 Joint Venture company for the manufacture of high-quality 'Bitumen Derivatives'. It will market high-quality bitumen derivatives & specialty products for the growing road-building industry. **IndianOil is the largest player in the Indian bitumen market.**

34. CSIR, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan-IIT Delhi and Vijnana Bharati sign a tripartite MoU

This will pave the way for the adoption of CSIR technologies and related knowledge base in tune with the people's aspirations in furtherance of initiatives such as UBA and

Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA). It was signed in the presence of Dr. Shekhar Mande DG CSIR. Secretary DSIR- Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal.

35. PFC signs agreement with IIT-Kanpur for research, training in smart grid technology

Under the agreement, PFC will provide financial assistance of worth two crores thirty-eight lakhs and ninety-seven thousand rupees to IIT-Kanpur. As part of project, IIT-K will also provide training on smart grid technology to 90 participants. **Power Finance Corporation, PFC, a PSU under Ministry of Power.**



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Schemes

1. PM announces extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana till November

PM Modi announced the extension of **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana till the end of Nov. 2020**. During this 5-month period, more than 80 crore people will be provided 5 kg free wheat/rice per month along with 1 kg free whole chana to each family/month. PMGKAY is a Rs 1.7-lakh crore financial package.

2. Loans worth more than Rs 1 lakh crore sanctioned under ECLGS

Under the 100 % **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** backed by a Government guarantee, Banks from Public & Private Sectors have sanctioned loans worth over Rs. 1 lakh crore. The top lenders under the Scheme are SBI, BoB, PNB, Canara Bank & HDFC. PSBs have sanctioned loans of Rs 57,525.47 crore.

3. 70.32 lakh Kisan Credit Cards sanctioned with credit limit of Rs 62,870 Cr under Aatmanirbhar package

A total of 70.32 lakh Kisan Credit Cards have been sanctioned with credit limit of 62,870 crore rupees out of 2 lakh crore rupees concessional credit under the 'Aatmanirbhar package'. These cards have been sanctioned till 30th of last month. **KCC scheme was launched in the year, 1998 by banks in India.**

Around 24,587 crore rupees have been disbursed to Cooperative Banks, RRBs and MFIs under 30,000 Cr Special Liquidity Facility by NABARD. This will help three crore small and marginal farmers meet their post-harvest and Kharif sowing needs; Kisan Credit Card is an affordable means for the farmers to arrange funds for agricultural needs. The interest charged on KCC may differ from bank to bank.

Usually, **7-9% interest is charged on the Kisan Credit Card for a credit limit of up to Rs 3 Lakhs**. The interest rate can be as low as 2.00% under this scheme. KCC model scheme was prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on the recommendations of R.V. GUPTA committee to provide term loans for agricultural needs.

4. SERB launches new scheme 'Accelerate Vigyan'

Science and Engineering Research Board has launched a new scheme called **Accelerate Vigyan**. AV has already called for applications under its 'ABHYAAS' component for the Winter Season. SERB is also planning to launch an app for this in the coming 2 months. **The Parliament of India Act in 2009 established SERB.**

The primary objective of this inter-ministerial scheme is to give more thrust on encouraging high-end scientific research and preparing scientific manpower, which can lead to research careers and knowledge-based economy. As for the 'ABHYAAS' programme, it is an attempt to boost research and development in the country by enabling and grooming potential PG/PhD students by means of developing their research skills in selected areas across different disciplines or fields.

It has two components: **High-End Workshops ('KARYASHALA')** and **Research Internships ('VRITIKA')**. An Inter-Ministerial Overseeing Committee (IMOC) involving all the scientific ministries/departments and a few others has been constituted for the purpose of supporting SERB in implementing the AV scheme in a successful manner.

Another new component under AV is '**SAMMOHAN**' that has been sub-divided into '**SAYONJIKA**' and '**SANGOSHTI**'. SAYONJIKA is an open-ended program to catalogue the capacity building activities in science and technology supported by all government funding agencies in the country. **SANGOSHTI is a pre-existing program of SERB.** Science and Engineering Research Board is a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. SERB HQ- New Delhi.

5. Madhya Pradesh tops in implementing Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi-PM Swa Nidhi scheme

MP has emerged on top in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi-PM Swa Nidhi scheme. The scheme is being implemented in the state to help the street vendors to continue their business. **PM SVANidhi regulator- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**

Under the scheme, interest free working capital of 10,000 rupees will be provided for one year. **Interest subsidy of 7 percent on loan amount** will be borne by the Central Government while the remaining amount will be borne by the State Government. A **maximum special subsidy of 1200 Rs** will also be given in a year on conducting digital transactions. On timely repayment of the amount, beneficiaries will be able to get working capital of maximum 20 thousand Rupees in the next year.

6. Tourism Ministry inaugurates 'Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath, Gujarat' under Prashad scheme

Tourism Ministry inaugurated the 'Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath' project. Sanctioned under the **PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) scheme**, it is completed with the cost of Rs. 45.36 crores. Tourism Ministry launched PRASHAD scheme during 2014-15.

High-quality world-class facilities for Parking, Tourism Amenities Centre and Solid Waste Management have been developed under the project.

7. Rajya Sabha starts employee welfare scheme in Arun Jaitley's name

The Rajya Sabha secretariat has launched an Employees' Welfare Scheme called '**Shri Arun Jaitley Financial Assistance for Group C Employees**' in the name of former Union finance minister Arun Jaitley, who was also the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha. He served as Union Finance minister during 2014-2019.

The scheme has been formulated and approved based on the decision of Sangeeta Jaitley, wife of the senior leader who passed away in August last year.

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

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**. Outlay for primary health expenditure will also be increased.

9. Arunachal Pradesh plans 100% tap connections by 2023

Arunachal Pradesh Govt has decided to provide **100% tap water connections to all the households in the state by 2023** & water treatment plants are being made an integral part of schemes to provide potable water under Jal Jeevan Mission. Mission aim: 55 lts of water/person/day to every rural household

10. Centre allocates additional Rs 40, 000 Cr under MGNREGA in view of COVID-19 pandemic

Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar said that, in view of the situation arising out of COVID-19 pandemic, an additional allocation of Rs 40, 000 Cr has also been made for the MGNREGA Scheme during this financial year. **MGNREGA was launched in 2006.**

11. Ayush Minister launches dedicated Web-Portal for National AYUSH Mission

Ayush Minister Shripad Yesso Naik reviewed the centrally- sponsored scheme of National Ayush Mission and operationalization of AYUSH Health and Wellness Centers during a webinar of Health and Ayush Ministers of all states. National Ayush Mission Under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare



The advertisement features the cover of the book 'English Simplified' by Oliveboard. The cover is white with a yellow and blue design. It lists various topics covered: SYNONYMS, ANTONYMS, CLOZETESTS, PREPOSITIONS, WORDS & IDIOMS, ERROR SPOTTING, MODIFIERS, FILLERS, READING COMPREHENSION, VERB, SENTENCE JOINING, CONJUNCTION, ADJECTIVE, PARAJUMBLES, PRONOUN, and TENSES. It also mentions 'SPECIAL EDITION' and 'For Bank, Insurance & Other Competitive Exams (SBI PO, IBPS PO, RBI Grade B, LIC AAO, IBPS Clerk & Others)'. The advertisement text on the right says 'ENGLISH SIMPLIFIED SPECIAL EDITION', 'PRICE: ₹595' (crossed out), '₹395', 'GRAB YOUR COPY TODAY', and 'AVAILABLE ON amazon'.

Appointments

1. Sanjay Dwivedi appointed Director General of IIMC

Sanjay Dwivedi was appointed the director general of the **Indian Institute of Mass Communication in New Delhi**. At present, Dwivedi is the registrar of Makhn Lal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication in Bhopal. IIMC is under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Indian Institute of Mass Communication is an Indian media centre of learning funded and promoted by the Government of India.

2. MV Shreyams Kumar appointed member of PTI board of directors

The Press Trust of India Ltd (PTI) has appointed Mathrubhumi Managing Director M V Shreyams Kumar as a new member of its board of directors. The appointment has come into effect from June 5. Shreyams Kumar is also the Central Executive Committee member. **PTI headquartered in Delhi is the largest news agency in India.**

He is also serving as the Global Vice President of the International Advertising Association, Executive Committee Member of News Broadcasters Association, and President of Kerala Television Federation. PTI was formed on 27 August 1947.

3. Union Bank of India CEO Rajkiran Rai gets 2-year extension

The government has granted Union Bank of India's MD & CEO Rajkiran Rai a two-year extension amid the bank's ongoing merger. His term which was to end on June 30, 2020 has now been extended till May 31, 2022, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. **Headquarters of UBI- Mumbai.**

The extension comes amid the bank's **integration with Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank**, which came into effect on April 1, 2020. The merger has made Union Bank the fifth largest public sector bank in the country with assets of over Rs 14.5 lakh crore. Rai was appointed the MD and CEO of Union Bank of India in May 2017 for a period of three years.

4. Indra Mani Pandey appointed India's Permanent Representative to UN

Senior diplomat Indra Mani Pandey has been appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva. Pandey is presently additional secretary in the External Affairs ministry. The UN is an international organization founded in 1945.

UN is currently made up of 193 Member States. States are admitted to membership in the UN by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

The main organs of the UN are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat.

All were **established in 1945** when the UN was founded. The current Secretary-General of the UN, and the ninth occupant of the post, is Mr. Antonio Guterres of Portugal, who took office on 1 January 2017. The Charter of the United Nations was signed on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization and came into force on 24 October 1945. The Statute of the International Court of Justice is an integral part of the Charter.

5. Parminder Chopra takes charge as Director of Finance at PFC

Government-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC), India's leading NBFC, announced the appointment of Smt Parminder Chopra as Director (Finance) of the company. She **succeeds Shri N.B. Gupta**, who superannuated on June 30, 2020. PFC Headquarters- New Delhi, CMD- Ravinder Singh Dhillon.

Power Finance Corporation Ltd. is an Indian financial institution. **Established in 1986**, it is the financial back bone of Indian Power Sector. Power Finance Corporation Ltd. is a Schedule-A Navratna CPSE and is a leading Non-Banking Financial Corporation in the Country. **PFC's registered office is located at New Delhi and regional offices are located at Mumbai and Chennai.** PFC is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power. PFC was classified as an Infrastructure Finance Company by the RBI on 28th July, 2010.

6. T.C. Suseel Kumar appointed as Additional Non-Executive (Nominee) Director of Axis Bank

The Board of Axis Bank has approved the appointment of T.C. Suseel Kumar, Managing Director- Life Insurance Corporation of India, Promoter of the Bank, as the Additional Non-Executive (Nominee) Director of the Bank, with effect from 1 July 2020. **Axis Bank HQ- Mumbai**, MD & CEO- Amitabh Chaudhry.

Axis Bank is the third largest private sector bank in India. The Bank offers the entire spectrum of financial services to customer segments covering Large and Mid-Corporates, MSME, Agriculture and Retail Businesses. Axis Bank is one of the first new generation private sector banks to have **begun operations in 1994**. The registered office of Axis Bank is located at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

7. Anandiben Patel takes oath as Madhya Pradesh Governor

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel took oath as governor of Madhya Pradesh at a ceremony at Raj Bhawan in Bhopal. Ms Patel was given additional charge as Madhya Pradesh governor following the illness of **incumbent governor Lalji Tandon**. Chief Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal administered the oath of office.

Ms Patel had served as Madhya Pradesh governor earlier too, before her appointment as Uttar Pradesh governor. MP CM- Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

8. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya takes charge as IOC Chairman

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya took charge as the Chairman of IOC. Prior to his elevation, Vaidya was the Director (Refineries) on the IOC Board, since October 2019. He succeeds Sanjiv Singh, who has superannuated from the services of the Corporation on June 30. **IOC Registered Office- Mumbai, Corporate Office-New Delhi.**

Concurrently, Vaidya will also be Chairman of Chennai Petroleum Corporation, a stand-alone refining subsidiary of IOC and Indian Oil tanking Ltd.

9. Ravinder Bhakar assumes charge as CEO of CBFC

Ravinder Bhakar, a 1999 batch officer of IRSS, has taken over as the Chief Executive Officer of Central Board of Films Certification. Prior to his appointment as CEO, Bhakar was posted as the Secretary & Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railways. **CBFC HQ- Mumbai**, Chairperson- Prasoon Joshi.

The Central Board of Film Certification is a statutory film-certification body in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India. It is tasked with regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952.

10. Kalyan Jewellers appoints Sanjay Raghuraman as CEO

Warburg Pincus-backed Kalyan Jewellers appointed Sanjay Raghuraman as its **first Chief Executive Officer** who also holds the position of Chief Operating Officer of the jewellery chain. Also, **Salil Nair & Anil Nairs have been appointed as directors**. MD & Chairman: TS Kalyanraman; HQ: Thrissur.

Sanjay Raghuram was the head of operations at HDB Financial Services Limited prior to joining Kalyan Jewellers.

11. NHAI chairman Sukhbir Singh Sandhu gets six months extension

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension in central deputation tenure of Sandhu, chairman, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for a period of six months up to January 21, 2021. **NHAI was set up by an act of the Parliament, NHAI Act, 1988.**

12. Jean Castex Appointed as New Prime Minister of France

French President Emmanuel Macron named Jean Castex, who coordinated France's virus reopening strategy, as the country's new prime minister replacing Edouard Philippe. Castex, 55, is a career public servant who has worked with multiple governments. **Capital: Paris; Currency: Euro.**

13. Indian-origin Jayant Krishna appointed as new CEO for UKIBC

The UK India Business Council has announced that Jayant Krishna has accepted the invitation of the Board to become its new Group Chief Executive Officer. **He will be 1st UKIBC Group CEO to be based in India**, will be replacing Richard Heald. UKIBC founded in 2007 to foster trade relation b/w 2 countries.

Krishna has previously led key initiatives of the Prime Minister's Skill India mission as CEO, and Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer of the National Skill Development Corporation.

14. Dr. Bishnu Prasad Nanda takes over as DG Railway Health Services

Dr Bishnu Prasad Nanda has taken over as Director General Railway Health Services (DG RHS) Railway Board. He joined at the apex post of the Health Department in the

Railway Board. He was serving as the Principal Chief Medical Doctor Southern Railway.
Chairman of Indian Railway Board – VK Yadav.

As Principal Chief Medical Director of Southern Railways, Dr Nanda was instrumental in implementing e-Procurement of medicines and surgical for the Zone. Under his able leadership, the Medical Department completed the e-Procurement and ensured equitable distribution to all Divisions.

15. Ex-Corporate Affairs secretary Injeti Srinivas appointed IFSCA chairman

Former Corporate Affairs Secretary **Injeti Srinivas was appointed the first chairman of International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**, a unified authority for regulating all financial services in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. His appointment was approved for a period of 3 years.

The IFSCA will regulate all financial services in international financial services centres (IFSCs) established under the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005. Currently, banking, capital markets and insurance sectors in IFSC are regulated by multiple regulators, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). The authority, that came into effect from April 27, 2020, can have eight members and a chairman. One member (ex-officio) each will be nominated by the RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). Two members (ex-officio), from amongst the officials of the ministry dealing with finance, to be nominated by the central government and **two other members to be appointed by the central government on the recommendation of a selection committee.**

16. NCLAT chairperson Justice Bhat gets three-month extension

The government extended the term of office of Justice Bansi Lal Bhat who is officiating as the chairperson of **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal**. He was first appointed as a judicial member of the NCLAT in Oct 2017 replacing Justice SJ Mukhopadhyaya. NCLAT Headquarters: New Delhi.

NCLAT is the appellate authority for deciding on appeals against the decisions of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on matters of company law and bankruptcy as well as of orders by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

17. Sijo Kuruvilla George appointed to Centre's committee on science and tech policy

The founding CEO of Start-up Village & founder of Re-think Foundation, Sijo Kuruvilla George is selected as member of Central Government's Expert Committee on Science and Technology Policy. He is the lone person from Kerala to be the part of 8-member panel He is in expert committee to formulate 1st stage of policymaking.

The **Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2020** is a formation by the Department of Science and technology and principle Scientific advisor of Union Government.

18. Corporate affairs secretary Rajesh Verma appointed as IEPFA chairman

Govt appointed corporate affairs secretary, Rajesh Verma, as the chairman of the **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** replacing Injeti Srinivas. The post of the chairman of the IEPFA is held by whoever is the current MCA secretary. **The IEPFA was established in September 2016.**

Anil K Sharma, executive director of the Reserve Bank of India, **PS Narasimha**, senior advocate and **Gopal V Kumar**, actuary and economist, were also appointed as **members of the IEPFA**. IEPFA was established to make refunds of shares, unclaimed dividends, matured deposits/debentures from the Investor Education Protection Fund to investors and to promote awareness among investors.

19. M K Sagar to take over as ED in charge of RBI's monetary policy dept

M K Sagar will take over as the executive director (ED) in charge of Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy department, **after the retirement of Janak Raj**. He will also be included in the **6-member Monetary Policy Committee** as an internal RBI member. The Central Bank has 12 Executive Directors.

20. Luxury Ride signs Sukhbir Singh as brand ambassador

Luxury Ride, chain of used, multi-brand luxury car showrooms, signed singer Sukhbir Singh as brand ambassador. With this, he will be seen in a full-fledged marketing campaign across the upcoming brand and product communication initiatives by Luxury Ride. **Luxury Ride Headquarters: New Delhi.** MD: Sumit Garg.

21. Grandmaster RB Ramesh Resigns as Chief Selector Of All India Chess Federation

Grandmaster R B Ramesh resigned from the post of the chief of Selection Committee of **All India Chess Federation (AICF)** protesting against interference in Indian team selection process for the online class Olympiad team by Bharat Singh Chauhan. **All India Chess Federation HQ: Chennai.**

22. SEBI rejigs advisory committee on mutual funds

SEBI revamped its committee that advises the capital markets regulator on matters related to regulation & development of mutual fund industry. The **20-member advisory committee is headed Usha Thorat**. Earlier, it was 15-member panel headed by Janaki Ballabh. Usha Thorat is a former Deputy Governor of RBI.

It can advise the regulator on disclosure requirements and measures required for a change in the legal framework to introduce simplification and transparency in mutual fund regulations.

