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April 2020

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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Table of Contents

Banking 3
Economy 6
National 9
International 16
State 19
Sports 22
Agreements 24
Schemes 25
Appointments 26
Awards 30
Ranks & Reports 31
Important Days 33
Summit & Conferences 36
Science & Technology 37
Defence 42
Books & Authors 42
Miscellaneous 43
Obituary 44
Person in news 47
Insurance 49
India & World 49
Environment 50
Apps & Portals 50
Acquisitions & Mergers 53

Banking

1. Public sector banks announce deferment of EMI payments on loans

The RBI had earlier issued directions asking lending institutions to allow a three-month moratorium on loan payments. Banks like SBI, Punjab and Sind Bank, Canara Bank, BoB have announced the offer of the moratorium to customers. CNB is providing collateral & margin free loan up to ₹20L to SHG.

2. Mega-merger of PSU banks to be effective from today; 6 banks cease to exist

6 PSU lenders will be merged into 4 to make them globally competitive. Following the consolidation, there will be **7 large PSBs** & **5 smaller ones**. The merger will result in the creation of 7 PSBs with each amalgamated entity having a business of over ₹8L cr. **Sec 45** of Banking Regulations Act allows RBI for mergers.

3. Affordable housing firm Aavas gets $60m from ADB

ADB has signed an agreement to lend up to $60 million to Aavas Financiers Ltd to improve access to housing finance for lower-income borrowers, particularly women. Aavas is one of the largest housing finance companies in India's affordable housing segment. Aavas CEO – Sushil Kumar Agarwal Headquarters –Jaipur, Rajasthan

4. RBI asks banks to inform about re-appointment cases of MD, CEOs six months in advance

RBI asked private sector and foreign banks to intimate it **6 months** in advance in cases of re-appointment of MD and chief executives as against the present practice of 4 months Also proposals for appointment. of new MD and CEO should contain at least 2 names. The revised format is aligned to requirements of Companies Act.

5. ADB expects India's economic growth to slow down to 4% in FY21

According to Asian Development Bank, India's economic growth is likely to slow down to 4% for FY21. Also, growth in India will remain subdued after the country suffered a sharp slowdown last year, from 6.1% in fiscal 2019 to 5%. Asian Development Bank has 68 member countries.

6. Moody's revises Indian banking system outlook to negative

Rating agency Moody's revised the outlook for the Indian banking system to **negative** from stable, citing disruptions in economic activity caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and an ensuing decline in asset quality. Chairman of Indian Banks Association: Rajnish Kumar.

7. RBI reduces trading timings of currency and debt markets

In view of the COVID-19 outbreak, beginning April 7th, markets dealing with government securities, call/notice/term money, corporate bonds, foreign currency, Rupee Trades, commercial paper and Certificates of Deposit will be working from **10 AM to 2 PM**. Other banking services (NEFT, RTGS) will continue like before.

8. RBI announces 3rd targeted LTRO for Rs 25,000 crore

To ensure adequate liquidity in the system, RBI announced the third targeted long-term repo operation (TLTRO) for **₹25,000 crore** and will conduct TLTROs of up to **3-year tenor** of appropriate sizes for a total amount of up to ₹1,00,000 crore. Shorter duration govt bond yields plunged after RBI's LTROs.

9. ADB to invest $ 100 million in Infra sector via NIIF

ADB announced $100 million funding for the Indian Infrastructure sector through the government promoter NIIF. ADB is investing in NIIF's **'fund of funds'**, which means that the actual money invested is a few times more than the committed sum. NIIF MD and Chief: Sujoy Bose.

10. IndusInd Bank taps CPPIB, GIC to raise $500 million

IndusInd Bank and its promoter the Hinduja Group have initiated talks with sovereign wealth funds and pension funds, including Canada's CPPIB and Singapore's GIC Ltd, to raise **$500 million**. It has been one of the most impacted banks due to COVID-19. Canada Pension Plan Investment Board-CPPIB Singapore Company-GIC

11. Govt nominates Indian Overseas Bank for collecting donations for PM Cares Fund

Indian Overseas Bank has been nominated by the government for collection of funds, which will be used to support the community and will be assigned to PM-CARES Fund. The contributions can be made by RTGS, NEFT etc., IOB HQ: Chennai IOB Tagline: Good People to Grow With.

12. SIDBI to provide emergency working capital of up to Rs 1 crore to MSMEs

The Small Industries Development Bank of India will provide emergency working capital of up to one crore rupees to small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The limit of **SAFE loans** has been enhanced from 50 lakh rupees to **two crore rupees**. SAFE–SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency. Interest Rate-5%.

13. RBI eases norms for state govts, extends overdraft facility

RBI relaxed norms for state govt facing short-term mismatches by extending the duration of overdraft facility until 30 September. The number of days for which a state or UT can avail this is extended to **21 working days** from the current 14 days. No. of days for a **quarter** increased to **50 working days** from 36.