23. Mushtaque Ahmad resigns as HI chief, Ningombam nominated new President

Hockey India named Gyanendro Ningombam as the officiating president at the Emergent Executive Board meeting after Mushtaque Ahmad resigned. Ahmad had been in his role as president of the national sports body since 2018. He was earlier the secretary-general. **Hockey India headquarters: New Delhi.**

24. BCCI accepts CEO Rahul Johri's resignation

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has accepted its chief executive officer (CEO) Rahul Johri's resignation. He has tendered his resignation to Jay Shah. His tenure was supposed to end in April. However, the board gave an interim extension. BCCI Secretary: Jay Shah. President: Sourav Ganguly.

BCCI is the national governing body for cricket in India. **Headquarters: Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai.**

25. Gourangalal Das from Assam is India's new envoy to Taiwan

Gourangalal Das from Assam is all set to become the India's new envoy to Taiwan. Taiwan has now become diplomatically very important after the recent violent standoff between India and China at Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh. **Taiwan Capital- Taipei, Currency- New Taiwan dollar.**

Taiwan President: Tsai Ing-wen. Taiwan, officially the Republic of China, is a country in East Asia. Neighboring countries include the People's Republic of China to the northwest, Japan to the northeast, and the Philippines to the south

26. BCCI appoints Hemang Amin as interim CEO

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed IPL chief operating officer Hemang Amin as the interim chief executive officer (CEO). The apex body of cricket in India had recently accepted the resignation of its CEO, **Rahul Johri**. BCCI President: Sourav Ganguly.

27. EC Ashok Lavasa appointed ADB Vice-President

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed India's Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa as the Vice-President for Private Sector Operations and Public-Private Partnerships. He will succeed Diwakar Gupta, whose term ends on August 31. **President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa.**

Lavasa has previously served in a range of senior posts, including as the Finance Secretary, the Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, and the Civil Aviation Secretary.

28. SBI Cards appoints Ashwini Kumar Tewari as MD & CEO

SBI Cards and Payment Services has appointed Ashwini Kumar Tewari as Managing Director & CEO, as a nominee of SBI. **Hardayal Prasad, the current Managing Director & CEO** will cease to be at helm from July 31 after opting for voluntary retirement from SBI. SBI Cards had in March launched its IPO in the Indian markets.

As per most recent data, SBI owns 69.51% in the NBFC which was **founded in 1998** as a joint venture between the public sector lender and GE Capital. In 2017, upon GE Capital's exit from the venture, The Carlyle Group acquired 26% stake in the company. SBI had in FY20 sold a certain portion of its stake in SBI Cards and Payment Services, netting Rs 2731.34 crore.

SBI Cards and Payment Services' board on July 20 is also poised to consider a fund raise for the company. In an exchange filing, SBI Cards and Payment Services said the

board would consider raising of funds by way of issuance of Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) aggregating to Rs. 1,500 Crores in one or more tranches over a period of time.

29. Prabhjeet Singh appointed as Uber India & South Asia President

Uber announced the appointment of Prabhjeet Singh as President Uber India and South Asia, tasked with overseeing the next phase of growth in the company's mobility business and ensuring safety for riders and drivers across India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. **Uber was launched internationally on December 2011.**

Dara Khosrowshahi is an Iranian American businessman and the chief executive officer of Uber.

30. 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. **Suriname Capital- Paramaribo, Currency- Surinamese dollar.**

31. Kulmeet Bawa appointed as President & MD of SAP, Indian Subcontinent

SAP SE announced the appointment of Kulmeet Bawa as President and Managing Director for SAP Indian Subcontinent. He will guide businesses in India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka to adopt a digital-first mindset & will report directly to SAP APJ President. President of SAP Asia Pacific Japan- Scott Russell.

32. Roshni Nadar, HCL is the first woman to head a listed Indian IT firm

Country's richest woman Roshni Nadar Malhotra became the **first woman to head a listed Indian IT company** as she took over as the Chairperson of USD 8.9 billion HCL Technologies from her father and billionaire Shiv Nadar. She featured in 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' list by Forbes.

33. SBI General Insurance Appoints PC Kandpal as MD & CEO

SBI General Insurance Company Limited announced the appointment of Prakash Chandra Kandpal as its new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer replacing Pushan Mahapatra. PC Kandpal is a seasoned banker & has more than 33 years of experience with SBI. He had also been the Chief Operating Officer in SBI Mutual Fund.

He has experience in both retail and international banking, human resource, technology, and learning and development. **SBI General Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai.**

34. Karur Vysya Bank appoints Ramesh Babu Boddu as MD & CEO

Karur Vysya Bank's (KVB) Board of Directors has co-opted Ramesh Babu Boddu as an Additional Director and appointed him Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer for three years. He retired as Deputy Managing Director in State Bank of India in April 2020. KVB is a scheduled commercial bank in India. **HQ: Karur, TN.**

35. Amudha appointed Joint Secretary in PMO

P. Amudha, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, has been brought to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as Joint Secretary. She was serving as a professor at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration. **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet is headed by PM Modi.**

36. Sumit Deb appointed 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. He will have tenure till February 28, 2023, i.e. the date of his superannuation. **He succeeds N Baijendra Kumar.**

NMDC Limited is an Indian state-controlled mineral producer. Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Steel. Headquarters: Hyderabad.

37. Rahul Bajaj steps down as chairman of Bajaj Finance

Business tycoon Rahul Bajaj will step down as chairman of Bajaj Finance Ltd on 31 July after 33 years at the helm and hand over the reins to his son **Sanjiv Bajaj** as part of succession planning at the non-banking financial company. Bajaj Headquarters: Pune.

Sanjiv Bajaj chairs the board of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. He is also the managing director of Bajaj Holdings and Investment.

38. International Union of Railways nominate Arun Kumar as its security platform's Vice-Chairman

International Union of Railways headquartered in Paris, France has nominated Director General of Railway Protection Force, Arun Kumar, as Vice-Chairman of its security platform. The decision was taken in the **96th General Assembly of the Union**. It is an international rail transport industry body.

The Security Platform of the Union is empowered to develop and formulate analysis and policy positions for matters relating to security, property and installation in the rail sector. The security platform also promotes the exchange of information and experience among the Union members and proposes common interest projects in rails. Chairperson of International Union of Railways: Gianluigi Vittorio Castelli.

39. Riva Ganguly Das appointed as Secretary East in MEA

India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Riva Ganguly Das is appointed by the Government as the Secretary East, in the Ministry of External Affairs. Ms Das who is an Indian Foreign Service officer will succeed Ms Vijay Thakur Singh after her retirement. External Affairs Minister: Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

40. Sahil Seth appointed as honorary adviser for BRICS CCI

Sahil Seth, Deputy Commissioner of Mumbai Customs, has been appointed as an honorary adviser to the steering committee for the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (CCI) young leaders **for the period 2020-2023**. The chamber was founded in 2012. **BRICS- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.

41. Naveen Tahilyani to take charge as Tata AIA Life Insurance MD & CEO

Tata AIA Life Insurance has appointed Naveen Tahilyani as the new Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director. Tata AIA Life Insurance Company (Tata AIA Life) is a joint venture between Tata Sons and AIA Group Limited. **He will succeed Rishi Srivastava**.

42. Partha Pratim Sengupta appointed new MD, CEO of Indian Overseas Bank

Partha Pratim Sengupta has been appointed as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive of Indian Overseas Bank. The post of the MD and CEO at IOB had fell vacant after the superannuation of **Karnam Sekar**, who retired on June 30, 2020. Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) is based in Chennai.

43. Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Bhushan appointed health secretary

Bureaucrat Rajesh Bhushan has been appointed health secretary as part of a minor top-level bureaucratic reshuffle. **Sushil Kumar has been appointed secretary of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes** under the Social Justice & Empowerment Ministry. Rajesh Bhushan will succeed Preeti Sudan.

44. Ganesh Lakshminarayanan is new chief of Airtel's enterprise business

Bharti Airtel Ltd has appointed Ganesh Lakshminarayanan as chief executive officer (CEO) of the company's enterprise business. **He will succeed Ashish Arora**, who has been promoted as the CEO for global business. Bharti Airtel, the largest player in the B2B connectivity space.

45. IISc appoints Prof Govindan Rangarajan as new Director

The governing council of the 111-year-old Indian Institute of Science (IISc) formally appointed Prof Govindan Rangarajan as its new director. He will formally take charge after the incumbent director **Prof Anurag Kumar** superannuates on July 31. IISc was founded by Jamshetji Nusserwanji Tata in 1909.

46. Former Renault chief Thierry Bollore named new CEO of Jaguar Land Rover

Former Renault executive Thierry Bollore will be taking over as the new CEO of British luxury carmaker Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover. Bollore was appointed Renault's chief executive only in January 2019. He succeeds **Prof Sir Ralf Speth**. N. Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons.

47. Paytm Money appoints Varun Sridhar as CEO

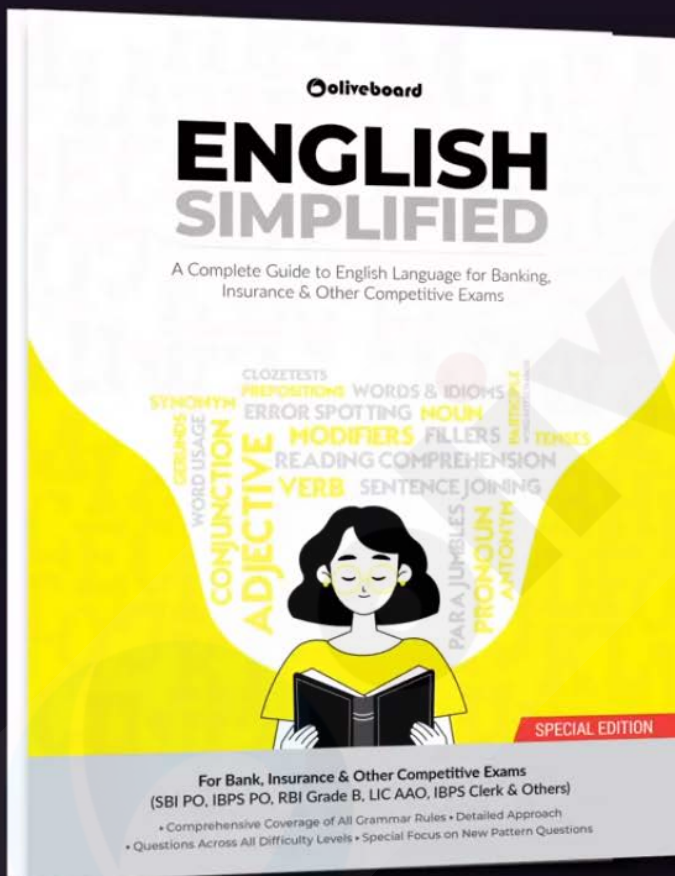
Paytm Money announced the appointment of Varun Sridhar, as the new Chief Executive Officer of Paytm Money. He will lead the launch & development of the equity brokerage other than growing the already successful mutual funds, NPS and Gold services. Amit Nayyar, President at Paytm.

48. Gujarat IAS officer Hardik Satishchandra Shah is PM Modi's top aide

Hardik Satishchandra Shah, a 2010 batch IAS officer has been appointed private secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Shah's appointment was cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. **He will take over from Rajeev Topno.** Shah is serving as deputy secretary in the PMO.

49. S N Rajeswari appointed CMD of Oriental Insurance

S N Rajeswari has been appointed the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL), according to a Personnel Ministry order. She is currently General Manager of New India Assurance Company Limited. OICL, headquartered in New Delhi.



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Awards

1. India's AI-enabled MyGov Corona Helpdesk bagged two awards at CogX 2020

AI-enabled **MyGov Corona Helpdesk** bagged 2 awards under categories Best Innovation for Covid-19 -Society & People's Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner, at the recently held CogX 2020, which is a Global Leadership Summit & Festival of AI & Emerging Technology. **Technical Partner JioHaptik Technologies won the awards.**

MyGov, a citizen engagement platform, facilitates two-way communication between the government and citizens and facilitates participatory governance in India. In the fight against COVID-19, MyGov, JioHaptik Technologies and WhatsApp team collaborated to develop AI-enabled MyGov Corona Helpdesk in the record time of five days including weekend. **CogX is one of the world's largest events on AI, held annually in London.** Abhishek Singh- CEO of MyGov.

2. Former RBI Governor C. Rangarajan gets Mahala Nobis award

Former Reserve Bank of India Governor C. Rangarajan has been conferred the P.C. Mahala Nobis Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his contribution to official statistics. He also held the post of chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. He was given the award on the **Statistics Day on June 29.**

3. Indian battalion wins UNIFIL environment award

An Indian battalion stationed with the **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)** has won an environment award for a project that aims to decrease waste generation, reuse plastic, build greenhouses and compost pits. UNIFIL – a UN-NATO peacekeeping mission **headquartered in Lebanon.**

4. Tamil Nadu CM EPS honoured with Paul Harris Fellow recognition

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International having its headquarters at Chicago has honoured Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami with Paul Harris Fellow recognition. **It is accorded to honour people who render efficient services to people.** Tamil Nadu Governor: Banwarilal Purohit.

Paul Harris Recognition: It is conferred to people who render services like providing drinking water, sanitation, prevention of diseases, environment, world peace, etc., The person recognised as a fellow will receive a certificate and a label pin.

5. Arunachal Pradesh filmmaker bags Dada Saheb Phalke Award for documentary on honey hunting

Honey Hunting, an integral part of Arunachal Pradesh's Shertukpen Community has been slowly slithering away. To keep the tradition alive Kezang D Thongdok, a filmmaker documented the process of honey hunting and was awarded the Dada Saheb Phalke Award. **He was awarded for the documentary named 'Chi Lupo'.**

In the documentary, he artfully sketches the custom of honey hunting practised in the community where Chi means honey and Lupo means hunters. Thongdok is presently

working on a new documentary film titled, Khiksaba which is an unexplored festival of the Shertukpen tribe.

6. NTPC Limited wins prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019

National Thermal Power Corporation, a Central PSU under Ministry of Power won the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019 under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category. It was also commended for its significant achievement in CSR. NTPC Chairman and Managing Director: Gurdeep Singh.

NTPC Headquarters: New Delhi. Union Minister of Power: Raj Kumar Singh. **CII – ITC Awards: Instituted in 2006**, the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards recognise and reward excellence in businesses that are seeking ways to be more sustainable and inclusive in their activities.

7. Tata's Chandrasekaran, Lockheed Martin's Taiclet to receive USIBC Global Leadership Award

Tata group Chairman N Chandrasekaran and Lockheed Martin CEO Jim Taiclet to receive the USIBC Global Leadership Award. The USIBC Global Leadership Awards are conferred in recognition of outstanding leadership and for promoting Indo-US trade and business. Google CEO Sundar Pichai has also been a recipient of the award.

USIBC - US India Business Council. **Headquarters: Washington, USA.**

8. The Committee to Protect Journalists Announced 2020 International Press Freedom Awardees

The Committee to Protect Journalists has announced that the recipients of the 2020 International Press Freedom Awards include Shahidul Alam from Bangladesh, Mohammad Mosaed from Iran, Dapo Olorunyomi from Nigeria and Svetlana Prokopyeva from Russia. **Amal Clooney-Received Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award.**

9. South Central Railway's Ongole Sub-Division Office bags WATER HEROES AWARD from Jal Shakti Ministry

Ongone Sub-Divisional Office of Vijayawada Division, Andhra, South Central Railway has been declared as winner in the "Water Heroes Award" for the month of April 2020 **launched by Ministry of Jal Shakti.** The office had made a short film to highlight it. Union Jal Shakti Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

10. Marianna Vardinoyannis & Morissana Kouyaté win 2020 United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize

Ms. Vardinoyannis is the founder and president of two foundations dedicated to children, in the fight against child cancer. Morissanda Kouyate, is a leading figure in efforts to end violence against women in Africa, including Female Genital Mutilation. UN General Assembly President: Tijjani Muhammad-Bande.

11. Environmental activist Greta Thunberg wins first Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity

Young Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg was awarded the first Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity. The award carries a **€1,000,000 prize** and the entire amount would be donated by Thunberg to project and organisations fighting for a sustainable world. There were 136 nominees for the award.

The Gulbenkian Prize aims to recognize people, groups of people and/or organizations from all over the world whose contributions to mitigation and adaptation to climate change stand out for its novelty, innovation, and impact.

12. Earth Sciences Ministry announces National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science

This year's **Lifetime Excellence Award is being awarded to Professor Ashok Sahni** for his significant contribution in the field of Geology, Vertebrate Paleontology & Biostratigraphy. **National Award for Atmospheric Science & technology went to Dr. S. S Babu.** The Ministry of Earth Sciences was formed in the year 2006.



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Ranks & Reports

1. NITI Aayog releases 'Towards a Clean Energy Economy' report

NITI Aayog & RMI released Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post-Covid-19 Opportunities for India's Energy and Mobility Sectors report, which advocates for recovery efforts that work towards building a clean, resilient, & least-cost energy future for India. Rocky Mountain Institute is headquartered in New Delhi.

These efforts include electric vehicle, energy storage, and renewable energy programs. The report lays out four principles as a framework for policymakers and other key decision-makers considering programmes to support India's clean energy future:

- 1) invest in least-cost-energy solutions
- 2) support resilient and secure energy systems
- 3) prioritize efficiency and competitiveness
- 4) promote social and environmental equity.

The report states that India's transport sector can save 1.7 gigatons of cumulative carbon dioxide emissions and avoid about 600 million tonnes of oil equivalent in fuel demand by 2030 through shared, electric, and connected passenger mobility and cost-effective, clean, and optimized freight transport. Amitabh Kant- CEO of NITI Aayog. RMI India is an independent non-profit organization that works towards accelerating India's transition to a clean, prosperous, and inclusive energy future.

2. 46 million girls went missing in India, says UNFPA report

One in three girls missing globally due to sex selection, both pre and postnatal, is from India -46 million out of the total 142 million, according to the UNFPA's State of the World Population 2020 report released. The number of missing women has doubled. 1 in 9 females below 5 years die due to postnatal sex selection.

3. India to add 60 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2025: BTI Survey

India is expected to add only 60 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next 5 yrs, according to a Renewable Energy CEO survey report 2020 by research & consultancy firm Bridge to India. **India's utility-scale solar capacity was 32.2GW** as on March 31, 2020 Union Minister for Power and Renewable Energy: R.K. Singh

India's utility-scale wind capacity was 37.6 GW as on March 31, 2020. The earlier base case solar and wind power capacity addition estimates over 2020-2024 were 43 GW and 15 GW, respectively.

4. India stands third largest contributor to e-waste in 2019, China tops

A United Nations-led report found India is the third-largest contributor to e-waste in the world in 2019. As per the report titled '**Global E-waste Monitor 2020**', the world dumped 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste in 2019. Of this, just 17.4% was recycled. India with 3.2 million tonnes, was third. China topped the list.

China contributed 10.1 million tonnes of e-waste. The United States was second with 6.9 million tonnes. Together, the top three countries accounted for nearly 38% of the world's e-waste in 2019.

The number of countries that have adopted a national e-waste policy, legislation or regulation has increased from 61 to 78 and includes India. There are 312 authorised recyclers of e-waste in India, with the capacity for treating approximately 800 kilotons annually. The new report also predicts global e-waste — discarded products with a battery or plug — will reach **74 million tonnes by 2030**, almost a doubling of e-waste in just 16 years.

5. India ranks 34th in JLL's Global Real Estate Transparency Index

The progress in the country's REIT framework, enhanced market data and sustainability initiatives pushed India's ranking to 34th position in JLL and LaSalle's biennial **Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRET)**. **UK was ranked first among 99 countries.** Currently, India is placed in the semi-transparent zone.

Top 10 countries are categorised as highly transparent, while those in the 11th position to 33rd are termed as transparent. The UK is followed by the United States, Australia and France. **This is the 11th edition** of the Global Real Estate Transparency Index. It covers 99 countries and territories and 163 city regions. Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL) is an American commercial real estate services company. It is the second-largest public brokerage firm in the world. Headquarters: Chicago, Illinois, U.S. President: Christian Ulbrich.

6. India ranks eighth for cancer preparedness among 10 Asia-Pacific countries

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) report on "**Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control**", sponsored by Roche, examines the findings from the EIU's Index of Cancer Preparedness. It ranked India at the 8th position. Only Vietnam and Philippines were ranked after India.

The report describes the complexities of the challenge of cancer facing 10 Asia-Pacific countries -- Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

India ranks eighth for cancer preparedness in the region with an overall score of 51.6 out of 100, below the regional average of 66.5, while Australia (92.4), South Korea (83.4) and Malaysia (80.3). According to the report, India records below-average scores across all three pillars in the index -- policy and planning, care delivery and health system and governance.

7. Avg global temperature can rise by 1.5°C in next 5 years: WMO report

Global average temperatures may rise 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels in the next five years, according to a recent World Meteorological Organization (WMO) report named '**The Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update**'. There is a 20 per cent possibility of the event.

8. Rural unemployment at four-month low on good rains, NREGA

According to latest data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the rural joblessness rate slowed to 6.34% from the previous week's 7.78%. The overall unemployment rate, too, came down to 7.44% in the week to 12 July from 8.87%.

CMIE Headquarters- Mumbai.

9. Pangolin scale seizures jumped 10 times between 2014 and 2018: UN report

Pangolins are the most trafficked wild mammals in the world, with the seizure of their scales increasing 10-fold between 2014 & 2018 according to a recent UN report. Meat and scales of pangolins are used for medicinal purposes in several parts of the world. China accounted for 99 per cent of the legal trade in its scales.

The number of pangolin scales legally imported went from almost nil to nearly 13 tonnes between 2013 and 2017, according to UNODC's World Wildlife Seizures database. They are also used for medicinal purposes in Africa: There is widespread trade of pangolin parts in Nigeria to treat several physical and psychological conditions.

10. Kerala tops the Registrar-General of India's ranking with the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio

According to the latest Sample Registration System 2016-18 bulletin for MMR released by the Registrar-General of India, Karnataka's MMR continues to be the highest among the 5 southern states. India's MMR stands at 113 per one lakh live births.

Maharashtra-Second after Kerala. Assam- Highest MMR.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "Maternal death" is the death of a woman while being **"pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy"**, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes".

11. India lifted record 273 million out of poverty in 10 years: UNDP report

About 273 mn Indians moved out of multidimensional poverty b/w 2005-06 and 2015-16, as per UNDP & OPHI study. Multidimensional poverty encompasses the various deprivations experienced such as poor health, lack of education, inadequate living standards etc. **Armenia, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, India halved their MPI value.**

12. Indian direct selling industry records USD 2.47 billion sales in 2019, ranks 15th globally

Indian direct selling industry has recorded sales of \$ 2.47 billion in 2019, reporting a growth of 12.1% according to a report by World Federation of Direct Selling Associations. This has helped the industry improve its ranking to 15 from 19 a year before. US is leading in list contributing 20% with sales of \$ 35.21 bn.

It is **followed by China** with 13 per cent contribution, Korea and Germany with 10 per cent each and 9 per cent by Japan. In terms of the number of direct sellers, India

has been ranked at sixth position, proving employment to 57.50 lakh people. However, the global direct selling industry has reported an overall decline of 4.3 per cent in sales to USD 180.47 billion in 2019. World Federation of Direct Selling Associations: **WFDSA** is an international organization representing the worldwide direct selling industry. Chairman: Magnus Barnstorm. **Head office: Washington.**

13. India Ranks Among 10 Worst Countries for Working People: ITUC

India is among the 10 worst countries for working people according to the seventh edition of the **International Trade Union Confederation (based in Brussels, Belgium)** Global Rights Index that ranks 144 countries on the degree of respect for workers' rights. India, Egypt & Honduras are the new entries to the top 10.

The other countries in the top 10 include Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Turkey and Zimbabwe. The Middle East and North Africa are the worst regions in the world for working people for seven years running due to the ongoing insecurity and conflict in Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Libya coupled with the most regressive region for workers' representation and union rights.

The ITUC report concludes that 85 per cent of countries violated the right to strike and 80 per cent of countries violated the right to collectively bargain. **The number of countries that denied or constrained freedom of speech increased from 54 in 2019 to 56 in 2020.** Workers were exposed to violence in 51 countries.

Workers had no or restricted access to justice in 72 per cent of countries. At the same time, workers experienced arbitrary arrests and detention in 61 countries. **Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Uruguay are the best countries with a rating of 1.** ITUC: The International Trade Union Confederation is the world's largest trade union federation. General Secretary: Sharan Burrow. Global Rights Index: The Global Rights Index ranks countries in the world on a scale **from 1 (best) to 5+ (worst)**. The countries are ranked based on an analysis using 97 indicators derived from ILO conventions. Violations of rights are looked at both in law and practice.

14. UNEP & IEA releases 'Cooling Emissions and Policy Synthesis' Report

The UNEP and the International Energy Agency released a report on 'Cooling Emissions and Policy Synthesis'. Currently, there are 3.6 billion appliances in use globally. The Montreal Protocol was signed in 1985 to phase out hydrofluorocarbons. **UNEP HQ- Nairobi, Kenya. IEA HQ- Paris, France.**

15. India among top 10 countries gaining forest area in the world: FAO

India has ranked third among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas in the last decade, the latest Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) brought out by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Globally, 12.5 mn. people were employed in the forestry sector.

16. Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launches India Report- Digital Education June 2020

Union Minister for Education Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually launched India Report on Digital Education, 2020. The report elaborates on the innovative methods adopted by Min. of Education, Education Departments of States and Union Territories. Minister of State for Education, Shri Sanjay Dhotre.

17. A third of world's children are poisoned by lead, says UNICEF report

A third of the world's children- around 800 million- are affected by lead poisoning, with India accounting for 275,561,163 of these cases, said a report by the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** and non-profit **Pure Earth**. UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

The report, the first of its kind, said lead levels in the blood of the affected children were at or above five micrograms per decilitre ($\mu\text{g} / \text{dL}$). Lead exposure during childhood is linked to several issues, including mental health and behavioural problems, including an increase in crime and violence. Middle- and low-income countries were the most affected by the problem of lead exposure.

The countries lost almost \$1 trillion of economic potential because of this, according to the report. Nearly half of the affected children were from South Asia. Sindoor (vermillion), a traditional cosmetic powder used by women in the Indian subcontinent, also has traces of lead. Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, India, Israel, Kenya, the Philippines, Tanzania and Thailand have laws against lead paint for industrial uses as of 2015, according to the report.

18. Hyderabad ranks 16th among top 20 cities with maximum number of CCTV surveillance cameras

Hyderabad was ranked 16th among the list of top 20 cities with the maximum number of CCTV surveillance cameras installed in a survey done on most surveilled cities in the world. The **UK based Comparitech** released the list of top 20 cities in the world. Hyderabad is the top-ranked metropolis in India.

Hyderabad has 30 CCTVs per 1,000 people. Hyderabad has a crime index of 43.46 despite its high number of CCTVs. **Chennai, ranked 21st overall**, comes a close second in Indian surveilled cities, while Delhi is a distant third at 33rd. Eighteen of the top 20 cities in the list are located in China, while third-ranked London is the only city situated outside of China apart from Hyderabad. **Taiyuan in China is the most surveilled city**, with over 4.6 lakh cameras keeping an eye on nearly 39 lakh people. This translates to around 120 CCTVs for 1,000 people – the highest ratio among the 50 cities.

Important Days

1. National Doctor's Day: July 1

India celebrates July 1 as 'National Doctor's Day' commemorating the iconic and internationally renowned medical practitioner, **Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy** who served as a physician, a freedom fighter, an educationist and a politician. India honoured Dr Roy with a Bharat Ratna in 1961.

2. 1 July: National Chartered Accountants Day

CA Day is noted on July 1 to honour the finding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India by the Indian parliament in 1949. ICAI is India's professional accounting body. Day theme- '**Transforming the Future: Enabling Excellence, Augmenting Trust**'. ICAI is the 2nd biggest accounting organization in the world.

The British government in India passed the Companies Act in 1913, that provided for the appointment of an auditor to audit the books each company registered under the act had to maintain; In 1948, an expert committee said that an autonomous body should be formed for enhanced regulation of accounts and subsequently the ICAI came into existence when the Chartered Accounts Act of 1949 was passed; The term Chartered Accountant became the preferred title instead of the previously used Registered Accountant.

3. 3rd GST Day is observed on 1st of July

On 1st July 2018, India celebrated the 1st Anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax as GST day. The GST was launched at midnight on 1 July 2017 by the President of India by a historic midnight (30 June – 1 July) session of both the houses of parliament. **The types of GST in India are CGST, SGST and IGST.**

Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his government were the actual father of the GST. This government first conceptualized in 2000 to have uniform tax for one commodity across the nation; India has the highest tax rate out of all the countries that have implemented GST; The **GST rate in India for various goods and services is divided under 4 slabs**; these are 5% GST, 12% GST, 18% GST, and 28% GST. However, there are some products that do not carry any GST rate.

4. 2 July: World UFO Day

World UFO Day observed on 2 July spread awareness about the existence of life outside Earth. It was 1st celebrated in 2001 by **World UFO Day Organisation (WUFODO) founder Haktan Akdogan**. On 2 July 1947, a UFO had supposedly crashed in Roswell, New Mexico. UFO- Unidentified Flying Object.

On June 24, it was reported that aviator Kenneth Arnold had seen a UFO in the US; The World UFO Day is celebrated by some on June 24 and by others on July 2.

5. 2 July: World Sports Journalists Day

World Sports Journalists Day is celebrated on July 2, to mark the services of sports journalists for the promotion of sports. Day is celebrated to mark the formation of

International Sports Press Association at the 1924 Paris Olympics. AIPS HQ is based in the Olympic capital Lausanne, Switzerland.

AIPS was built with the belief of enhancing the cooperation between its member associations in defending sport and professional interests and strengthening the friendship and solidarity between sports journalists of all countries.

6. International Day of Cooperatives: First sat of July

International Day of Cooperatives is an annual celebration of the cooperative movement that takes place on the first Saturday of July since 1923. Since 1995, the UN and International Cooperative Alliance have aimed to increase awareness of cooperatives 2020 theme is- **Cooperatives for Climate Action**.

The day aims towards international integration and the strengthening of mergers and collaborations between countries.

7. World Zoonoses Day: July 6

It **commemorates the French biologist Louis Pasteur**, who in 1885, successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies, a zoonotic disease. It is celebrated every year on July 6. Zoonoses are diseases which can be transmitted from animals to humans. Around 75% of human diseases are zoonotic in origin.

8. World Population Day: July 11

The United Nations Development Programme recommended the introduction of World Population Day in 1989, inspired by the public interest and awareness that was created by "Five Billion Day" on July 11, 1987, when the world's population reached 5 billion. **Theme- How to safeguard the health & rights of women & girls now.**

9. World Youth Skills Day: 15 July

The World Youth Skills Day is celebrated on July 15, every year. This United Nations invented day aims at spreading awareness of the importance that technical and vocational education, training, and the development of new skills holds in our lives. **Theme: "Skills for a Resilient Youth".**

10. Indian Council of Agricultural Research celebrates its 92nd Foundation Day

ICAR celebrated its 92nd foundation day on 16 July. It is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE). It was established on 16 July 1929 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. **Ex-officio President of the ICAR Society- Agriculture minister.**

T. Purushothaman, a shrimp farmer from Payyannur, has bagged the Jagjivan Ram Innovative Farmer Award instituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Mr Purushothaman has been selected for the award for his outstanding contributions to the development of diversified aquaculture practices utilising technological advancements.

The award comprises a cash award of ₹50,000 and a citation. Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare- Narendra Singh Tomar. The Council is the apex body

for co-ordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country. With 102 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities spread across the country, this is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world.

11. 17 July: World Day for International Justice

International Justice is observed on July 17. It is celebrated on this day as it commemorates the historic adoption of the Rome Statute in the year 1998. The day is observed to give recognition to the emerging system of international criminal justice.

This day is also known as International Criminal Justice Day.

On this day, a new treaty was signed which helped established the International Criminal Court. Since then this court has been serving to bring justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The Review Conference of the Rome Statute was held at the city of Kampala, Uganda on June 1, 2010, and during this conference the all the countries involved in decided to celebrate International Criminal Justice Day on July 17. This day was initiated to demonstrate the important role of civil society members plays in our lives.

12. 18 July: International Nelson Mandela Day

International Nelson Mandela Day is celebrated in honour of Nelson Mandela & is marked on July 18, which is his birthday. United Nations General Assembly officially declared the day in November 2009. It is a day to highlight the work he did for 67 years. Fondly referred to as Madiba, he is Noble prize winner.

13. World Chess Day: July 20

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. Chess is one of the oldest strategy games in the world. FIDE HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland. **FIDE's motto for 2020: "Teach someone how to play chess."**

On July 20, 1924, at the eighth summer Olympic games in Paris, France, the FIDE (World Chess Federation) was founded. World Chess Federation President: Arkady Dvorkovich.

14. National Broadcasting Day: July 23

National Broadcasting Day is observed on July 23. On this day in 1927, the first-ever radio broadcast in the country went on air from the Bombay Station under a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company. Prasara Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati. Headquarters: New Delhi.

Prasara Bharati is India's largest public broadcasting agency under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.

15. India celebrates 21st anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26th July

The nation is observing the 21st anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26, remembering its brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives to uphold and safeguard the

integrity of the nation. **This day commemorates the success of Operation Vijay.** Kargil war took place from May 3 to July 26, 1999.

16. World Hepatitis Day - July 28

World Hepatitis Day is commemorated each year on 28 July to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes a range of health problems, including liver cancer. There are 5 main strains of the virus – A, B, C, D & E. 2020 Theme: **Hepatitis-free future.**

Hepatitis B and C are the most common cause of deaths, with 1.3 million lives lost each year.

17. International Tigers day: July 29

The International Tigers Day is celebrated on 29th of July every year across the globe to create awareness about tiger conservation. Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released **All India Tiger Estimation Report-2018**. India is home to nearly 70 % of the global tiger population.

18. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: 30 July

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed every year on July 30. Awareness is created around fellow humans who are being trafficked. This day was started by the United Nations as a way to combat the problems caused due to trafficking. The UN General Assembly designated the day in 2013.

World Day Against Trafficking 2020 theme is '**Committed to the Cause - Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking**'.

19. International Day of Friendship: 30 July

International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures & individuals can inspire peace efforts & build bridges between communities. It is observed on July 30. **UNGA HQ: New York, USA.** President: Tijjani Muhammad-Bande.

Summit & Conferences

1. New Zealand cancels 2021 APEC summit, will lead it virtually

New Zealand cancelled its plans to host Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Auckland on 2021 because of the coronavirus, opting instead to lead a virtual summit. 21 APEC members include US, China, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Indonesia, & Hong Kong. **This year Malaysia has been hosting virtual APEC meetings.**

Last year, Chile cancelled the APEC leaders' meeting because of violent anti-government protests. New Zealand Capital- Wellington, Currency- New Zealand dollar, PM- Jacinda Ardern. APEC Headquarters- Singapore, Established on- 1989.

2. Prime Minister to address High-Level Segment of ECOSOC on 17 July

PM Modi will deliver keynote address virtually at this year's valedictory session of High-Level Segment of the UN Economic & Social Council session in New York. **2020 theme- Multilateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary.** Norway PM & UN Secretary General will also deliver address.

PM had earlier delivered the keynote address virtually at the 70th anniversary of ECOSOC in January 2016. Norway PM- Erna Solberg. UN Secretary General- Antonio Guterres.

3. UNICEF India partners with SAP India to improve the employability of young people

UNICEF India announced partnership with SAP India to provide career counselling to young people in India to improve their employability skills in a COVID & post COVID era. **UNICEF will collaborate with YuWaah** (Generation Unlimited) under this initiative. Goal: Impact one million young people by the end of 2022.

4. India Business Council to host 2020 India Ideas Summit on July 22

The Summit hosted by Indian Business Council convenes business and government leaders for discussions on the future of the U.S-India Partnership and the trends shaping globalization, trade and investment, and the future of work in the COVID-era and beyond. PM Modi and Mike Pompeo to deliver the keynote address.

The US – India Business Council: It is a business advocacy organization to enlighten and encourage the private sectors of both India and the United States to enhance investment flows. **Headquarters: Washington, USA.** Chairman: Nisha Biswal.

5. 3-day long Air Force Commanders' Conference to begin in Delhi

3- day long Air Force Commanders' Conference will begin at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan) in New Delhi. **The theme of the conference is "Indian Air Force in the Next Decade".** It will be chaired by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria. It is scheduled to begin on July 22.

According to IAF, during the three-day conference the commanders would take stock of the current operational scenario and deployments. The commanders will also discuss action for operational capability enhancement of the IAF in the next decade.

6. FCC, NPCI to host world's largest virtual fintech event

The Fintech Convergence Council (FCC), the fintech committee of Internet and Mobile Association of India, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Payments Council of India to host a virtual fintech Called Global Fintech.

The theme of the event: 'Fintech: With and Beyond COVID'.

Called **Global Fintech Fest**, the event will bring together fintech and BFSI ecosystems from across the globe on a single platform.