14. BoB launches four schemes for Agri Sector

To help borrowers in the agriculture sector Bank of Baroda has announced schemes where it will offer additional loans of up to **₹1 lakh** to existing self-help group (SHG) borrowers and up to ₹50,000 to existing crop loan borrowers. BoB is India's third largest Public Sector Bank.

15. HDFC Bank's Mobile ATMs in Mumbai, Noida

HDFC Bank deployed Mobile ATMs in Mumbai, Noida to help customers during the lockdown. They will be open in each location for a specific period. HDFC CEO: Aditya Puri. Tagline: We understand your World.

16. RV Verma appointed as non-executive Chairman of AU Small Finance Bank

RV Verma, former Chairman & Managing Director of National Housing Bank has been appointed as Non-Executive Chairman of AU Small Finance Bank. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved his appointment for a period of one-year AU Small Finance Bank HQ: Jaipur

17. Jana Small Finance Bank rolls out digital banking platform

Jana SFB, a scheduled commercial bank has launched a digital banking platform, **DigiGen** where customers can open accounts instantly. It is a 3-step process and customers are eligible for a 4.5% interest rates on the savings account. MD & CEO–Ajay Kanwal. HQ: Bangalore. Tagline: Paise Ki Kadar.

18. Yes Bank extends bancassurance tie-up with Max Life Insurance for 5 years

Private sector life insurer Max Life Insurance and Yes Bank have extended the bancassurance partnership for the next 5 years. Under this, the products of the life insurer would be sold through the branches of Yes Bank. Max Life CEO: Prashant Tripathy.

19. PNB to retain a stake in two life insurance ventures as IRDAI gives a nod

Following the merger of Oriental Bank of Commerce with PNB on April 1, 23% of stake of the former in **Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance** stands transferred to the latter. PNB is a promoter of **PNB MetLife** Insurance with the highest stake of 30% since 2012. PNB MD: SS Mallikarjuna Rao.

20. RBI reduces FPI investment limits in G-Sec to Rs 2.34 lakh crore for FY21

RBI reduced the general FPI investors' limit in Central government securities to **Rs 2.34 L Cr.** for FY21 from the existing limit of Rs 2.46 Lakh Crore. Long-term FPI investment limits in G-Secs have been brought down to Rs 1.03 L Cr. from Rs 1.15 L Cr. RBI increased General Category FPI limits in SDL to Rs 64415 cr.

21. HDFC Bank launches safety grid campaign to reiterate Social Distancing

HDFC Bank launched **#HDFCBankSafetyGrid** to reinforce #SocialDistancing. Using the outer grid, the bank has created physical markers on the ground to help maintain Social distancing while waiting in a queue at a shop. HDFC Bank CEO: Aditya Puri.

22. Kotak Mahindra Bank joins the list of banks providing 'ATM on Wheels' Service

Joining a series of other banks such as HDFC, Axis, ICICI, Kotak Mahindra Bank announced the launch of its first 'ATM on Wheels' service. This will bring cash withdrawal facility to various neighbourhoods. It is presently operational in Mumbai. Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO: Uday Kotak. HQ: Mumbai.

23. RBI released 49th round of OBICUS

Reserve Bank of India launched latest round of quarterly **Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey** (OBICUS) of manufacturing sector. The RBI has been conducting the OBICUS of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008. 49th round is for the reference period January-March 2020.

24. AIIB mulls $500 million funding for healthcare system in India

AIIB is considering a proposal for financing $500-million project in India to strengthen country's national health care systems. The scope of funding will also include the purchase of equipment and detection capacity as country battles COVID-19 pandemic. AIIB is doubling funds under COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility.

25. RBI announces calendar of MPC meetings for current financial year

RBI has announced the calendar of the meetings of the MPC for the current financial year. Decision of the 1st meet will be announced on June 5, 2020, other meetings will take place on August 4 -6;

September 29-30 & October 1; December 2-4; & Feb 3-5, 2021. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), comprises six members.

26. ICICI Bank facilitates voice banking through Alexa and Google Assistant

ICICI Bank has announced an integration of its AI powered multi-channel chatbot **iPal** with voice assistant apps Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant. Information regarding the bank's products and services can be inquired about on these applications. ICICI Bank CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi.

27. RBI authorizes Transcorp to issue Co-Branded Prepaid Instruments Cards & Wallets

Transcorp International Ltd, announced the receipt of RBI's nod for entering into co-branding arrangements for Prepaid Instruments. Transcorp has launched Multi-Wallet Prepaid cards powered in association with RUPAY-India's very own switch powered by NPCI. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Founded: 2008.

28. SBI now holds 48.21% in Yes Bank; HDFC, ICICI Bank 7.97% each

State Bank of India (SBI) now holds 48.21 percent stake in the private lender, followed by HDFC and ICICI Bank, which have 7.97 percent each, shows the latest shareholding pattern. Axis Bank holds 4.78 % stake, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank (3.61 %). Prashant Kumar, MD & CEO of YES Bank.

29. RBI allows banks to issue electronic cards for overdraft accounts

Relaxing norms, the Reserve Bank of India permitted banks to issue electronic cards to persons having overdraft accounts that are only in the nature of personal loan without any specific end-use restrictions. RBI Governor-Shaktikanta Das

30. IOB launches working capital demand loan for Agri sector

Public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank introduced special credit facilities for the agriculture sector as a relief measure to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Accounts that are standard & performing as of March 2020 are eligible to avail this loan facility. Karnam Sekar, Managing Director & CEO: IOB.

31. ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund Bharat-22 ETF picks shares worth Rs.59 crore in NALCO

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund Bharat-22 ETF picked up share’s worth nearly Rs 59 Cr in National Aluminium Company through an open market transaction. As per the data on NSE, over 1.71 Cr shares were purchased at an average price of Rs 34.43 apiece. This took the total deal value to Rs 58.9 crore.

32. RBI announces Rs 50,000-crore Special Liquidity Facility for mutual funds

RBI decided to open a special liquidity facility of **Rs 50,000 Cr** for mutual funds to ease liquidity pressure on mutual funds. Under the SLF-MF, RBI shall conduct repo operations of 90 days tenor at fixed repo rate. The scheme is available from April 27. SLF-MF is on-tap and open-ended.

33. ADB approves 1.5 billion USD for India to fight COVID-19

The Asian Development Bank unveiled a **$1.5 billion** Covid-19 package for India and is in discussions with the government on further aid for specific sectors. Earlier this month, the World Bank had provided a $1 billion package for the healthcare sector. ADB Headquarters- Metro Manila, Philippines.

34. India Post delivers cash worth Rs 412 crore in doorstep banking revolution

India Post has delivered cash worth **₹412 cr**. at doorstep delivery. This service is provided by the department irrespective of the bank in which the holder has an account or a village without a branch. This has been made possible due to **AePS facility** of IPPB. Suresh Sethi, MD and CEO, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB),

35. Banks borrow ₹2,000 crore from RBI for mutual funds

Commercial banks have borrowed ₹2,000 crore from the liquidity window that was offered by the RBI for mutual funds (MFs).RBI had announced a special window of ₹50,000 cr. for mutual funds in view of the redemption pressure that the fund houses are facing. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) established: 1 April 1935.

Economy

1. New direct tax regime kicks in from April 1, 2020

NRIs who have **more than ₹15 lakh income** from Indian sources will be deemed as Indian residents for the purpose of taxation if they had spent 120 days in India in the previous year. Earlier, the number of days was 182. Taxation of dividend in the hands of shareholders was introduced

2. Govt slashes interest on PPF, NSC and other small savings schemes

The Centre has slashed interest rates on small savings schemes by 70 to **140 bps** for FY21. Interest rates on PPF have been brought down to 7.1% and for Kisan Vikas Patra to 6.9%. The interest rate on the girl child focussed Sukanya Samriddhi scheme is 7.6% Int rate on small savings schemes are revised on quarterly basis

3. Fiscal Deficit touches 135% of Revised Estimates during Apr – Feb

The CGA, the govt's bookkeeper reported that fiscal deficit for the first 11 months of the current fiscal has reached 135% of the revised estimate. According to the CGA data, the fiscal deficit touched **₹10.36 lakh-crore**. The target was ₹7.66 lakh-crore. Fiscal Deficit = Income – Expenditure of the government.

4. Rs. 97,597 Crore Of gross GST revenue collected in Mar 20

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of March 2020 is **Rs. 97,597crore** falling way short of Rs 1.15 lakh crore target. Gross GST revenue for the month was 8% lower than that of March 19. GST collection grew by 3.7% in FY19. Goods and Service Tax is an indirect tax and was passed in Mar17

5. RBI increases WMA limit of states, UTs by 30%, relaxes export rules

RBI decided to increase the WMA limit for **states and UTs by 30%** till September 30 & allowed exporters six months extra to realise their export proceeds. Also, banks do not need to activate countercyclical capital (CCyB) buffers for one more year. WMA was introduced to meet mismatches in the receipts & payments

6. India's march manufacturing PMI at four-month low of 51.8

The manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for India declined to 51.8 in March from 54.5 in February. A **figure above 50 indicates expansion**, while a sub-50 print signals contraction. The most common PMI surveys are the manufacturing PMI & services

7. Direct Tax mop-up declines by over 8%

Amid the ongoing economic slowdown, the government's net direct tax collections have missed the downward revised target for 2019-20 by ₹1.42 L Crore at **₹10.27 L crore**, a decline of over 8% from the previous year. Govt. is likely to miss the fiscal deficit target of 3.8%.

8. Forex reserves surge $5.65 bn to $475.56 bn

After falling massively, the country's foreign exchange reserves surged by $5.65 billion to **$475.56 billion** helped by an increase in foreign currency assets, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Special drawing rights with IMF were up by $14 mn to $1.42 bn.