7. For 1st time in 75 years, UN General Assembly Annual Meet to go virtual

The landmark 75th session of the UN General Assembly will begin on September 15. World leaders will submit pre-recorded video statements for the United Nations General Assembly session. The summit on biodiversity will be held on September 30.

General Assembly is one of the 6 principal organs of UN.

8. Harsh Vardhan attends Health Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting

Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan attended the Health Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states meeting through video conferencing and said that India undertook the COVID-19 challenge with the highest level of political commitment. Heads of State Council is the decision-making body in the SCO.

9. FM Sitharaman attends 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 5th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) through a video conference in New Delhi. **Theme 'AIIB 2030-Supporting Asia's Development over the Next Decade'.**

AIIB, Headquarters: Beijing, China.

Science & Technology

1. DST-SERB in collaboration with INSA launches photo & film competition with the theme "Science through My Eyes"

Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) is organizing a photo/painting and a one-minute-film competition. The competition is open to Indian nationals only. There is no entry fee. Entries will be under 3 groups. Prof Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST.

2. DCGI gives approval for human clinical trials of COVAXIN; first potential COVID-19 Vaccine developed in the country

The Central Drug Standard Control Organisation has granted approval to **Bharat Biotech India** to conduct human clinical trials for Corona Vaccine called '**Covaxin**'. The company said that it is the first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine to receive the approval. Bharat Biotech Chairman & MD- Krishna Ella.

The Covaxin has been developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune. The SARS-CoV-2 strain was isolated in NIV, Pune and transferred to Bharat Biotech. The indigenous, inactivated vaccine developed and manufactured at the Bio-safety level 3 lab of the Bharat Biotech located in Genome Valley in Hyderabad.

3. RMRC Dibrugarh becomes the 4th Laboratory in India to isolate COVID-19 Virus Strain

Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) **Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) in Dibrugarh district of Assam** has successfully isolated the SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) virus becoming the fourth such facility in the country to achieve the feat. As per RMRC findings, all strains of SARS-CoV-2 were L-type.

It follows National Institute of Virology, Pune, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad and Bharat Biotech, Hyderabad to be able to isolate the virus.

4. ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission captures image of the biggest moon of Mars

The Mars Colour Camera onboard **ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission** has captured the image of Phobos, the closest & biggest moon of Mars. The **Rs 450-cr MOM mission** aims at studying the Martian surface & mineral composition as well as scan its atmosphere for methane in 2014 successfully placed MoM spacecraft in Mars orbit

Phobos is largely believed to be made up of carbonaceous chondrites.

5. IIT Roorkee Develops Disinfection Box for personal things

Researchers at IIT Roorkee developed a disinfection box that can be used to sterilize personal belongings, medical equipment, PPE, apparels, among others. **Named as Unisaviour box**, it has a metal coated with specially- designed highly reflective geometry. The device comes with an additional safety switch for UVC light.

The box has an internal coating of indigenously developed metal oxide along with herbal anti-bacterial and anti-viral layers to prevent the growth of microorganisms when UVC light is not in use.

6. India's First NPNT Compliant Drone Flight Successfully Completed

Quidich is proud to announce the successful completion of India's **First No-Permission No-Take off (NPNT)** compliant drone flight on the **A200 Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)**. The flight was carried out in a green zone identified by the DGCA. It marks a breakthrough in online testing and permission systems

This will go a long way in opening up the skies for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). **Quidich Innovation Labs and Asteria Aerospace collaborated** with a vision of completing India's first NPNT compliant flight, enabled through the Digital Sky platform. Quidich is an aerial solutions company which provides aerial broadcasting services, both in India and globally for sporting events like the IPL.

7. DRDO to set up research cell at IIT-H

Defence Research and Development Organisation is going to establish a research cell at the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad to meet the future defence technological requirements of the country by undertaking basic and applied research programs. DRDO Chairman: G Satheesh Reddy.

8. CSIR in partnership with Laxai Sciences to seek approval to undertake clinical trials on Covid-19 patients

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), in collaboration with Laxai Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. Hyderabad has sought regulatory approval to undertake a four-arm randomized controlled phase III clinical trial. **The clinical trial to be named MUCOVIN. Medanta Medicity is also a partner in this collaboration.**

The partner CSIR institutes in this important clinical trial are the CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad and CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu. CEO of Laxai Life Sciences: Dr Ram S. Upadhyay.

9. Mylab launches machine to automate molecular diagnostic tests including those for COVID-19

Pune-based **Mylab Discovery Solutions launched a machine 'Compact XL'** to automate the manual processes of molecular diagnostic tests, including RT-PCR tests for COVID-19. It is a cartridge-based machine and can test multiple samples at one time. Managing Director of Mylab: Hasmukh Rawal.

Compact XL is a compact bench-top machine that will automate lab processes from sample handling to preparing the Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) ready tubes.

10. ISRO prepares to launch Brazil's Amazonia-1 Satellite

The Indian Space Research Organisation is gearing up to lift off Brazil's **Amazonia-1 satellite** onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). Amazonia-1 will be the

first satellite for Earth Observation that is designed, assembled and tested in Brazil. **It is to help in observing & monitoring deforestation in Amazon.**

11. Loyal Textile introduces 'triple viral shield' range

Loyal Textile Mills, HeiQ Materials AG & Reliance Industries Ltd. unveiled reusable 'triple viral shield' products with anti-viral coating, under its Supera Shield brand. It uses R Elan fibre from Reliance & HeiQ's Viroblock technology to make these. These garments and masks can be washed 25 times & PPEs 10 times.

It is said to be the world's first reusable Personal Protective Equipment. Loyal Textile Mills: Chairperson: Valli M. Ramaswami. Headquarters: Chennai. HeiQ Groups: CEO: Carlo Centonze. Headquarters: Switzerland. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL): Chairman: Mukesh Ambani. Headquarters: Mumbai.

12. Kerala's first plasma bank set up at Manjeri

Kerala's first Plasma Bank has been set up at the Government Medical College Hospital at nearby **Manjeri**, where two critically-ill COVID-19 patients have recovered after undergoing plasma therapy. Kerala is a state on the southwestern Malabar Coast of India.

Pinarayi Vijayan is the current Chief Minister of Kerala, serving since 2016.

13. VNIR Biotech launches fluorescence probes & PCR mix for RT-PCR detection of COVID-19

Bengaluru based VNIR Biotechnologies a spinoff by Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research launched indigenous fluorescence probes & Polymerase chain reaction mix for RT-PCR detection of COVID-19. It is to be used in COVID-19 tests in India. The molecular probes used in tests are currently only imported.

PCR based test kit has three critical components, the oligos, enzymes and molecular probes. VNIR has innovated synthesis protocols for molecular probes, which will be useful for PCR based COVID-19 testing. The company is in the process of filing for the protection of its process innovation.

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

The **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K)** has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitising product named '**Shuddh**' that can disinfect a room in 15 minutes. It can also be used to prevent infection in hospitals, hotels, malls, offices and schools. In its initial tests, it disinfected a 10 sq. ft room in 15 mins.

This smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper has six UV lights of 15 watts each that can be individually monitored from a distance. The six lights can be rotated up to 360 degrees.

15. HRD Ministry launches most affordable COVID-19 test Kit

HRD Ministry has launched the most affordable COVID-19 test Kit. The kit has been produced by IIT Delhi. **COROSURE** is one of the companies which has received the

non-exclusive license from IIT Delhi for the probe free RT-PCR based COVID-19 test kit. The kit has been manufactured by New Tech Medical Devices.

16. CIPET gets accreditation by NABL to test PPE kits

Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology an institute under Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers has been accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories NABL for Testing and Certification of PPE Kit. Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers: DV Sadananda Gowda.

The PPE kit includes Gloves, Coverall, Face Shield, Goggles and Triple Layer Medical masks in line with International Standards. CIPET:Head Office: Chennai. Director-General: S K Nayak.

17. AIIMS to start clinical trial of indigenous vaccine Covaxin

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Ethics Committee gave its approval for conducting the human clinical trial of the indigenously developed Covid-19 vaccine candidate Covaxin. The age group of the study population is 18 to 55 years. It was developed by Bharat Biotech, ICMR & NIV.

There are 12 places where the trial for Covaxin is taking place as per the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR). Bharat Biotech: It is an Indian biotechnology company. Headquarters: Hyderabad. Indian Council of Medical Research: ICMR is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research. Headquarters: New Delhi. Secretary: Dr Balram Bhargava. National Institute of Virology: NIV is an Indian virology research institute, and one of the translational science cells part of **ICMR. Headquarters: Pune.**

18. Oxford University COVID-19 vaccine early trial shows positive result

Results published on early human trials of a Covid-19 vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and drug maker AstraZeneca have shown promise. The results come around a week after US biotech firm Moderna had released its own early trial data. **AstraZeneca is headquartered in Cambridge, United Kingdom.**

The vaccine developed by Oxford and AstraZeneca, which belongs to a category called non-replicating viral vector vaccines, tries to build the body's immunity against the spike protein of SARS CoV -2. The idea is to create antibodies to fight this spiked surface so that the virus does not even have the chance to penetrate the cells. The study showed 90% of involved people developed neutralising antibodies after one dose. **The vaccine - called ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 -** is being developed at unprecedented speed. It is made from a genetically engineered virus that causes the common cold in chimpanzees.

19. DRDO's 'Bharat' drones for Indian Army for accurate surveillance along China border

Amid the ongoing boundary dispute, DRDO has provided its indigenously developed drone named Bharat to the Indian Army for carrying out accurate surveillance in high altitude areas and mountainous terrain along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh. DRDO HQ: New Delhi. Chief: G. Satheesh Reddy.

BHARAT: The Bharat series of the drones can be listed among “World’s most agile and lightest Surveillance drone indigenously developed by the DRDO.” The drone is equipped with artificial intelligence to detect friends and foes and can act accordingly. The drone has been made capable of survival in extreme cold weather temperatures and is being developed further for harsher weather. The drone provides real-time video transmission during the complete missions and with very advanced night vision capabilities, it can detect humans hidden in deep forests. The drone has been built in a way that makes it impossible to be detected by Radar.

20. Dhruvastra: DRDO test fires ‘made in India’ anti-tank guided Nag missile

In the wake of ongoing border tensions between India and China, DRDO conducts flight trials of the **anti-tank guided Nag Missile (HELINA)** which has been named now as Dhruv Astra categorized as the third-generation, fire-and-forget, anti-tank guided missile. It can be launched from land and air-based platforms.

It has been designed such that it has the capability to destroy the new age Main Battle Tanks and other heavy armoured vehicles. DRDO has developed this missile under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**. Under IGMDP other missiles which have been developed include- Agni, Akash, Trishul and Prithvi.

21. China launches ambitious Tianwen-1 Mars rover mission

China launched fully homegrown Tianwen-1 Mars rover mission using Long March 5 rocket. Tianwen-1 consists of an orbiter and a lander/rover duo, a combination of craft that had never before launched together toward the Red Planet. **Tianwen-1 will arrive at the Red Planet in February 2021.**

22. South Korea's first military satellite launched

Private operator SpaceX has successfully launched south Korea’s first-ever military communications satellite. The **ANASIS-II** is intended to enhance the South's ability to defend itself against the nuclear-armed North, which invaded in 1950. South Korea Capital- Seoul, Currency- South Korean won.

23. IIT-Kharagpur develops technology for rapid COVID-19 testing

The test results can be made available in a customized smartphone application for dissemination within 1 hr without requiring manual interpretation. It will cost about ₹2,000 if used at a pilot facility. This method has eliminated the need for a PCR machine. PCR-Machines are based on Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

24. DRDO launches 'Dare to Dream 2.0' Contest for Start-ups with the aim to promote innovators

The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) launched 'Dare to Dream 2.0' contest for innovators and those looking to launch a start-up on the 5th death anniversary of former President of India and noted scientist **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam**. DRDO Motto-"Strength's Origin is in Science".

25. Wipro selects Google Cloud for its enterprise-wide SAP applications and workloads

Wipro has selected Google Cloud as the cloud provider for its enterprise-wide SAP footprint. The engagement will bring SAP applications and workloads to the cloud to support Wipros 180,000 employees. Wipro is headquartered in Bangalore, Karnataka.

26. BMW unveils mega-electrification plan, intends to drive in 5 EVs by 2021-end

By the end of 2021, the BMW Group will offer five fully electric production vehicles as part of a sweeping product overhaul. The German carmaker seeks to lower vehicle emissions during production and on the road. The objective is to reduce CO2 emissions. BMW Chief Executive: Oliver Zipse.

27. SNBNCBS develops a "No-touch" & "Painless" device for non-invasive screening of bilirubin level in new-borns

The device called **"AJO-Neo"** is developed by Professor Samir K. Pal & his group at **S.N. Bose National Centre For Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata**, an autonomous research Institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. Bilirubin comes from the breakdown of red blood cells.

28. EU, India to develop biotech to treat sewage water

Banaras Hindu University (BHU) to play an important role in developing a biotechnology-based water treatment system for the purification of sewage water flowing into the rivers Ganga and Godavari under a joint project funded by India & EU. The institute to perform Geo-Spatial analysis for the project.

The project is funded by the Indian Ministry of Science & Technology, Department of Biotechnology in collaboration with the European Union. The sponsored project, **SPRING - Strategic Planning for Water Resources and Implementation of Novel Biotechnical Treatment solutions and Good Practices** is funded for a period of three years **starting June 2020**.

29. Scientists discover active volcanoes on Venus

A recent study has identified 37 recently active volcanic structures on Venus, the second planet from the Sun. The study was conducted by researchers at the University of Maryland and the Institute of Geophysics at ETH Zurich, Switzerland. Venus has a younger surface than planets like Mars and Mercury.

In the new study, published in the journal Nature Geoscience, the researchers used numerical models of thermo-mechanic activity beneath the surface of Venus to create high-resolution, 3D simulations of coronae formation. Their simulations provide a more detailed view of the process than ever before.

30. UK scientists to immunize hundreds with Covid-19 vaccine

Scientists at Imperial College London are immunizing hundreds of people with an experimental coronavirus vaccine in an early trial after seeing no worrying safety

problems in a small no. vaccinated so far. They are looking to test their vaccine elsewhere. **UK Currency, Pound sterling (GBP).**

31. New genealogy project allows astronomers to trace 'ancestors': AAS

A genealogy project for academics will allow academics to trace their 'ancestors'. In academic genealogy, however, a person's 'parent' is their thesis advisor. The project is nearly complete for 25 countries, according to AAS. American Astronomical Society (AAS).

32. Guwahati gets Northeast's first manhole cleaning robot 'BANDICOOT'

Guwahati is the first city in the entire Northeast region to get a manhole cleaning robot. **Named BANDICOOT**, the automatic sewer cleaning device was procured by Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) along with six Skid Steer Loaders (mini loaders) from JCB. **It is the third city in India after Gurugram and Coimbatore.**

The BANDICOOT robot was developed by a Start-up India company called Genrobotics under the Make in India initiative, funded by CSR of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).



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Defence

1. India, Japan Hold PASSEX Naval Exercise to promote understanding in Indian Ocean

Amid the ongoing standoff between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in **Ladakh**, the warships of Indian and Japanese held PASSEX (Passing Exercise) exercise towards the Malacca strait in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). **Dharma Guardian is the joint military Exercise of India & Japan.**

Indian Navy's Rajput-class destroyer INS Rana and Kora-class missile corvette INS Kulish took part in the exercise with JS Shimayuki and JS Kashmia of Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force's training squadron.

Since 2015, Japan has become a regular participant in the annual **"Malabar" naval exercise with India** and US. In a bid to increase its naval operational reach to counter China's expanding footprint in the Indian Ocean Region, India has already signed several such pacts with countries like US, France, South Korea, Singapore and Australia. India has already inked reciprocal military logistics pacts with the US, France, South Korea, Singapore and Australia.

2. Defence Research Body Develops Fully Indigenous P7 Heavy Drop System

DRDO has developed P7 Heavy Drop System which is capable of para dropping military stores up to 7-ton weight class from IL 76 aircraft. **This system is manufactured by L&T** who makes the platform system, parachutes manufactured by Ordnance Factory. This system has been made under the Make in India programme.

3. Indian Navy holds passage exercise with 'USS Nimitz' carrier group

Indian naval ships conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the United States Navy's USS Nimitz carrier strike group near the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) islands as it is transiting the Indian Ocean. It comes amidst high alert by the Navy in the IOR. It is an opportunity to improve interoperability on high seas.

As part of this, four Indian naval ships, including a stealth corvette, teamed up with USS Nimitz and three other U.S. ships in the Eastern Indian Ocean near the A&N islands. USS Nimitz is the U.S. Navy's largest aircraft carrier. The Navy is keeping a close watch on the movement in the IOR of Chinese naval ships, whose presence has gone up considerably over the years in the name of anti-piracy patrols. In 2017, China opened its first overseas military base in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. India is also undertaking major infrastructure expansion plans on the A&N island chain. India is also close to taking a decision on inviting Australia for the Malabar trilateral naval exercise with Japan and the U.S.

4. Air Marshal VR Chaudhary appointed new chief of Western Air Command

Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhary has been named as the new head of Western Air Command of Indian Air Force, which looks after the country's defence in North India, including Ladakh region. He will take over from Air Marshal B Suresh. Western Air Command is headquartered in New Delhi.

5. Women officers can now get permanent commission in Indian Army: MoD

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has issued the formal Government Sanction Letter for grant of Permanent Commission (PC) to women officers in the Army. The order specifies the grant of PC to SSC women officers in all the 10 streams of the Army. MoD Officeholder: Rajnath Singh (Minister).

6. Govt unveils amended draft acquisition procedure for defence products

The government issued an amended draft **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)** wherein it elaborated on how to use "leasing" method to get various defence products and on a procedure to procure information and communication technology (ICT) systems. **The DAP remains in place for a period of five years.**

The ministry said there are four new chapters in the amended DAP -- leasing; simplified capital expenditure procedure; acquisition of systems products and ICT systems; procurement from DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation), DPSUs (Defence Public Sector Units) and OFB (Ordnance Factory Board).

7. First five Rafale jets land at Ambala air force station; India welcomes the 'Golden Arrows'

The first batch of five Rafale jets landed in Ambala. It was a historic moment as they were greeted with water cannon salute at Ambala Air Force base. Rafale jets were escorted by two Sukhoi 30 MKI supersonic fighters as they entered Indian airspace. **Air Force Chief: Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria.**

The state-of-the-art 4.5 Generation Rafale jet can reach almost double the speed of sound, with a top speed of 1.8 Mach. With its multi-role capabilities, including electronic warfare, air defence, ground support and in-depth strikes, the Rafale lends air superiority to the Indian Air Force. Each aircraft has 14 storage stations for weapons.