9. Fitch slashes India growth forecast to 30-year low of 2% for FY21

Fitch Ratings slashed India's growth forecast for the FY21 to a 30-year low of **2%,** from 5.1% projected earlier. Fitch also said MSMEs and the services segment are likely to be among the most affected amid reduced consumer spending. Moody's cut India's growth forecast for calendar 2020 to 2.5%.

10. GDP likely to grow just 2% in 2020-21: ICRA

(**ICRA**) Investment Information & Credit Rating Agency has sharply revised its forecast for India's growth in the current fiscal to **2%** down from a range of 4.7% - 5.2%. It also lowered its estimate for GDP growth in FY20 to 4.4% from 4.7% earlier.

Moody's Investors Service is ICRA's largest shareholder.

11. Goldman Sachs slashes India's FY21 real GDP Growth forecast to 1.6%

The global research house has lowered its real GDP forecast to **1.6%** from 3.3% earlier. It expects a strong economic recovery in the second half of FY21. It also expects a larger hit of up to 95% in recreation and hotel services. Goldman Sachs HQ: New York, US. CEO: David M Solomon.

12. India's GDP for FY21 to be hit by COVID-19, projected at 4.8%: UN

India's GDP growth for the current fiscal is expected to slow down to **4.8%**, according to a **UN report** UN Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2020: Towards Sustainable Economies. UN Head Quarters: New York, US.

13. Inflation may drop to 2.4% in FY21: RBI

Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation is tentatively projected to ease from 4.8% to **2.4%** in the 4th quarter, according to RBI's Monetary Policy Report for the fiscal. It pointed that the nation-wide curb could bring down aggregate demand drastically. Under the RBI Act, the MPC should at least meet 4 times a year.

14. Foreign exchange reserves decline $902 mn to $474.66 bn

According to RBI data, the country's foreign exchange reserves declined by $902 million to **$ 474.66 billion** in a week, due to a fall in foreign currency assets. During 2020-21, the country's foreign exchange reserves have risen by almost $62 billion. The gold reserve also declined by $340 million to $30.55 billion

15. 30 crore poor get Rs 28,256 crore under PMGKY

More than 30 crore poor people have received Rs 28,256 Cr financial assistance under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month to protect them from the impact of lockdown Rs 13,855 Cr disbursed as payment of 1st instalment of PM-KISAN

16. 7 major consultancies join hands with Invest India for economic revival post Covid-19

7 consultancy firms – Bain & Co, EY, PwC, BCG, KPMG, Primus Partners and Mirae Asset Management – have joined hand with Invest India to chalk out an economic revival strategy for India after the pandemic comes to an end Invest India is a Joint Venture of Indian chambers of commerce

17. World Bank forecasts worst economic slump in South Asia in 40 years

South Asian region, comprising 8 countries, is likely to show economic growth of **1.5% to 2.8%** this year, the **World Bank** said in its South Asia Economic Focus report, well down from the 6.3% it projected 6 months ago. India's economy is expected to grow 1.5% to 2.8%.

18. Retail Inflation ease to 5.91% in March

Retail Inflation slowed to **5.91%** in March due to easing food prices. The retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 6.58% in Feb 20. It is a main factor for RBI while deciding its bi-monthly monetary policy. Central Bank keeps inflation around 4%.

19. IMF slashes FY21 India growth forecast to 1.9% from 5.8%; warns of global recession

IMF cut its India's growth forecast to **1.9%** for FY21 from 5.8% projected earlier and predicted a 3% contraction for global GDP warning that the global economy has plunged into the worst recession since the Great Depression. World likely to lose a collective $9tn output over 2 years: IMF.

20. Barclays pegs lockdown's economic cost at $234bn; sees no growth for '20

Barclays pegged the economic cost of the lockdown at $234.4bn (8.1% of the GDP). It also revised its GDP projection for CY 2020 **to 0** from 2.5% earlier and 0.8% for FY 21 from 3.5% earlier. Growth for CY21 has been projected at 7.5%. Nomura expect GDP to contract 0.5%.

21. SBI sees FY21 real GDP growth at 1.1%

SBI has estimated the real GDP growth for the current FY at **1.1%** and the nominal GDP growth at 4.2%. The earlier forecast for GDP growth for FY21 was 2.6%. It has also estimated the overall loss for FY21 at about Rs 12.1L cr. SBI Head Office: Mumbai.

22. Asia expected to witness 0% growth in 2020: IMF

In **IMF**'s blog titled 'COVID-19 Pandemic and the Asia-Pacific Region: Lowest Growth since the 1960s, it has noted that **Asia** is expected to witness **0% growth** in 2020 and that this is the worst performance in almost 60 years. Asia to fare better than other regions in terms of activity: IMF.