The jets come with one of the most advanced Meteor air-to-air missiles. The 190-kg missile has a Beyond Visual Range (BVR) of over 100 km, travelling at a top speed of Mach 4. The F16 jets, used by Pakistan, carry the AMRAAM missile, which has a BVR of 75 km. Rafale can also outperform F16 in dogfights. The Rafale jets also come with SCALP, the air-to-ground cruise missile with a range over 300 km. It is a long-range deep strike missile.

Books & Authors

1. UM Giriraj Singh launches the 1st edition of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter "Matsya Sampada"

Giriraj Singh launched the first edition of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter **"MATSYA SAMPADA"** published by the **Department of Fisheries**, Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the Operational Guidelines of the PMMSY. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

2. Former RBI governor Urjit Patel pens book on dealing with NPA issue

Titled 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver', the book focuses on the non-performing assets issue that has afflicted Indian banking in recent years, its causes and Patel's efforts as the RBI Governor in dealing with it. It will be published by HarperCollins. He served as the 24th Governor of the RBI.

Mr Patel's book description says that sovereigns do not need to earn or save before spending money. They can either print or borrow. Mr Patel worked with a '9R' strategy which would protect depositors' savings, rescue the banks and protect them from "unscrupulous racketeers", it says. Books or memoirs written by two of his immediate predecessors – Raghuram Rajan and D. Subbarao – had shed light on various subjects like the RBI's autonomy, interest rates or its stance on demonetisation.

3. Mahaveer: Book on 1962 Indo-China war becomes a bestseller

In the midst of the rising tensions between India and China, a novel that tells the tale of the Indo-Chinese battle of Nuranang in 1962 has been making headlines in Indian publishing industry. It is authored by **AK Srikumar along with his wife Rupa Srikumar** 'Mahaveer: The Soldier who never died' is a patriotic story.

It is published by Rupa Publications and represented by one of India's biggest literary agencies – The Book Bakers.

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

The 352-page book, "His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography", in making for nearly 5 years, has been written by one of Dalai Lama's closest aides & advisor of over 40 years -**Tenzin Geyche Tethong**. It is to be released in October. Dalai Lama was awarded the Noble Peace Prize in 1989.

5. Ruskin Bond's 70-yr literary journey captured in 'A Song of India', illustrated book out on July 20

A new book "A Song of India" by beloved writer **Ruskin Bond** to shed light on his lesser-known life before he became a successful author, according to publishers Puffin Books. It is set to hit the stands on July 20, the 70th year of Bond's literary career. He is a Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee.

6. Stephen King's new book, If It Bleeds, to be out in July in India

Stephen King is back with his new book titled, **If It Bleeds**, published by Hachette India, the story centres around a bomb at Albert Macready Middle School. It is a

sequel to his bestselling work, *The Outsider*. It is made be available in India from July 10. King was the recipient of the 2014 National Medal of Arts.

He was also awarded the 2003 National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. The work is dotted with The Shining author's humour, propensity for horror and his masterful ability to craft suspense. The book has already been published in the USA in April.

7. Tara June Winch wins the Miles Franklin award 2020

'The Yield', by Tara June Winch won the Miles Franklin award for 2020. The award was set up by and named after Miles Franklin, who wanted an award for the "advancement, improvement and betterment of Australian literature". M Atwood & B Evaristo, were jointly awarded Booker Prize 2019

8. New book on Udham Singh by Akademi awardee Baldev Singh Sadaknama

Sahitya Akademi Award winner Baldev Singh Sadaknama has written another book shedding light on historic perspectives named **'Suraj Kade Marda Nahi' (Sun Never Dies)**. It is on the life of Udham Singh whose 80th death anniversary will fall on July 31. Facts about how Udham Singh killed Dwyer has been discussed.

Sadaknama has written a novel 'Suraj Di Aakh' on the life of maharaja Ranjit Singh. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel 'Dhaawan Dilli De Kingre'.

9. Narendra Singh Tomar releases the Financial Management Index for Rural Development

Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Minister released a **"Financial Management Index for Rural Development Programmes"** to rank the performance of the States. It would promote the spirit of competitive, cooperative federalism amongst States. Minister of State for Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti.

Performance of the States on the basis of following parameters: Preparation of annual plan, projecting the requirement of funds for the financial year, expeditious release of State's share, timely utilization of the funds and submission of the Utilization Certificates, etc.; Optimum implementation of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) & Direct Benefit Transfer; Internal Audit; and Social Audit.

10. Viral Acharya's new book: "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India"

Former Dy. Governor of RBI, Dr. Viral V. Acharya, talks about his quest for restoring financial stability in India & offers a concrete plan for sustained improvement. It is a collection of his speeches, research and comments as a member of the RBI's MPC. KJ Udeshi - RBI's first woman deputy governor.

11. Health Minister releases book on Standard Treatment Guidelines for SUD, Behavioural Addictions

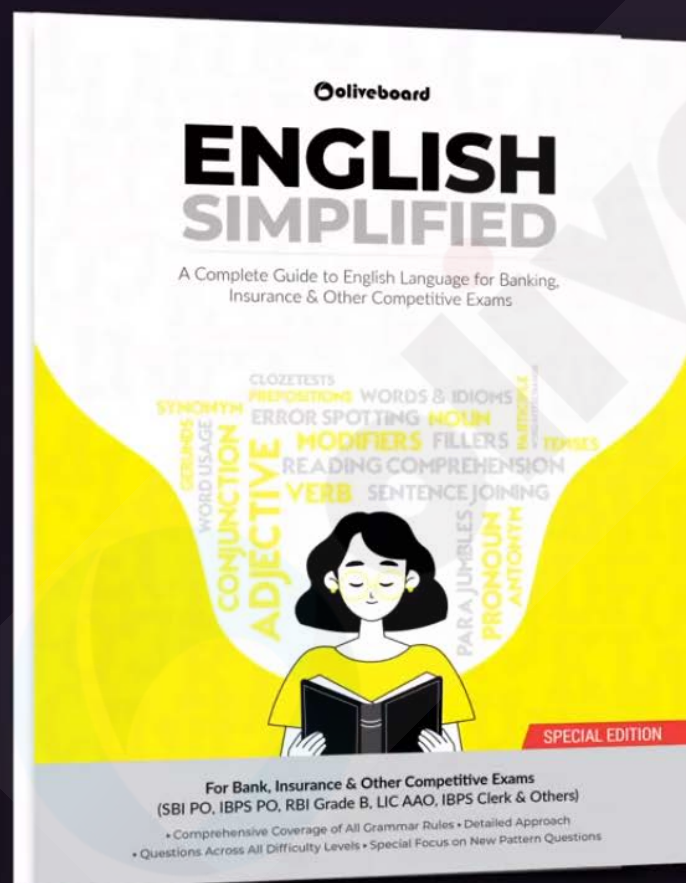
Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan released e-book on Standard Treatment Guidelines for the Management of Substance Use Disorders and Behavioural Addictions. The e-

book aims to tackle substance abuse and behavioural addiction in the country.
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's first health minister.

12. Indian-origin author Avni Doshi on 2020 Booker Prize longlist

Dubai-based Indian-origin author Avni Doshi is among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2020 Booker Prize for her debut novel **Burnt Sugar**, alongside double Booker winner Hilary Mantel for *The Mirror and The Light*. The book is published by Hamish Hamilton.

The Booker Prize for Fiction is open to writers of any nationality, **writing in English and published in the UK or Ireland.**



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Miscellaneous

1. Ministry of Railways invites RFQ for private participation for operation of passenger train services over 109 OD pairs of routes

Railway Ministry invited Request for Qualifications for private participation for operation of passenger train services over 109 Origin Destination pairs of routes through introduction of 151 modern Trains. Each Train shall have a minimum of 16 coaches. **Project entails private sector investment of about Rs 30,000 Cr.**

The 109 OD Pairs have been formed into 12 Clusters across the Indian Railway network. This is the first initiative of private investment for running Passenger Trains over Indian Railways network. Majority of Trains to be manufactured in India (Make in India). Trains shall be designed for a maximum speed of 160 kmph. **The Concession Period for the project shall be 35 years.** These trains shall be operated by the Driver and Guard of Indian Railways. Operation and maintenance of the passenger trains would be governed by standards & specifications and requirements specified by Indian Railways.

2. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 46th APPPA course of IIPA

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated 46th **Advanced Professional Programme in Public Administration (APPPA)** organized by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) located in New Delhi through video conferencing. India has 115 Aspirational Districts based on 49 key indicators.

Dr. Jitendra Singh is the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space. Aspirational Districts of Goalpara and Dhubri in Assam for having achieved Ayushman Bharat coverage of nearly 100% and 85% respectively.

Goalpara district had within six months, raised its rating from position 68 to position 16 in the All-India list of 150 Aspirational Districts. The Indian Institute of Public Administration was established in 1954 and is research and training organization under the Ministry of Personnel of the Government of India.

3. SAP India rolls out Global Bharat Program to Digitalise MSMEs

German technology firm SAP India launched the Global Bharat program, designed to enable Indian MSMEs become globally competitive by equipping them with digital technologies in association with NASSCOM, UNDP and Pratham InfoTech Foundation. **SAP India is located in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

According to SAP, 80% of the company's customer base comprises of SMEs that have adopted digital technologies and witnessed exponential growth. As part of providing access to the global marketplace, MSMEs will have open access to B2B marketplace SAP Ariba Discovery, where buyers can post their sourcing needs and the suppliers on Ariba Network can respond with their ability to deliver the goods and services, with no fees through 31 December. Through Global Bharat, SAP India will also offer MSMEs access to their enterprise resource planning (ERP) software through the Business One Starter Pack on the cloud made available at competitive rates.

4. AIIB releases \$50 mn to L&T infra finance

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (LTIF), a wholly owned subsidiary of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd., received the first tranche of \$50 million of the total \$100 million ECB loan from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). AIIB Chairman: Jin Liqun.

This loan marks AIIB's first loan to a non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India. The loan proceeds will be used to on-lend to large and mid-scale wind and solar power infrastructure projects in India. L&T Infrastructure Finance is a leading arranger and financier of renewable energy in India.

5. Union HRD Minister launches the first on-line NISHTHA programme for Andhra Pradesh

1st on-line **NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads & Teachers)** programme for 1200 Key Resources Persons of Andhra Pradesh was launched by Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriya 'Nishank' & Minister of State for HRD Sanjay Dhotre virtually in New Delhi. NISHTHA in face-to-face mode was launched on 21 August 2019.

NISHTHA is a National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement at the elementary stage under Samagra Shiksha -a flagship programme of MHRD to improve learning outcomes. NISHTHA has been customized for online mode to be conducted through DIKSHA and NISHTHA portals by the NCERT.

6. KVIC opens footwear training center in Delhi for leather artisans

Khadi & Village Industries Commission has opened 1st-of-its-kind **footwear training center in Delhi** to train the marginalized community of leather artisans. It has been established with the technical knowhow of Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra. CFTI is a unit of the MSME ministry.

The KVIC-CFTI Footwear Training Cum Production Center located at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, will provide a comprehensive two months training program to leather artisans for making high-quality footwear. KVIC Chairman- V K Saxena. **KVIC is setting up a similar footwear training center in Varanasi also.**

7. BlackRock malware steals password, credit card details from 337 Android apps

A new Android malware has been discovered that steals data such as password and credit card details from 337 apps including some of the popular ones like Gmail, Amazon, Netflix, Uber, and more. Named BlackRock it has data theft capabilities. It was discovered by mobile security firm Threat Fabric.

BlackRock malware functions just like any other Android malware. According to researchers at Threat Fabric, the malware is based on the leaked source code of another malware strain Xerxes which in turn is based on other malware strains. The new malware is enhanced with more features related to stealing passwords and credit card details.

The report suggests that the malware steals login credentials including username and passwords) and sends prompt to users to enter payment credit card details. The trojan collects data through a technique called "overlays". It basically detects when a user interacts with a legitimate app and places a fake window on top that asks for login and credit card details before the user enters the actual app.

8. Start-up Street: FamPay launches India's first numberless card for teenagers

FamPay is India's first neo bank for teenagers that allows them to make UPI and P2P transactions through their own unique UPI ID without the need to set up a bank account has recently launched **India's first numberless card – FamCard**. Founders of FamPay: Kush Taneja and Sambhav Jain.

FamCard is just like a debit card, but teens now have the added advantage of a card to make contactless payments independently.



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Obituary

1. Former Delhi cricketer Sanjay Dobal passes away aged 53

Former Delhi **cricketer Sanjay Dobal**, who tested COVID-19 positive, passed away at the age of 53 after suffering a cardiac arrest. Coached by the renowned Tarak Sinha, Dobal used to play for the prestigious Sonnet Cricket Club. Dobal took up the responsibility of coaching junior cricketers.

2. West Indies cricket legend Everton Weekes dies, aged 95

The last of the famous three 'Ws', **Everton Weekes** has passed away. The West Indies **cricketing great** was 95 years old. Weekes played alongside Frank Worrell and Clyde Walcott, with all three of them making their Test debuts in 1948. After his playing career he became match referee for ICC.

After his playing career, he became a respected coach, analyst, team manager, and an ICC Hall of Fame member. Worrell died in 1967, and Walcott in 2006.

3. Bollywood Choreographer Saroj Khan Dies At 71

Veteran Bollywood choreographer Saroj Khan, who mentored generations of actors and was fondly known as "Masterji", died due to cardiac arrest. The three-time National Award winner choreographed some of the most memorable songs in Hindi cinema. She was 71. She last choreographed for Tabaah hogaye from Kalank.

4. Leading industrialist Suraj Prasad Agarwal passes away

Leading industrialist & former member of the board of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Suraj Prasad Agarwal passed away recently. He was former President of Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry during 2008-09. FICCI is the largest, oldest business organization in India.

5. Carl Reiner, comedy icon and 'Dick Van Dyke Show' creator, dead at 98

Hollywood veteran and multihyphenate personality Carl Reiner, best known as the creator of "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and director of several Steve Martin films like All of Me, passed away at the age of 98. He was a writer, filmmaker, actor & voice artiste. He has won multiple Emmy awards.

Reiner had also received several awards for his writing - Writers Guild's Laurel Award, the Mark Twain Prize for Humour, and the WGA's Valentine Davies Award.

6. Earl Cameron: British film and TV star actor dies aged 102

Earl Cameron, one of the first black **actors** to forge a successful career in British film and television, has died aged 102. Cameron first appeared on screen in the 1951 film Pool of London, in a rare starring role for a black actor. He was the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

7. Ennio Morricone: Oscar-winning Italian film composer dies aged 91

Ennio Morricone, the **Italian composer** whose credits include the "spaghetti" Westerns that made Clint Eastwood a star, has died in Rome aged 91. He also wrote

music for Once Upon a Time in America, The Untouchables and Cinema Paradiso. He was known as 'Maestro' and won Oscars in 2007 & 2016.

8. Nick Cordero, Broadway actor, dies at 41 after battle with Covid-19

Nick Cordero, a Broadway **actor** who had admirers across the world rallying for his recovery, has died after a battle with Covid-19. He was 41. His role in "Bullets Over Broadway," earned him a Theatre World Award and Outer Critics Circle Award. He was nominated for a Tony Award & a Drama Desk Award in 2014.

9. Veteran actor-comedian Jagdeep dies at 81

Veteran actor-comedian Jagdeep, best known for his role as Soorma Bhopali in "Sholay", died at his residence. He was 81. The actor's real name was Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri. He was the last of the comic icons alongside Johnny Walker & Mehmood. He started his cinema journey in 1951 with the film 'Afsana'.

10. Ivory Coast's Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly dies

Amadou Gon Coulibaly, Ivory Coast's prime minister and the governing party's candidate for an October presidential election, died just days after returning from two months of medical treatment in France. He was considered as an ex-rebel leader. Ivory Coast President: Alassane Ouattara.

Capital: Yamoussoukro. Currency: West African CFA Franc.

11. Cartoonist Avad Bin Hassan Jami passes away in Jamnagar

Renowned cartoonist Avad Bin Hassan Jami, popularly known as "Jami" passed away in Jamnagar. His cartoons regularly published in leading Gujarati daily newspapers and news magazines for more than two decades. He was a drawing teacher at Kendra Vidyalaya. He became a full-time cartoonist after retirement.

12. Veteran Gujarati journalist, columnist, writer Nagindas Sanghvi passes away at 100

Veteran Gujarati journalist, columnist, writer and political analyst Nagindas Sanghvi passed away in Surat. Mr Sangvi was conferred Padma Shri award in the year 2019. He had written many books on Mahatma Gandhi, Gujarat and other subjects. Gujarat Chief Minister - Vijay Rupani. Governor: Acharya Devvrat

13. Jack Charlton, England's 1966 World Cup Winner, Dies At 85

Jack Charlton, a member of the England 1966 World Cup-winning side and who went on to become a cult hero in Ireland, has died aged 85. He also enjoyed a fairy tale spell as manager of the Republic of Ireland guiding them to several major finals. **He was an English footballer** and played as a defender.

14. Suurbier, mainstay of Ajax, Dutch teams of 1970s, dies at 75

Wim Suurbier, a defender who helped establish the free flowing "Total **Football**" on the great Ajax and Dutch national teams of the 1970s. He was 75. With Ajax from 1964 to 1977, he won three European Cups and seven national titles. Prime Minister of Netherlands: Mark Rutte.

15. 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 72-year-old breathed her last at Seven Hills Hospital in Mumbai. She was diagnosed with COVID-19. She had penned several books. She was made the State Election Commissioner in 2009.

She has also been an additional Chief Secretary of the Revenue Department.

16. President, VP and PM express grief on demise of Professor C. S. Seshadri

One of the leaders of Indian **mathematics** in the post-Independence era, **Prof. Seshadri** passed away in Chennai. He was 88. In 1989, he started the School of Mathematics, which has evolved into the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI). He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2009.

17. The Rev CT Vivian, key civil rights leader, dies aged 95

The Rev **CT Vivian**, a civil rights veteran who worked alongside the Rev Martin Luther King Jr and later led the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), has died. He was 95. His civil rights work stretched back for more than six decades. Obama honoured him the presidential medal of freedom in 2013.

18. John Lewis, Towering Figure of Civil Rights Era, Dies at 80

John Robert Lewis, the son of sharecroppers who survived a brutal beating by police during a landmark 1965 march in Selma, Alabama, to become a towering figure of the civil rights movement and a long-time US congressman, has died. Speaker of US House of Representatives: Nancy Pelosi.