23. Business sentiment worsened in Q4 FY20: NCAER

NCAER's Business Confidence Index- an indicator of business sentiments across Indian industry, stood at 77.3 in Q4 of 2019-20. This was the lowest level of BCI recorded since the 25th Round of the BES in 1998, coinciding with the Asian Financial Crisis. N-BCI in the third quarter of 2019-20 was 111.2.

24. Covid-19 impact: S&P slashes India growth forecast to 1.8% for FY21

Standard & Poor's slashed FY21 growth estimate for India to **1.8%** from 3.5% projected last month on concern that the covid-19 peak in India will come 'somewhat later' than most other countries. For the Asia-Pacific region, 2020 growth projection is 0.3%. Forecast: Loss in household & corporate income of $2.2 tn.

25. Over Rs 36,659 Cr transferred by using DBT in bank accounts of 16.01 Cr beneficiaries during lockdown

More than **Rs 36,659 Cr** has been transferred by using Direct Benefit Transfer in the bank accounts of 16.01 crore beneficiaries during COVID 2019 lockdown. Total Direct Benefit Transfer amount disbursed

has increased from 22% in 2018-19 to 45% in 2019-20. DBT eliminates leakage and improves efficiency.

26. RBI raises WMA limit to ₹2-lakh crore in H1 FY21

Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in consultation with the Government of India, has revised the **limit for Ways and Means Advances** (WMA) for the remaining part of the first half of FY21 (April 2020 to September 2020) to **₹2-lakh crore**. Ways and Means Advances scheme was introduced in 1997.

27. Finance Ministry sanctions Rs 46,038 crore as states share in taxes for April

The finance ministry sanctioned the release of **Rs 46,038.10 crore** to states as their share of central taxes and duties for April. The first instalment of tax devolution was made as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission (FC).Uttar Pradesh received the highest amount at Rs 8,255.19 crore.

28. Fitch Ratings slashes India's economic growth projections to 0.8% in current FY

According to **Fitch Ratings**, India's GDP will slip to **0.8%** for the FY 2020-21 as compared to an estimated 4.9% growth in the previous fiscal. It is expected to rebound to 6.7% in 2021-22. Fitch expects Global GDP to fall by 3.9%.

29. Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund winds up 6 debt mutual fund

Investors in these six schemes will not be able to buy or sell the schemes anymore. NO SIP/STP/SWP will work on these schemes anymore. Since there are no takers in the market the company is not able to sell its investments. **Franklin Templeton** HQ: San Mateo, CA, USA.

30. CARE Ratings projected 1.1%-1.2% GDP growth in FY21; declined for FY20 to 4.7% from 5%

CARE Ratings has projected **1.1%-1.2%** GDP growth in FY21 and reduced forecast for FY20 to 4.7% from 5%. Gross Value Added (GVA) has been estimated to grow at 1.4% for FY21. Overall growth is expected to be driven only by the government expenditure. CARE has assessed 8 sectors for GDP projection of FY21.

31. UNCTAD predicts $3.4 trillion debt for developing countries amid Covid-19

Developing countries' repayments on their public external debt alone will soar to between $2.6 & $3.4 tn in 2020 & 2021, the UNCTAD has said in a new report while calling for a global debt deal to prevent COVID-19 pandemic from spreading economic disaster. UNCTAD Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland.

32. Ind-Ra cuts India's FY21 GDP growth further to 1.9%, lowest in 29 years

India Ratings has further slashed its growth expectations for the economy to **1.9%** for the ongoing fiscal, down from 3.6% in March. This will be the lowest GDP growth in the last 29 years and assumes that the partial lockdown will continue till mid-May. Last time India experienced such low levels of growth on FY1992.

33. Virus-hit APEC region to post 2.7% economic contraction in 2020: Report

APEC region is expected to post a **2.7%** economic contraction in 2020 due to the impact of the novel coronavirus, the most significant fall since the near-zero growth rate logged in 2009 during the global financial crisis, according to the APEC Secretariat. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum has 21 members.

34. India's holding of US govt securities hits record high of $177.5 bn in Feb

India's holding of US government securities jumped by over $13 billion in a month to record high of $177.5 billion at the end of February. In the last one year since February 2019, the overall holding of India has jumped by a staggering USD 33.2 billion. **Japan** was the largest holder of securities at the February end.

National

1. POWERGRID commits Rs.200 Crore to PM CARES Fund

Maharatna CPSE under Ministry of Power, GoI and Central Transmission Utility (CTU) has decided to contribute Rs.130 Crore to Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Fund to support India's fight against COVID-19. It also distributed food packets in slum areas to help the needy.