19. Filmmaker Rajat Mukherjee No More

Filmmaker Rajat Mukherjee, who was known for directing films like Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya and Road, passed away due to health complications in Jaipur. He also directed the 2004 film Love In Nepal, which starred singer Sonu Nigam. Jaipur also known as the Pink City is the capital of Rajasthan.

20. Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon passes away

Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon passed away after a prolonged illness. Tandon served in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative council for two terms from 1978 to 1984 as an MLA in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for three terms and governor of Bihar. Madhya Pradesh CM: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

He was the 22nd Governor of Madhya Pradesh. As a Governor of Bihar, Tandon was praised for streamlining academic activities of the state universities.

21. Veteran Odia Actor Bijay Mohanty Passes Away in Bhubaneswar

One of the most recognisable faces of the Odia cinema, Bijay Mohanty has passed away at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. His performance in his debut film, Chilika Tire, earned him several accolades including the National Film Award. He was 70. He is credited with introducing negative characters in films.

22. Noted Urdu journalist, satirist Nusrat Zaheer passed away

Veteran Urdu journalist and satirist Nusrat Zaheer passed away. He spent most of his life in active literary journalism and had his own unique identity in the Urdu world. Nusrat Zaheer is well-known for his interesting stories and meaningful satires. His literary book 'Baqalam Khud' was published in 1996.

He wrote columns for Roznama Sahara for a long time. Nusrat Zaheer ran a magazine 'Adab Saaz' from Delhi. He also served in the editorial department of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) for several years.

23. Noted dancer-choreographer Amala Shankar passes away

Amala Shankar, the renowned dancer died in Kolkata at the age of 101. She was awarded Banga Vibhushan by the West Bengal government in 2011 for her contributions in the field of art. Not only dance, she was a painter and writer as well. In 2012, she received Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore Ratna award.

24. Olivia de Havilland, star of 'Gone With the Wind,' dies at 104

Olivia de Havilland, a two-time Oscar winner and for decades the last surviving star of "Gone With the Wind," has died at the age of 104. Olivia Mary de Havilland was born July 1, 1916, in Tokyo to British parents. Her first Oscar win -- for "To Each His Own".

25. Nightmare on Elm Street Actor John Saxon Dead at 83

Veteran actor John Saxon, of Nightmare on Elm Street and Enter the Dragon, died. His early projects from the 1950s include The Unguarded Moment, opposite Esther Williams, and Running Wild, opposite Mamie Van Doren. In 1973, Saxon starred with Bruce Lee in Enter The Dragon.

26. Yash Pal Abrol, pioneer in nitrogen research, dies at 84

Yash Pal Abrol, a pioneer in the field of nitrogen research in India and a renowned **plant physiologist and biochemist**, died. Abrol published more than 150 research papers and wrote/edited over 15 books. His most recent contribution, Indian Nitrogen Assessment (2017).

27. West Bengal Congress president Somen Mitra dies

West Bengal Congress president Somen Mitra died. He was elected legislator from the Sealdah constituency in central Kolkata seven times. Mitra was the face of the old political culture that was marked by decency and courtesy. Mitra was state Congress president twice.

28. Video Benjamin Mkapa: Tanzania's former president dies aged 81

Tanzania's former President Benjamin Mkapa became the President following the country's first multiparty election in 1995 and went on to lead the country up to 2005. His reforms were welcomed by the World Bank and IMF. Tanzania President: John Magufuli.

Mr Mkapa is credited for boosting tax collections, instituting austerity measures to curb wasteful expenditure and opening doors to foreign investors. His privatisation

policy was however much criticised locally, and he later admitted that although he had good intentions the policy was not well executed. Tanzania Capital: Dodoma.
Currency: Shilingi. Prime Minister: Kassim Majaliwa.



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Person in news

1. Salma Lakhani appointed Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, first Muslim in Canada to hold post

Salma Lakhani made history upon her appointment as the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Alberta, the 1st-ever Muslim with roots in the Indian subcontinent to occupy the post in Canada. **A Lt Governor in Canada is the equivalent of a Governor in India.** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

2. Government to release commemorative stamp on former PM PV Narasimha Rao

The Modi government has decided to release a commemorative stamp to honour late former prime minister PV Narasimha Rao. Rao had been the PM from 1991 to 1996. The decision comes a day after celebrating his 100th birth anniversary on June 28, 2020. **He is regarded as the 'Father of Indian Economic Reforms'.**

PV Narasimha Rao served as 9th prime minister from 1991 to 1996. **He is the only non-Gandhi who completed a full term as prime minister.** He was also the 1st prime minister of the country to hail from South India. What is a commemorative stamp? It is a limited-issue postal stamp to commemorate a place, event, person, or object of historical importance. This stamp is owned by collectors and sold privately through auctions and online.

3. Two renowned Indian Americans honoured by prestigious Carnegie Corporation of New York

Siddhartha Mukherjee and Raj Chetty, who have contributed towards the efforts in mitigating the COVID-19 health crisis are among the 38 immigrants honoured by a prestigious American foundation ahead of US Independence Day commemoration this year. **America celebrates its Independence Day on July 4.**

Carnegie Corporation of New York named theme as '**2020 Great Immigrants**' honourees. Mukherjee is a noted biologist, oncologist and the author of several acclaimed books, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning 'The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer'. In 2014, Dr. Mukherjee was awarded the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honours.

Chetty directs Opportunity Insights, a research lab that aims to identify barriers to economic and social mobility and develop scalable policy solutions to overcome them. Carnegie Corporation honours the legacy of its founder Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish immigrant who rose from poverty to become a leading industrialist, by recognizing an eminent group of immigrants who have made notable contributions to the progress of the American society.

The honourees, who join more than 600 outstanding immigrants honoured by the Corporation since 2006, are recognized with a full-page public service announcement in the New York Times and a social media tribute on the Fourth of July.

4. Dr. Harsh Vardhan releases Good Clinical Practice Guidelines Handbook & Prospectus for FPIS of NBE

Health & Family Welfare minister Harsh Vardhan released the Good Clinical Practice Guidelines Handbook and Prospectus for Fellowship Programme for International Students of National Board of Examinations, along with Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MoS (Health). **NBE's flagship DNB Programmes are offered in 82 disciplines.**

This is the first time that International Fellowship Programme is being launched for International Students from all countries including SAARC Nations, at Post MD/MS level through common Fellowship Entrance Test and would go a long way in enhancing the prestige of the country in the international medical sphere. **The country celebrates 1st July as National Doctors' Day** to honour Dr. B.C. Roy.

India has set goal of "Sarve Santu Niramaya" as envisioned in the National Health Policy unveiled by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi in 2017. The National Board of Examinations came into existence in 1975, as a wing of the National Academy of Medical Sciences and has been conducting Postgraduate Medical Examinations at the national level since 1976. The Board was registered as an Autonomous Organization under MoHFW in 1982. The students enrolled are called Diplomates of National Board (DNB).

5. Baisali Mohanty appointed United Nations Policy Officer

Odia girl Baisali Mohanty who brought laurel to the state winning the prestigious High-Profile Achievement Award as best graduate student at Oxford University, England, has been appointed as the Policy Officer at International Civil Service of UN. **ICSC is headquartered in New York City, USA.**

From early 2018, she has been serving as the OIM Officer in the UN Mission for the Rohingyas at the coastal town of Cox's Bazar on Myanmar-Bangladesh border. The International Civil Service Commission is a subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly, established pursuant to General Assembly Resolution of 18 December 1974.

6. Renowned clinical, vaccine scientist Gagandeep Kang resigns

World-renowned clinical scientist & vaccine researcher Dr Gagandeep Kang resigned as executive director of Translational Health Sciences and Technology Institute in Faridabad. She led the health research institute under the Department of Biotechnology. She has worked on diarrhoea diseases and public health in India.

Dr Kang is also the first woman from India to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. She is a key contributor to the study of rotavirus epidemiology and the development of a WHO-licensed vaccine against the infection. In 2016, she was awarded the Infosys Prize in life sciences, for her pioneering contributions to understanding the natural history of rotavirus and other infectious diseases that are important in the Indian and global context. Dr Kang currently serves as vice-chairperson of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovations, a global consortium facilitating promising vaccine candidates for COVID-19. Dr Kang is also a

Professor in the Department of Gastrointestinal Sciences at Christian Medical College in Vellore.

7. Mukesh Ambani overtakes Warren Buffett, becomes world's seventh richest

Ambani with net wealth of \$70.1 bn, is now the **world's 7th richest according to Forbes real-time data**. He is also the only Asian to feature in the top 10, ranking ahead of Google's Larry Page and Sergey Brin and moved past investing legend Warren Buffett. **Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon is world's richest** with \$189.2 bn.

8. Lewis Hamilton pips Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas to win Styrian Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton won the Styrian Grand Prix from pole position on Sunday to clinch an 85th career win and move within six of Michael Schumacher's Formula One record. He finished a sizeable 13.7 seconds ahead of Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas. Charles Leclerc & Sebastian Vettel crashed into each other.

The 2020 Styrian Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race that took place at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria.

9. Ved Parkash Dudeja, vice chairman, RLDA awarded 'Infra Business Leader of the Year'

Ved Parkash Dudeja, vice chairman, Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) was recently awarded the coveted '**Infra Business Leader of the Year' award for 2020** by the Rail Infra and Mobility Business Digital Awards (RIMBDA). RLDA is a statutory authority under the Ministry of Railways.

10. ISRO Chief Sivan Named As 2020 Von Karman Award Recipient By IAA

ISRO chief **Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan** has now been named as the recipient of the 2020 Von Karman Award of the International Academy of Astronautics. The award which is the highest distinction of the Academy will be conferred in March 2021 in Paris. **Von Karman was the first President of the IAA.**

The award is given annually to recognize outstanding lifetime achievements in any branch of science without limit of nationality or gender. The award honours the memory of the Academy's founder and first President, a scientist of the highest international reputation. Prior to K Sivan, two Indians namely - Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan and U.R. Rao - have been recipients of the award. The International Academy of Astronautics: IAA is a non-governmental organisation of experts committed to expanding the frontiers of space. **Headquarters: Paris, France.**

11. Two Indian-Origin Experts on UK PM's New Race Commission

Lord Ajay Kakkar- Indian-origin professor of surgery & Samir Shah-media person are among the members of a new Commission on Race & Ethnic Disparities, which will look at inequalities within UK society in areas such as health, education & criminal justice. **Dr Tony Sewell** will chair the new independent commission.

Lord Ajay Kakkar is the Professor of Surgery at University College London (UCL), Director of the Thrombosis Research Institute, chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission and chair of the King's Fund, and Dr Samir Shah is the CEO of Juniper TV, former BBC journalist and former chair of race relations think tank Runnymede Trust .

12. Tunisia's Prime Minister Elyes Fakhfakh resigns

Tunisian PM Elyes Fakhfakh presented his resignation to President Kais Saied. Collapse of the Government within 5 months of its formation is to delay economic reforms. Tunisia was hailing towards successful transition of democracy since 2011 revolution. Tunisia Capital- Tunis, Currency- Dinar.

13. Indian climate activist Archana Soreng named by UN chief to new advisory group

A climate activist from India has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders who will provide perspectives and solutions to tackle the worsening climate crisis. **Archana Soreng joins six other young climate leaders.**

14. Indian-Origin Politician Appointed Singapore's First Leader of Opposition in Parliament

Indian-origin politician **Pritam Singh was designated as the Leader of the Opposition in Singapore**, the first such appointment in the history of the city-state. Mr Singh, who is also a lawyer, is the Secretary-General of Workers' Party. Singapore, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

15. Haryana govt appoints wrestler Babita Phogat & Kabaddi player Kavita as sports deputy directors

Kavita Devi a Kabaddi player was a member of the India national Kabaddi team that won the gold medal in 2014 in the Incheon Asian Games. International **wrestler Babita Phogat** is the daughter of Mahavir Phogat, a noted wrestling coach. Haryana Sports Minister: Sandeep Singh.

Insurance

1. Cabinet approves Rs 12,450 crore capital infusion in three public sector general insurance companies

Cabinet approved a capital infusion of Rs 12,450 Cr in 3 public sector general insurance companies: Oriental Insurance Co, National Insurance Co & United India Insurance Co. **It also extended the Employees' Provident Fund contribution of 24% up to August.** Present Cabinet Secretary of India: Rajiv Gauba.

The capital infusion of Rs.3,475 Crore will be allocated to three PSGICs viz. OICL, NICL and UIICL as the first tranche in the current financial year and the balance amount will be released in one or more tranches. Oriental Insurance Company: Headquarters: New Delhi. Chairman: S N Rajeshwari. National Insurance Company: Headquarters: Kolkata. Chairman: Tajinder Mukherjee. United India Insurance Company: Headquarters: Chennai. Chairman: Girish Radhakrishnan.

2. IRDA constitutes working group to explore a Pandemic Risk Pool

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) constituted a **nine-member working group** to study the possibility of creating a pandemic risk pool to come up with a long term solution to deal with economic fallouts of a future such pandemic. **The group is headed by IRDA's executive director Suresh Mathur.**

A risk pool is aimed to offer protection for business interruption without material damage, loss of income and livelihood and other related pandemic related losses currently not insured in India. The group has been asked to submit its recommendation in eight weeks.

3. IRDAI gives its nod to Insurance companies to launch corona Kavach Health Insurance Policies

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has allowed 29 general and health insurers to launch short-term '**Corona Kavach**' health insurance policies. The policy will cover medical expenses occurred due to coronavirus disease. IRDAI Chairperson: Subash Chandra Khuntia. HQ: Hyderabad.

4. Irdai removes ₹5 lakh cap on sum insured for Arogya Sanjeevani policies

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has allowed all general and health insurance companies to increase the sum insured on the standard health insurance product called **Arogya Sanjeevani beyond ₹5 lakh.** IRDAI Chairman: Subhash Chandra Khuntia.

5. Amazon Pay joins hands with Acko to offer auto insurance

Amazon Pay, the payments arm of e-commerce giant Amazon India, has partnered Acko General Insurance Ltd to offer insurance for two- as well as four-wheelers. Insurance claims will involve zero paperwork, **3-day assured claim servicing & one-hour pick-up.** Amazon Pay was launched in 2007.

6. Tata AIA Life Insurance launches service for claim payouts within four hours

Tata AIA Life launched 'Express Claims', a service where claims will be paid out within 4 hours of it being registered. For availing the express claim, the beneficiary has to visit the nearest branch with the necessary documents like the death certificate. **On average, life insurers settle death claims within 10-15 days.**

7. Bharti AXA launches 'Bohot Zaroori Hai' campaign for crop insurance

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has launched its crop insurance **campaign 'Bohot Zaroori Hai' for farmers in Maharashtra & Karnataka**. The company has secured the mandate to insure the farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka for a period of three years under PMFBY. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).



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India & World

1. India-Bangladesh form 50:50 Joint Venture Company for LPG business in Bangladesh

India & Bangladesh signed an agreement for the formation of a 50:50 JVC for LPG business in Bangladesh. It was signed between the **IOC Middle East FZE, Dubai, a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation** and RR Holdings Ltd., Ras Al Khaimah, UAE. RR Holdings is the holding company of Beximco LPG of Bangladesh.

The Joint Venture Company will help reduce the cost of import of LPG and make it more affordable for the consumers in Bangladesh. The company plans to diversify into LPG export to the north eastern states of India from Bangladesh which will prove to be a win situation for both the countries. Bangladesh Capital- Dhaka, Currency- Taka, Prime Minister- Sheikh Hasina.

2. India's trade deficit with China reduces to \$48.66 billion in FY20

India's trade deficit with China fell to \$48.66 bn in 2019-20 on account of a decline in imports from the neighbouring country, as per govt. data. Exports to China in the last financial year stood at \$16.6 billion, while imports aggregated at \$65.26 bn. **Balance of Payment records the transactions b/w country & world.**

The main imports from China include clocks and watches, musical instruments, toys, sports goods, furniture, mattresses, plastics, electrical machinery, electronic equipment, chemicals, iron and steel items, fertilisers, mineral fuel and metals. **China accounts for about 14% of India's imports** and is a major supplier for sectors like mobile phones, telecom, power, plastic toys, and critical pharma ingredients.

3. India, Afghanistan ink 5 agreements to develop educational infra in Afghan provinces

India and Afghanistan signed 5 agreements for developing educational infrastructure in four Afghan provinces, with the move seen as a reiteration of New Delhi's support to Kabul at a time when the war-torn country's peace process is confronting challenges. Afghanistan President: Ashraf Ghani.

The projects to be taken up under the five MoUs include the construction of classrooms, a higher education building and a road within the campus of **Albironi University**. The projects are spread across the four provinces of Nooristan, Badakhshan, Farah and Kapisa.

4. Indian Coast Guard & Indonesia Coast Guard sign MoU to boost maritime relations

In a significant step towards bolstering the comprehensive strategic partnership between India and Indonesia, an MoU has been signed between the Indian Coast Guard and Indonesia Coast Guard. This will enhance collaborative and cooperative engagements. Director-General of Indian Coast Guard – K Natarajan.

This is aimed to enhance engagements in the domains of maritime law enforcement, maritime search and rescue and marine pollution response. This is likely to entail an

exchange of information towards combating transnational maritime crimes, facilitation of coordinated search and rescue operations at sea and conduct of capacity and capability building activities.

5. India funded new school infrastructure inaugurated in Nepal

According to the Indian embassy, a new four-storey school building of Shri Saptmai Gurukul Sanskrit Vidyalaya built with **Indian assistance of Rs 1.94 crore** for students pursuing both Vedic and modern education was inaugurated in Nepal's Ilam district. It was built at a cost of Nepali Rupees 31.13 Mn (INR 1.94 cr.).

India has provided financial assistance to Nepal for the construction of several such schools with an aim to upgrade the education for the Nepalese students, especially after most of the educational infrastructures suffered damage in the massive 2015 earthquake.

6. 15th meeting of India-EU Summit to be held in virtual mode on 15th July

The **15th meeting of the India-European Union Summit** will be held in virtual mode on 15th July. The Summit will be co-chaired by PM Narendra Modi, President of European Council Charles Michel and President of European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. The 14th India-EU Summit was held in October 2017 in New Delhi.

7. India moves up a rank to become second-largest source of FDI for UK

India invested in 120 projects and created 5,429 new jobs in the UK to become the **second-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) after the US in 2019**, according to new UK government figures. **It is followed by Germany, France, China and Hong Kong.** Prime Minister of UK: Boris Johnson. Currency: Pound Sterling.

The Department for International Trade (DIT) inward investment statistics for 2019-2020 found India moving up from its previous third-largest spot, representing an overall 4% FDI increase for the UK on 2018-2019 with 1,852 new inward investment projects in the 2019/2020 financial year.

8. 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 is presently Director in the External Affairs Ministry. **H H Kotalwar has been appointed as next Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic.** Turkmenistan, Capital: Ashgabat; Czech Republic Capital: Prague.

The manat is the currency of Turkmenistan. The koruna is the currency of the Czech Republic since 1993.

9. Google announces \$10bn investment in 'digital India'

Google will invest \$10bn in India in the next 5 to 7 yrs. The investment will be made through the Google for India Digitisation Fund & for building products and services for India, help businesses go digital, and use technology "for social good". Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google's parent company Alphabet Inc.

10. Union Shipping Minister flags off first container ship from Kolkata Port to Agartala via Chattogram port

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya flagged off the first trial container ship **from Kolkata to Agartala through Chattogram Port of Bangladesh** under the agreement on use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports for movement of India's transit cargo through Bangladesh. Bangladesh Capital- Dhaka, Currency- Taka.

Under the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade, in addition to the six existing Ports of Call, five more in each country have been added recently. Dredging of inland waterway routes is ongoing under an MoU, signed by the two countries on development of fairway in selected stretches of Bangladesh waterways with the Government of India bearing 80% of the project expenditure and the balance being borne by the Government of Bangladesh. Cruise services have also commenced between the two countries promoting tourism and people to people contacts.

11. India & EU agree to renew Agreement S&T Co-operation for 5 years

India and EU agreed to renew the Agreement on Scientific cooperation for the next five years, 2020-2025. PM Modi, European Council President Charles Michel & President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen were participated in the summit. 15th India-EU Summit was held virtually.

Collaboration in research and innovation based on the principles of mutual benefit and reciprocity, was established in the India-EU Agreement on Science and Technology concluded in 2001, which expired on May 17.

12. India-US announce new areas of research on transformational power generation

According to MoST, India and the United States announced new areas of research on transformational power generation based on supercritical CO₂ (sCO₂) power cycles and advanced coal technologies, including carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS). Minister of Science and Technology: Harsh Vardhan.

This partnership emerged at a virtual ministerial meeting of the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) to review progress, highlight major accomplishments, and prioritise new areas for cooperation. The ongoing collaboration on smart grids and energy storage is being implemented by a consortium comprising 30 Indian and US entities with an investment of USD 7.5 million each by India's DST and US Department of Energy (DoE), with matching amounts provided by the consortium.

13. India establishes air travel bubbles with US, France, Germany

India has established individual bilateral bubbles with France, Germany and the US that will allow airlines of each country in the pact to operate flights. An air bubble with the UK to also soon to be permitted. India – UAE bubble was recently permitted. Minister of Civil Aviation: Hardeep Singh Puri.

What is an air-bubble? Air bubbles are "at a stage short of normal civil aviation activities." In other words, these flights are a little more evolved than the repatriation flights but have not yet reached the 'normal' stage.

14. India, Maldives sign agreement for establishment of 'Emergency Medical Services' in Male

India and Maldives have signed an agreement for establishment of 'Emergency Medical Services' in Male. It is one of the several small and medium projects that are financed by India under grant assistance of around \$ 20 million for the neighbouring country.

Maldives Capital: Male. Currency: Rufiyaa.

The emergency medical service unit to enhance timely access to quality emergency care. And to increase collaboration between healthcare facilities and disaster response agencies, especially during critical times of need.

15. India revives initiative for Preferential Trade Agreement with S.African Customs Union

Discussions between Southern African Customs Union [**South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini**] & India to achieve a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was revived with the two sides holding a virtual meeting to discuss various aspects of the PTA. **SACU is headquartered in Windhoek, Namibia.**

The South African Customs Union is a customs union among five countries of Southern Africa: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.

16. India, Maldives Sign Contract to Set Up Fish Processing Plants

India and Maldives signed a contract to set up fish processing plants at two islands in Maldives. In 2019, Maldives and India signed MoUs to set up three neighbourhood fish processing plants or Geydhoshu Mas Plants costing a total of around \$1.5 million.

Addu City Council to be the implementing agency for the project.

These fish-processing plants are the first in a series of High Impact Community Development (HICDP) projects that India and Maldives have committed to executing together under **a total grant of USD 5.5 million**. The Government of Maldives has also requested for the upgrade of Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company Limited (MIFCO's) facilities under the USD 800 million Line of Credit.

17. India, Israel developing COVID rapid testing kit for results in less than 30 seconds

An unprecedented anti-Covid-19 cooperation operation between India & Israel is on the anvil as they are racing to develop rapid testing for the virus that could give results under 30 sec. Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan- India's principal scientific adviser. Israel Capital- Jerusalem, Currency- Shekel.

18. Mukesh Ambani's RIL overtakes Exxon to become world's no. 2 energy company

Reliance Industries Ltd., controlled by Asia's richest man, toppled ExxonMobil Corp. to become the world's largest energy company. Ambani's deal making has lured investments from Google to Facebook Inc. into his digital platform in recent months. Exxon Mobil Corporation, CEO: Darren Woods.

19. India hands over 10 broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh

India provided 10 railway locomotives to Bangladesh as grant assistance, with the leadership of the two sides committing themselves to more connectivity and infrastructure initiatives to boost trade and create new supply chains. External affairs minister, S Jaishankar.

20. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Zimbabwe on Cooperation in the field of Traditional System of Medicine and Homeopathy

This will provide a framework for the cooperation between the two countries for the promotion of traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy and will mutually benefit the two countries in the field of Traditional Medicine. MoU was signed in Nov. 2018. Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

21. ADB sanctions \$3 million to India to fight against Covid-19

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced that it approved \$3 million to Indian government to combat Covid-19. The fund has been granted out of **its Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF)** which will provide helping hands to the government's emergency. **Covid-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES).**



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Environment

1. Himalayan butterfly is India's largest after 88 years

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. It has dethroned an unknown specimen a British Army officer had recorded in 1932. The smallest is the Quaker, with a wingspan of 18 mm.

2. New species of fan-throated lizard discovered in northern Karnataka

A new species of fan-throated lizard has been described from the barren lands of Karnataka's Bagalkot district. **The new species is named 'Sitana dharwarensis'** – derived from the Dharwar craton – a piece of Earth's crust dating back to 2-3 million years ago Governor of Karnataka – Vajubhai Vala.

3. Tripura: Wildlife researchers rediscover 'Ypthima watsoni' butterfly after 61 years

In Tripura, a team of wildlife researchers has rediscovered '**Ypthima watsoni**' butterfly commonly known as '**Looped three-ring**' after 61 years near a village called Phuldungsei in Jampui Hills under the North Tripura district. The species was last seen in 1958 in Manipur.

Looped Three-ring Ypthima watsoni belongs to subfamily Styrene and family Nymphalidae of insect order Lepidoptera.

4. Poba Reserve Forest in Assam's Dhemaji to be upgraded to wildlife sanctuary

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced that **Poba Reserve Forest in Dhemaji** district would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary. Poba Reserve Forest, declared in 1924 with an area of 10,522 hectares, is home to large number of flora and fauna. Wildlife Sanctuaries in Assam: Chakrashila, Kaziranga, Bornadi

5. Javadekar hails KURMA mobile app towards conservation of Indian turtles

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar hailed the **KURMA mobile application** as a unique tool for tracking and reporting Indian turtles. It was launched on **23rd May this year on occasion of World Turtle Day**. It aims to conserve turtles and tortoises. It was developed by Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network.

Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN) developed in collaboration with the Turtle Survival Alliance-India and Wildlife Conservation Society-India. It provides users with the database to identify a species and also provides the location of the nearest rescue centre for turtles across the country.

6. Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone gets green nod

The union environment ministry headed by Prakash Javadekar approved the Zonal Master Plan (ZMP) based on watershed approach for the Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone

notification that stretches from Gaumukh to Uttarkashi covering an area of 4179.59 sq. km. But ZMP could make entire area vulnerable to natural disasters.

The Zonal Master Plan includes governance in the area of forest and wildlife, watershed management, irrigation, energy, tourism, public health and sanitation, road infrastructure, etc. It could also pave the way for faster execution of Chardham Project.

7. India Set to Propose World Solar Bank & Mobilize \$50 Billion In Solar Funding

MNRE is likely to propose to the govt. to set up a World Solar Bank. It may propose that the World Solar Bank disburse **\$50 billion over the first ten years**. The bank will require \$10 billion in equity capital and \$2 billion in paid-up capital. Ministry for New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) Incharge, R. K. Singh.

8. Former Coal India chief Anil Kumar Jha to head key green panel

The government has appointed former chairman of Coal India, Anil Kumar Jha, as the chairman of a key panel that deals with violation of environment rules. The panel was earlier constituted in June 2017 for three years. **Panel's tenure has now been extended till June 2021.**

9. Sembcorp completes 800MW of SECI wind power projects

Sembcorp Energy India Limited (SEIL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore-based Sembcorp Industries, announced the completion of its 800MW wind power projects awarded by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). **Sembcorp installed 250 MW of wind power capacity in Thoothukudi.**

Apps & Portals

1. NADA app launched to help athletes stay updated on banned substances

National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) launched its first mobile application. It is meant to eliminate the gap between itself and the athletes by providing easily accessible information on various aspects of sport, prohibited substances and dope-testing. The application was launched by Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.

2. HDFC Bank rolls out e-Kisaan Dhan app for farmers

HDFC Bank has launched **e-Kisaan Dhan application** to address information and knowledge gap for farmers in the agriculture space and rural ecosystem. Farmers can access a suite of agricultural and banking services on their mobile applications. HDFC Bank's first corporate borrower was Siemens.

3. India's Vice President launches social media super app 'Elyments'

India's first social media super application, Elyments, was launched by the Vice President, Venkaiah Naidu. The app allows users to stay in touch through a vibrant feed, free audio/video calls, and private/group chats. It is available in 8 languages. The app now combines the features of most social media apps.

4. Banned CamScanner alternative Self Scan app launched in India

Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee launched an app called Self Scan. This new application has been developed by the state's information technology department & as the name suggests, it is built to scan documents. The app is free without any ads. Currently, the app is available in English.

Once installed, the application will not require an internet connection for Scanning documents even for OCR. This app is seen as a **replacement for the popular document scanning app, CamScanner**, which was banned recently.

5. ICAT launches automotive technology e-portal ASPIRE

The **International Centre of Automotive Technology (ICAT) headquartered in Manesar, Haryana** has announced the launch of the automotive technology e-portal ASPIRE, which stands for Automotive Solutions Portal for Industry, Research and Education. Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Heavy Industries.

Moreover, five portals being developed for specific sectors by different organizations viz, BHEL for power sector equipment, HMT for machine tools, CMFTI for manufacturing technology, ICAT and ARAI for the automotive sector.

6. Govt launches online system for issuing transit permits for timber, forest produce

The Ministry of Environment launched an online system for issuing transit permits for timber, bamboo and other forest produce. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the **National Transit Pass System (NTPS)**. It is functional in MP & Telangana for now. The system will be operational in all states by Diwali.

NTPS to bring ease of business and expedite the issuance of transit permits for timber, bamboo and other minor forest produce without physically going to forest offices. Transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce is governed by various state-specific acts and rules. NTPS is a role-based and work-flow based application available on computers and mobile devices

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

Actor Sonu Sood launched an app to offer support to workers in finding right job opportunities in various sectors across the country. It has got over 500 companies listed to provide employment opportunities. A 24x7 helpline have been set up in some cities. It will offer job training programmes like spoken English.

8. Centre's e-learning programme SWAYAMPrabha launched in Uttar Pradesh

UP Governor Anandiben Patel has launched an Centre's e-learning initiative. The new e-classes platform 'SWAYAMPrabha', will telecast educational programmes 24x7 for the students, a move to make lockdown period for students constructive & productive.

The initiative is under the Min. of Human Resource Development.

9. Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App BIS-Care launched

Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan launched the Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App BIS-Care. He also launched three portals on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, and Training of e-BIS. The mobile app BIS-Care can be operated on any Android phone.

10. Atal Innovation Mission launches 'AIM-iCREST', in partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation

AIM iCREST, as the name suggests, has been designed to enable the incubation ecosystem and act as a growth hack for AIM's Atal and Established incubators across the country. The program aims at going beyond incubator capacity building. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. KKR to acquire controlling stake in JB Chemicals for Rs 3,100 crore

US Private Equity giant KKR agreed to acquire about **54% stake** in Mumbai-based drug manufacturer JB Chemical & Pharmaceuticals, one of the oldest pharma companies in India for Rs 3,100 crore. It is the second KKR investment in India in the past two months. It recently invested \$1.5 billion in Reliance Industries.

KKR is an American global investment firm that manages multiple alternative asset classes including private equity, energy, infrastructure, etc through its strategic partners, hedge funds. Headquarters: New York, USA.

2. Paytm expands financial services play, buys Raheja QBE General Insurance

Digital payments platform Paytm is set to expand into insurance, with the acquisition of Mumbai-based Raheja QBE General Insurance. Currently, Prism Johnson holds 51% stake in Raheja QBE, while the remaining 49 per cent stake is owned by QBE Australia. Paytm Founder and CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

This acquisition, estimated to be close to Rs 570 crore, is being done through QorQ1, a technology company.

3. CCI approves proposed combination involving Eros Plc, STX and Marco

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the proposed combination involving Eros International Plc (Eros Plc), STX Filmworks Inc ("STX") and Marco Alliance Limited (Marco). Eros Plc also owns and operates the Over-The-Top platform 'Eros Now'. Chairman of CCI: Ashok Kumar Gupta.

Eros Plc is a global Indian entertainment company that acquires, coproduces, and distributes films (including Hindi, Tamil, and other Indian regional language films) across all available formats such as cinema, television, and digital new media. STX is a fully-integrated global media company specialising in the production, marketing and distribution of talent-driven motion pictures, television and multimedia content. Marco is a company organised and existing under the laws of the British Virgin Islands and is an investment holding company.

4. CCI approves Escorts-Kubota deals

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition in Escorts Limited (Escorts) by Kubota Corporation (Kubota) and in Kubota Agricultural Machinery India Private Limited (KAI) by Escorts under Section 31(1) of the **Competition Act, 2002**. Chairman of CCI: Ashok Kumar Gupta.

Kubota is a company incorporated under the laws of Japan. Kubota is an agriculture product manufacturer and offers various machinery such as tractors, combine harvesters and rice transplanters. Escorts is engaged in the business of manufacturing and sale of agri-machinery, construction equipment and railway equipment in India.

5. CCI approves acquisition by Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso) in HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited (HCG)

The Competition Commission of India approves acquisition by Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso) in HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited (HCG), under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. It relates to acquisition of up to 58.92% stake in HCG by Aceso. CCI is responsible for enforcing Competition Act, 2002.

Aceso is an entity forming part of the CVC Network. It consists of privately owned entities whose activities include providing investment advice to and/or managing investments on behalf of certain investment funds and platforms. HCG and its group are engaged in the business of providing services through cancer treatment clinics, multi-speciality hospitals, fertility treatment centres.

6. Google invests \$4.5 billion in India's Reliance Jio Platforms

Google has become the latest high-profile firm to back Reliance Jio Platforms. It is investing **\$4.5 billion for a 7.73% stake** in the top telecom network. This investment is one of the rare instances when Google joined its rival Facebook in backing a firm. Mukesh Ambani has now become the 6th richest person in the world

Google's new investment gives Jio Platforms an equity valuation of \$58 billion — the same valuation implied by Facebook. Other investors, including General Atlantic, Silver Lake, Qualcomm, Intel and Vista, have paid a 12.5% premium for their stake in Jio Platforms. Google and Reliance Jio Platforms to work on a customized version of the Android operating system to develop low-cost, entry-level smartphones to serve users. Google CEO: Sundar Pichai. **Headquarters: California, USA.**

7. ArcelorMittal completes Rs 2,350-cr acquisition of Odisha Slurry Pipeline Infrastructure

ArcelorMittal, the world's biggest steelmaker, has completed its Rs 2,350-crore acquisition of Odisha Slurry Pipeline Infrastructure, a crucial asset for its newly acquired 10-MTPA Essar Steel plant in Hazira, Gujarat. NCLT had approved the ArcelorMittal resolution plan in March.

8. CCI approves Krishnapatnam port acquisition by Adani Ports, SEZL

The Competition Commission of India has approved the acquisition of Krishnapatnam Port Company Limited by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited. KPCL is engaged as a developer and operator of the **Deepwater port at Krishnapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**. CCI HQ: New Delhi. Chairperson: Ashok Kumar Gupta.

Adani Ports is a customer-facing integrated port infrastructure services provider currently present across ten domestic ports in six maritime states of Gujarat, Goa, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. The Acquirer manages the logistics chain. The logistics chain includes vessel management to anchorage, pilotage, tug pulling, berthing, goods handling, internal transport, storage and handling, processing and final evacuation by road or rail.

9. RBI gives nod to SBI Funds Management to acquire up to 10 pc stake in CSB Bank

Reserve Bank of India has conveyed its approval to 'SBI Funds Management Private Limited' to acquire shares up to **10 % of the paid-up capital of CSB Bank Ltd** through various schemes of 'SBI Mutual Fund.' At present, SBI Funds Management holds 4.73 % stake. CSB Bank, CEO: C.VR. Rajendran

10. Advent to acquire RA Chem Pharma

PE firm Advent International has signed a definitive agreement to acquire a controlling stake in RA Chem Pharma Ltd, a vertically integrated pharmaceutical company promoted by Micro Labs Ltd. The deal valued RA Chem at ₹1,000 crores. RA Chem's core focus is active pharmaceutical ingredient (API).

11. CCI approves proposed acquisition of 49% of the total equity share capital of Odisha Power Generation Corporation Limited (OPGC)

APL is a part of the Adani Group, which is inter-alia engaged in the business operations of generation, transmission, and distribution of power in India. OPGC is a joint venture between Government of Odisha, AES India Private Limited, and AES OPGC Holding. Nikunja Bihari Dhal, Chairman OPGC.