2. Govt ordinance extends various time limits under Taxation and Benami Acts

Govt. has brought in an ordinance which provides for extension of last date for filing of original as well as revised IT returns for the FY19 to 30th June. Donations made to the PM CARES fund shall be eligible for 100% deduction under **section 80G** of IT Act NGOs registered under Section 12A of IT Act are exempted from IT

3. Panel led by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant starts working on response strategy

A panel led by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has begun working on a response strategy to contain the spread of COVID-19. The Empowered Committee held a meeting on March 30 and saw attendees from the private sector and industry. Representatives from ASSOCHAM, NASSCOM, FICCI & CII were present

4. CIL pledges ₹ 220 Crore donation to PM fund

State-owned Coal India Limited (CIL) has pledged ₹ 220 Crore to the PM CARES Fund to fight against the pandemic. NLC India has committed ₹ 25 Crores. Power Finance Corporation pledged ₹ 200 Crores.

5. Railways to modify 20,000 coaches to prepare over 3 lakh isolation beds

Railways is preparing more than **three lakh isolation beds** for which work has been started to modify 20 thousand coaches. Five thousand coaches are already being modified which will provide 80 thousand isolation beds. One coach is expected to have 16 beds. India has only **0.7 beds/1000 people** and has targeted for 2/1000.

6. DARPG's National Monitoring Dashboard launched for COVID-19 Grievances

The government has set up a National Monitoring Dashboard where COVID-19 related grievances received in Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System with all ministries, departments, states and UTs are monitored on a priority basis. DARPG Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances

7. CBSE introduces 'Applied mathematics' as new academic elective

CBSE has introduced '**Applied Mathematics**' as a new academic elective from the current academic year for Class XI. The course is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of Mathematics that are required in different fields. Chairperson of CBSE: Anita Karwal

8. Indian Railways' CLW creates world record; produces highest number of locos

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works surpassed its own record by producing 431 locomotives, 2.15 times its installed capacity, in FY19. The factory with improved supply chain management has been consistently producing an average of 40 locomotives since July 19. Chittaranjan Locomotive Factory-located in Asansol, West Bengal.

9. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches new features of e-NAM Platform

The new features of National Agriculture Market will strengthen agriculture marketing by farmers and will reduce the need to come to wholesale mandis for selling the produce. It was launched in 2016 as a pan-India electronic trade portal linking APMC. It provides for contactless remote bidding &mobile-based payment

10. SCTIMST ties up with Wipro 3D to manufacture automated ventilators to meet COVID 19 related crisis

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology has tied up with Wipro 3D to build a prototype of an emergency ventilator system based on Artificial Manual Breathing Unit (AMBU), developed by SCTIMST. SCTIMST is located in Trivandrum, Kerala.

11. MoS HRD and IT, Sanjay Dhotre launches 'Hack the Crisis-India' hackathon

Hack the Crisis – India is an Online Hackathon to find working solutions & is a part of a global initiative organised by '**Hack A Cause - India**' and 'FICCI Ladies Organization Pune' & supported by MeitY. FICCI President - Sanjay Khajuria

12. Jitendra Singh releases National Corona Survey conducted in 410 Districts of Country

Minster of MPPG Dr Jitendra Singh released the **National Preparedness Survey** on COVID19-Responses of District Collectors and IAS Officers. It was conducted in 410 Districts in the Country. It highlights priorities & constraints of COVID 19 preparedness.

13. Action COVID-19 Team to start 50 initiatives through grants to combat economic fallout due to Coronavirus

Action COVID-19 Team is launched which is starting a one hundred crore rupees programme, aimed to seed over 50 initiatives through grants to combat the economic fallout of COVID-19 in the country. Entrepreneurs are trying to solve problems linked to COVID-19.

14. Centre releases ₹17,287 crore to states

The Union government released **₹17,287 Crore** to the states to enhance their financial services. This includes ₹6,195.08 cr on account of 'revenue deficit grant' under the 15th Finance Commission recommendations. India's COVID-19 stimulus package is 0.8 per cent of GDP.

15. Centre makes over 50 crore poor people eligible for free COVID-19 testing, treatment under Ayushman Bharat scheme

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has said that more than 50 crore poor and vulnerable citizens will be eligible for free COVID- 19 testing and treatment under Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana- PMJAY. PM-JAY is the largest health assurance scheme in the world.

16. IAS, IPS officers' associations form 'Caruna', an initiative to fight Coronavirus

Associations representing officers of Civil Services, including IAS & IPS formed an initiative called '**Caruna**' to fight coronavirus. It represents a collaborative platform, on which civil servants, industry leaders, NGOs have come together to contribute. CARUNA - Civil services Associations Reach to Support in Natural Disaster.

17. NCC offers its volunteer cadets for national duty to fight COVID-19 under 'Ex NCC Yogdan'

NCC offered a helping hand to civilian authorities in the country's fight against COVID-19 by extending the services of cadets under '**Exercise NCC Yogdan'**. It has issued guidelines for temporary employment of its cadets to augment relief efforts. NCC operates under Ministry of Defence.

18. Govt extends tenure of NCLT acting President BSV Prakash Kumar

The government has extended the tenure of acting President of National Company Law Tribunal BSV Prakash Kumar for another three months. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has informed the NCLT about the decision. The NCLT was set up under section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013.

19. Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves stake-buy in Religare Health Insurance by Trishikhar Ventures

CCI approved the acquisition of 18.95% stake in Religare Health Insurance Company by Trishikhar Ventures under the green channel route. The green channel concept- allows automatic system for speedy approval for certain categories of merger and acquisitions. Trishikhar HQ: Mumbai Religare HQ: Gurgaon.

20. NIF's 'Challenge COVID-19 Competition'

National Innovation Foundation under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has come up with a call inviting innovative citizens to participate in its Challenge COVID-19 Competition. It will intimately engage a wide cross-section of society. DST Secretary – Prof. Ashutosh Sharma

21. MHA approves release of ₹11,092 Cr to states to deal with COVID-19

Union Home Minister Amit Shah approved the release of ₹11,092 crores to all states under the State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF) for setting up quarantine facilities and arranging other facilities for checking the spread of coronavirus. Ajay Kumar Bhalla – Home Secretary.

22. Uber partners NHA to provide dedicated transport service to COVID-19 healthcare workers

Uber partnered with the National Health Authority (NHA) to provide transport service to frontline healthcare workers who are engaged in the treatment. Uber will initially facilitate the provision of 150 cars free of cost through its UberMedic service. Uber HQ: San Francisco, CA, USA.

23. IAF airlifts 6.2 tonne essential drugs to Maldives

An IAF C-130J transport aircraft delivered 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines and hospital consumables to the Maldives under **Operation Sanjeevani**. It is the first country in India's neighbourhood to have received essential medicines since the lockdown. Air Chief Marshal: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

24. FCI sets new record in single day transportation of food grains

Food Corporation of India (FCI) has set a new record in single-day movement by moving 70 rakes carrying 1,93,000 MT of food grains continuously for 2 days. During the 12 days of lockdown, it has

done average movement of 1,40,000 tonnes of food grain/day. Among the consuming states, maximum induction was done in UP.

25. NHAI achieves highest ever construction of National Highways in FY 2019-20

NHAI accomplished construction of **3,979 km** of NH in the FY 19-20. This is the highest ever highway construction achieved in a FY by NHAI since its inception in 1995. MoRTH launched **Bharatmala Pariyojana** program to develop about 65,000 km NH. NHAI Chairman: Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.

26. Govt opens up supply lines from abroad with receipt of 1.70 lakh PPE coveralls from China

The government today opened up supply lines from abroad with the receipt of 1.70 lakh Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) coveralls from China which have been donated to India. About 16 lakh N95 masks are presently available in the country. Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare – Dr Harsh Vardhan.

27. Government decides to cut salary of MPs by 30 percent for one year; Suspends MPLAD fund for two years

Union Cabinet approved an Ordinance amending the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 for reducing salary by **30 per cent** for one year. Cabinet also decided to suspend MPLAD fund for 2 years from 20-21 to 21-22. The money will go to the Consolidated Fund of India.

28. Railways develops low-cost ventilator in Kapurthala, awaits ICMR approval

The **Indian Railways** has developed a low-cost ventilator, **Jeevan**, at its Kapurthala Rail Coach Factory in Punjab. RCF is the premier coach production unit which manufactures the German design Link Hofmann Busch coaches. Prototype is now awaiting ICMR clearance to go into production.

29. ICMR approves TB machines for COVID-19 testing

ICMR has recommended the use of Truenat beta CoV test on Truelab workstation validated as a screening test. Truenat is smaller, battery-operated, requires minimal training and is usable even in smaller settings such as the Primary Health Centre. It uses a chip-based technology & takes up to 60 mins to test.

30. DigiLocker designated as sole National Academic Depository by HRD Ministry

The Ministry of HRD designated **DigiLocker** as the sole National Academic Depository (NAD). It directed the UGC to implement NAD as a permanent scheme within DigiLocker without levying user charges through MeitY. DigiLocker is safe to store electronic versions of documents.

31. Govt invites suggestions for technological solutions to COVID-19 through Samadhan challenge

Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has urged students, innovators, researchers, educators and start-ups to come forward and help combat Coronavirus infection by participating in **Samadhan Challenge**. The last date for the application is 14th of April.

32. Govt relaxes export curbs on 24 pharma ingredients, medicines

Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) had imposed export restrictions on 26 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and formulations. Now, has relaxed export curbs on 24 pharma ingredients and medicines including vitamin B1 and B12. Director-General of DGFT: Amit Yadav.

33. Three classes of facilities to be set up for various categories of COVID-19 patients

The guidance document lays out three classes of facilities to be set up for various categories of patients. Three types of facilities are COVID Care Centre, Dedicated COVID Health Centre, Dedicated COVID Hospital. All 3 facilities to have separate areas for different cases.

34. Swasth ke Sipahi deliverying medicines at doorstep of patients under PMBJP

Swasth Ke Sipahi (Pharmacists) of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra are delivering essential services & medicine at doorstep of patients & elderly under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana. It is run by Department of Pharmaceuticals under MoCF. More than 6300 PMJAKs are functioning across 726 districts.