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BANKING

POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO	PERCENTAGE
Repo Rate	4.00%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	3.0%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.0%

ECONOMY

ORGANIZATION/ PARAMETERS	RATE/ FIGURES
Fitch Ratings (India's economic growth)	8% (FY 2021-22)
ICRA (India's economic growth)	9.5% (FY21)
India Ratings and Research (Centre's fiscal deficit)	7.6% (FY 2020-21)
ICRA (Agricultural GVA)	Rise by 3.5-4% (FY21)
India Ratings and Research (GDP contraction)	5.3% (FY 2020-21)
Nomura (GDP contraction)	6.1% (FY21)
DBS report (GDP contraction)	6.0% (FY21)
RBI (Ratio of overseas financial assets to India's GDP)	26.5% (FY 2019-20)
RBI (Gross NPA)	8.5% (FY20)
Dun & Bradstreet (Global Economy contraction)	5.2% (FY 20)

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Sanjay Dwivedi	Director General of IIMC
MV Shreyams Kumar	Member of PTI board of directors
Rajkiran Rai	Union Bank of India CEO gets 2-year extension
Indra Mani Pandey	India's Permanent Representative to UN
Parminder Chopra	Director of Finance at PFC
T.C. Suseel Kumar	Additional Non-Executive (Nominee) Director of Axis Bank

Anandiben Patel	Madhya Pradesh Governor
Shrikant Madhav Vaidya	IOC Chairman
Ravinder Bhakar	CEO of Central Board of Films Certification
Sanjay Raghuraman	Kalyan Jewelles first CEO
Sukhbir Singh Sandhu	NHAI Chairman gets six months extension
Jean Castex	New Prime Minister of France
Jayant Krishna	CEO for UK India Business Council
Bishnu Prasad Nanda	DG Railway Health Services
Injeti Srinivas	Chairman of International Financial Services Centres Authority
Justice Bhat	National Company Law Appellate Tribunal chairperson gets three-month extension
Sijo Kuruvilla George	Appointed to Centre's committee on science and tech policy
Rajesh Verma	Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority Chairman
M K Saggar	ED in charge of RBI's monetary policy dept
Sukhbir Singh	Luxury Ride brand ambassador
RB Ramesh	Resigns as Chief Selector of All India Chess Federation
Usha Thorat	Head of the 20-member SEBI committee on mutual funds
Gyanendro Ningombam	Hockey India officiating president
Hemang Amin	BCCI CEO
Gourangalal Das	India's new envoy to Taiwan
EC Ashok Lavasa	ADB Vice-President
Ashwini Kumar Tewari	SBI Cards MD & CEO
Prabhjeet Singh	Uber India & South Asia President
'Chan' Santokhi	Suriname President
Kulmeet Bawa	President & MD of SAP, Indian Subcontinent
Roshni Nadar	Chairperson of HCL
PC Kandpal	SBI General Insurance MD & CEO
Ramesh Babu	Karur Vysya Bank MD & CEO
Amudha	Joint Secretary in Prime Minister's Office
Sumit Deb	CMD of National Mineral Development Corporation
Rahul Bajaj	Steps down as Chairman of Bajaj Finance

Arun Kumar	Vice-Chairman of International Union of Railways security platform
Riva Ganguly Das	Secretary East in Ministry of External Affairs
Sahil Seth	Honorary adviser for BRICS CCI
Naveen Tahilyani	Tata AIA Life Insurance MD & CEO
Partha Pratim Sengupta	MD, CEO of Indian Overseas Bank
Rajesh Bhushan	Health secretary
Sushil Kumar	Secretary of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes
Ganesh Lakshminarayanan	Chief of Airtel's enterprise business
Prof Govindan Rangarajan	IISc Director
Thierry Bollore	CEO of Jaguar Land Rover
Varun Sridhar	Paytm Money CEO
Hardik Satishchandra Shah	Private secretary to PM Narendra Modi
S N Rajeswari	CMD of Oriental Insurance
Air Marshal VR Chaudhary	Chief of Western Air Command
Salma Lakhani	Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Canada
Baisali Mohanty	United Nations Policy Officer
Vidhu P. Nair	India's next Ambassador to Turkmenistan
H H Kotalwar	Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic.
Suresh Mathur	Head of the IRDAI working group to explore a Pandemic Risk Pool
Pritam Singh	Leader of the Opposition in Singapore
Archana Soreng	Named by UN chief to new advisory group
Babita Phogat & Kavita as	Sports deputy directors

AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
India's AI-enabled MyGov Corona Helpdesk	Bagged two awards at CogX 2020
C. Rangarajan	Mahala Nobis award
Edappadi K Palaniswami	Paul Harris Fellow recognition

Kezang D Thongdok	Dada Saheb Phalke Award
NTPC Limited	CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019
N Chandrasekaran & Jim Taiclet	USIBC Global Leadership Award
Amal Clooney	Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award.
Railway's Ongole Sub-Division Office	Water Heroes Award
Marianna Vardinoyannis & Morissana Kouyate	2020 UN Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize
Greta Thunberg	Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity
Professor Ashok Sahni	Earth Sciences Ministry's Lifetime Excellence Award
Dr. S. S Babu	Earth Sciences Ministry's National Award for Atmospheric Science & technology
T. Purushothaman	Jagjivan Ram Innovative Farmer Award of ICAR
'The Yield' authored by Tara June	Miles Franklin award for 2020
Ved Parkash Dudeja	Infra Business Leader of the Year award for 2020
Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan	2020 Von Karman Award

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
1 July	National Doctor's Day	NA
1 July	National Chartered Accountants Day	Transforming the Future: Enabling Excellence, Augmenting Trust
1 July	3rd GST Day	NA
2 July	World UFO Day	NA
2 July	World Sports Journalists Day	NA
1 st Saturday of July	International Day of Cooperatives	Cooperatives for Climate Action
6 July	World Zoonoses Day	NA
11 July	World Population Day	How to safeguard the health & rights of women & girls now
15 July	World Youth Skills Day	Skills for a Resilient Youth
16 July	ICAR's 92nd foundation day	NA

17 July	World Day for International Justice	NA
18 July	International Nelson Mandela Day	NA
20 July	World Chess Day	Teach someone how to play chess
23 July	National Broadcasting Day	NA
26 July	21st anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas	NA
28 July	World Hepatitis Day	Hepatitis-free future.
29 July	International Tigers day	NA
30 July	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	Committed to the Cause-Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking
30 July	International Day of Friendship	NA

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Sanjay Dobal	Indian cricketer
Everton Weekes	West Indies cricket legend
Saroj Khan	Bollywood Choreographer
Suraj Prasad Agarwal	Leading industrialist
Carl Reiner	Comedy icon and 'Dick Van Dyke Show' creator
Earl Cameron	British film and TV actor
Ennio Morricone	Oscar-winning Italian film composer
Nick Cordero	Actor
Jagdeep	Veteran actor-comedian
Amadou Gon Coulibaly	Ivory Coast's Prime Minister
Avad Bin Hassan Jami	Cartoonist
Nagindas Sanghvi	Veteran Gujarati journalist, political analyst, columnist & writer
Jack Charlton	England's footballer
Suurbier	Footballer
Neela Satyanarayan	Former IAS officer and Maharashtra's first woman Election Commissioner

Prof. Seshadri	Indian mathematician
CT Vivian	Civil rights leader
John Lewis	Civil rights leader
Rajat Mukherjee	Filmmaker
Lalji Tandon	Madhya Pradesh Governor
Bijay Mohanty	Veteran Odia Actor
Nusrat Zaheer	Urdu journalist, satirist
Amala Shankar	Noted dancer-choreographer
Olivia de Havilland	Actor
John Saxon	Actor
Yash Pal Abrol	Plant Physiologist & Biochemist
Somen Mitra	West Bengal Congress president
Benjamin Mkapa	Tanzania's former president

IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier BD Mishra (retd)
Assam	Dispur	Sarabananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	S.P Malik
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Devvrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Satyadev Narayan Arya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Draupadi Murmu
Karnataka	Bengaluru	B S Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan

Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Anandiben Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Uddhav Thackrey	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Sangma	Tathagata Roy
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	P S Sreedharan Pillai
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	RN Ravi
Odisha	Bhubaneshwar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	V P Singh Badnore
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	Prem Singh Tamang (PS Golay)	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

UNION MINISTERS, PORTFOLIO & CONSTITUENCY

Union Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
Narendra Modi	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions	Varanasi, UP
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence	Lucknow, UP
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways & Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises	Nagpur, Maharashtra
DV Sadananda Gowda	Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers	Bangalore North, Karnataka

Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Rajya Sabha
Ram Vilas Paswan	Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution	NA
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare, Ministry of Rural Development & Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Morena, M. P
Ravi Shankar Prasad	Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of communications & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Patna Sahib, Bihar
Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Bathinda, Punjab
Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Ministry of Social justice and empowerment	Rajya Sabha (M.P)
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)
Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Ministry of Human Resource Development	Haridwar, Uttarakhand
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Khunti, Jharkhand
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and child Development & Ministry of Textiles	Amethi, UP
Dr Harsh Vardhan	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Science and Technology & Ministry of Earth Sciences	Chandni Chowk, Delhi
Prakash Javadekar	Ministry of environment, forest and climate change & Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise	Rajya Sabha (M.P)
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Ministry of Steel	Rajya Sabha (M.P)
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Ministry of Minority Affairs	Rajya Sabha (Jharkhand)
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of coal & Ministry of Mines	Dharwad, Karnataka
Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Chandauli, UP
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Animal Husbandry, dairying and fisheries	Begusarai, Bihar

Important Highlights of National Education Policy 2020

School Education

Ensuring Universal Access at all levels of school education

NEP 2020 emphasizes on ensuring universal access to school education at all levels- pre school to secondary. Infrastructure support, innovative education centres to bring back dropouts into the mainstream, tracking of students and their learning levels, facilitating multiple pathways to learning involving both formal and non-formal education modes, association of counselors or well-trained social workers with schools, open learning for classes 3, 5 and 8 through NIOS and State Open Schools, secondary education programs equivalent to Grades 10 and 12, vocational courses, adult literacy and life-enrichment programs are some of the proposed ways for achieving this. About 2 crore out of school children will be brought back into main stream under NEP 2020.

Early Childhood Care & Education with new Curricular and Pedagogical Structure

With emphasis on Early Childhood Care and Education, the 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively. This will bring the hitherto uncovered age group of 3-6 years under school curriculum, which has been recognized globally as the crucial stage for development of mental faculties of a child. The new system will have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre schooling.

NCERT will develop a **National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE)** for children up to the age of 8. ECCE will be delivered through a significantly expanded and strengthened system of institutions including Anganwadis and pre-schools that will have teachers and Anganwadi workers trained in the ECCE pedagogy and curriculum. The planning and implementation of ECCE will be carried out jointly by the Ministries of HRD, Women and Child Development (WCD), Health and Family Welfare (HFW), and Tribal Affairs.

Attaining Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

Recognizing Foundational Literacy and Numeracy as an urgent and necessary prerequisite to learning, NEP 2020 calls for setting up of a **National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy** by MHRD. States will prepare an implementation plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools for all learners by grade 3 by 2025. A **National Book Promotion Policy** is to be formulated.

Reforms in school curricula and pedagogy

The school curricula and pedagogy will aim for holistic development of learners by equipping them with the key 21st century skills, reduction in curricular content to enhance essential learning and critical thinking and greater focus on experiential learning. Students will have increased flexibility and choice of subjects.

There will be no rigid separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams.

Vocational education will start in schools from the 6th grade, and will include internships.

A new and comprehensive **National Curricular Framework for School Education**, NCFSE 2020-21, will be developed by the NCERT.

Multilingualism and the power of language

The policy has emphasized mother tongue/local language/regional language as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond. Sanskrit to be offered at all levels of school and higher education as an option for students, including in the three-language formula. Other classical languages and literatures of India also to be available as options. No language will be imposed on any student. Students to participate in a fun project/activity on 'The Languages of India', sometime in Grades 6-8, such as, under the '*Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat*' initiative. Several foreign languages will also be offered at the secondary level. Indian Sign Language (ISL) will be standardized across the country, and National and State curriculum materials developed, for use by students with hearing impairment.

Assessment Reforms

NEP 2020 envisages a shift from summative assessment to regular and formative assessment, which is more competency-based, promotes learning and development, and tests higher-order skills, such as analysis, critical thinking, and conceptual clarity. All students will take school examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8 which will be conducted by the appropriate authority. Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued, but redesigned with holistic development as the aim. A new **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)**, will be set up as a standard-setting body .

Equitable and Inclusive Education

NEP 2020 aims to ensure that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. Special emphasis will be given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which include gender, socio-cultural, and geographical identities and disabilities. This includes setting up of **Gender Inclusion Fund** and also **Special Education Zones** for disadvantaged regions and groups. Children with disabilities will be enabled to fully participate in the regular schooling process from the foundational stage to higher education, with support of educators with cross disability training, resource centres, accommodations, assistive devices, appropriate technology-based tools and other support mechanisms tailored to suit their needs. Every state/district will be encouraged to establish "**Bal Bhavans**" as a special daytime boarding school, to participate in art-related, career-related, and play-related activities. Free school infrastructure can be used as **Samajik Chetna Kendras**

Robust Teacher Recruitment and Career Path

Teachers will be recruited through robust, transparent processes. Promotions will be merit-based, with a mechanism for multi-source periodic performance appraisals and available progression paths to become educational administrators or teacher educators. A common **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** will be developed by the National Council for Teacher Education by 2022, in consultation with NCERT, SCERTs, teachers and expert organizations from across levels and regions.

School Governance

Schools can be organized into complexes or clusters which will be the basic unit of governance and ensure availability of all resources including infrastructure, academic libraries and a strong professional teacher community.

Standard-setting and Accreditation for School Education

NEP 2020 envisages clear, separate systems for policy making, regulation, operations and academic matters. States/UTs will set up independent **State School Standards Authority (SSSA)**. Transparent public self-disclosure of all the basic regulatory information, as laid down by the SSSA, will be used extensively for public oversight and accountability. The SCERT will develop a **School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (SQAAF)** through consultations with all stakeholders.

Higher Education

Increase GER to 50 % by 2035

NEP 2020 aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education including vocational education from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035. 3.5 Crore new seats will be added to Higher education institutions.

Holistic Multidisciplinary Education

The policy envisages broad based, multi-disciplinary, holistic Under Graduate education with **flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit points with appropriate certification**. UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period. For example, Certificate after 1 year, Advanced Diploma after 2 years, Bachelor's Degree after 3 years and Bachelor's with Research after 4 years.

An **Academic Bank of Credit** is to be established for digitally storing academic credits earned from different HEIs so that these can be transferred and counted towards final degree earned.

Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.

The National Research Foundation will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.

Regulation

Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for the entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. HECI to have four independent verticals - National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting, Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding, and National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation. HECI will function through faceless intervention through technology, & will have powers to penalise HEIs not conforming to norms and standards. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.

Rationalised Institutional Architecture

Higher education institutions will be transformed into large, well resourced, vibrant multidisciplinary institutions providing high quality teaching, research, and community engagement. The definition of university will allow a spectrum of institutions that range from **Research-intensive Universities to Teaching-intensive Universities** and **Autonomous degree-granting Colleges**.

Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting **graded autonomy** to colleges. Over a period of time, it is envisaged that every college would develop into either an Autonomous degree-granting College, or a constituent college of a university.

Motivated, Energized, and Capable Faculty

NEP makes recommendations for motivating, energizing, and building capacity of faculty through clearly defined, independent, transparent recruitment, freedom to design curricula/pedagogy, incentivising excellence, movement into institutional leadership. Faculty not delivering on basic norms will be held accountable.

Teacher Education

A new and comprehensive **National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, NCFTE 2021**, will be formulated by the NCTE in consultation with NCERT. By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree. Stringent action will be taken against substandard stand-alone Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs).

Mentoring Mission

A National Mission for Mentoring will be established, with a large pool of outstanding senior/retired faculty – including those with the ability to teach in Indian languages –

who would be willing to provide short and long-term mentoring/professional support to university/college teachers.

Financial support for students

Efforts will be made to incentivize the merit of students belonging to SC, ST, OBC, and other SEDGs. The National Scholarship Portal will be expanded to support, foster, and track the progress of students receiving scholarships. Private HEIs will be encouraged to offer larger numbers of free ships and scholarships to their students.

Open and Distance Learning

This will be expanded to play a significant role in increasing GER. Measures such as online courses and digital repositories, funding for research, improved student services, credit-based recognition of MOOCs, etc., will be taken to ensure it is at par with the highest quality in-class programmes.

Online Education and Digital Education:

A comprehensive set of recommendations for promoting online education consequent to the recent rise in epidemics and pandemics in order to ensure preparedness with alternative modes of quality education whenever and wherever traditional and in-person modes of education are not possible, has been covered. A dedicated unit for the purpose of orchestrating the building of digital infrastructure, digital content and capacity building will be created in the MHRD to look after the e-education needs of both school and higher education.

Technology in education

An autonomous body, the **National Educational Technology Forum (NETF)**, will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration. Appropriate integration of technology into all levels of education will be done to improve classroom processes, support teacher professional development, enhance educational access for disadvantaged groups and streamline educational planning, administration and management

Promotion of Indian languages

To ensure the preservation, growth, and vibrancy of all Indian languages, NEP recommends setting an **Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI), National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit**, strengthening of Sanskrit and all language departments in HEIs, and use mother tongue/local language as a medium of instruction in more HEI programmes .

Internationalization of education will be facilitated through both institutional collaborations, and student and faculty mobility and allowing entry of top world ranked Universities to open campuses in our country.

Professional Education

All professional education will be an integral part of the higher education system. Stand-alone technical universities, health science universities, legal and agricultural universities etc will aim to become multi-disciplinary institutions.

Adult Education

Policy aims to achieve 100% youth and adult literacy.

Financing Education

The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.

Unprecedented Consultations

NEP 2020 has been formulated after an unprecedented process of consultation that involved nearly over 2 lakh suggestions from 2.5 lakhs Gram Panchayats, 6600 Blocks, 6000 ULBs, 676 Districts. The MHRD initiated an unprecedented collaborative, inclusive, and highly participatory consultation process from January 2015. In May 2016, '*Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy*' under the Chairmanship of Late Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, Former Cabinet Secretary, submitted its report. Based on this, the Ministry prepared '*Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016*'. In June 2017 a '*Committee for the Draft National Education Policy*' was constituted under the Chairmanship of eminent scientist **Padma Vibhushan, Dr. K. Kasturirangan**, which submitted the Draft National Education Policy, 2019 to the Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister on 31st May, 2019. The Draft National Education Policy 2019 was uploaded on MHRD's website and at 'MyGov Innovate' portal eliciting views/suggestions/comments of stakeholders, including public.

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