35. Jobless rate amid lockdown period hits 23.4% : CMIE

As per a survey released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, a leading business information company, the **unemployment rate** in India climbed to **23.4%** as on April 5, 2020. It estimated the jobless rate for March 2020 as 8.7%. MD & CEO of CMIE: Mahesh Vyas. UN estimated loss of 195 mn jobs.

36. First installment of relief package to 20 crore women Jan Dhan account holders released

Government has completed the transfer of the first instalment of 500 rupees to around 20 crore women Jan Dhan account holders as part of the relief package. FM announced 20.5 crore women Jan Dhan account holders to get **₹500/month for 3 months**. PMJDY is a National Mission on Financial Inclusion.

37. ICCR launches unique Art competition, urges people worldwide to express their emotions

ICCR with its focus on building cultural links with countries around the world and connecting people through Cultural and Educational exchanges and to express their emotions through this Art competition.

ICCR – Indian Council of Cultural Relations. ICCR President – Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe.

38. TRIFED to launch a digital campaign in collaboration with UNICEF for self-help groups

TRIFED has collaborated with UNICEF to develop a digital communication strategy to promote a digital campaign for Self Help Groups who are involved in ensuring the safety of tribes. It also partnered with **#iStandWithHumanity** initiative to provide ration. TRIFED aims to market products on which the tribals depend on.

39. Smart Cities partner with medical practitioners to provide online consultation

According to the guidelines issued by MoHFW in collaboration with NITI Aayog, doctors can write prescriptions based on online consultation without the need for citizens to get out of their houses. Urban areas are expected to contribute 75% of GDP by 2030.

40. Eco Census Data Collection Period Extended by Six Months

The collection period for the **7th Economic Census** – the only source of information on the large unorganised sector in India has been extended by 6 months till Sep 30. It is being held after 5 years by MoSPI and CSC e-Governance. Data collected is used to estimate economic growth & policy making

41. IndiGo Enters Brand Finance Top 50 Airlines List

IndiGo has been recognised as one of the most valuable and strongest airlines as per the **Brand Finance Airlines 50** report for 2020. It is ranked 43 as it entered the list for the first time. IndiGo is the only airline from India. IndiGo CEO: Rahul Bhatia. IndiGo HO: Gurugram.

42. Indian Railways' Coach Rehabilitation Workshop develops Charak

Indian Railways' Coach Rehabilitation Workshop, Bhopal, which falls under the West Central Railway zone, has designed a "mobile doctor booth" named "**CHARAK**". This will facilitate zero-contact check-ups in light of the novel coronavirus outbreak. Union Minister for Railways: Piyush Goyal.

43. 400 million Indians at risk of falling into poverty during crisis: ILO

According to ILO, as many as 400 million Indians, including migrant workers and daily wage earners are at risk of falling into poverty because of the pandemic. In India, Nigeria and Brazil, the number of workers in the informal economy affected is huge. Almost 90% of people work in the informal economy in India.

44. Lifeline Udan: 240 tonnes of medical supplies flown across country during Covid-19 lockdown

Lifeline Udan initiative,167 flights have transported over 248 tonnes of essential medical supplies across the country during lockdown. Air India and Indian Air Force collaborated primarily for Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, North-East and other island region. Civil Aviation Minister: Hardeep Singh Puri.

45. MHA issues 5th Addendum to exempt Operations of Marine Fishing/Aquaculture Industry and its Workers

MHA issued an addendum to the consolidated guidelines. The 5th addendum exempts from lockdown restrictions the operations of the Fishing (Marine)/Aquaculture Industry, including feeding and maintenance, harvesting, processing etc.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) In-charge-: Amit Shah.

46. HRD Ministry launches weeklong Bharat Padhe Online campaign

HRD Ministry launched a weeklong **Bharat Padhe Online** campaign for crowd sourcing of ideas in New Delhi for improving online education ecosystem. Educators across the country can come forward to contribute with their expertise in the field of education. Human Resources Development Minister-Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

47. LIC announces extension of 30 days for payment of premium due

LIC announced an extension of 30 days for payment of premium due in March and April 2020 to mitigate the hardships being faced by policyholder. The relaxation is allowed up to April 15 for February premiums, where grace period was expiring after March 22 LIC is a 100% Govt owned Subsidiary

48. EPFO settles 1.37 lakh PF withdrawal claims worth Rs 280 Cr during lockdown

EPFO has settled 1.37 lakh provident fund withdrawal claims worth Rs 280 crore was disbursed under a new provision especially formulated by amending the EPF Scheme to help subscribers fight COVID-19. EPFO works under Ministry of Labour & Employment

49. Govt eases norms for PPF and Sukanya Samriddhi account holders

Finance Ministry has extended the deadline for mandatory minimum deposit in Public Provident Fund (PPF) and Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) for 2019-20 by three months up to June 30 Small Savings schemes are provided under India Post

50. More than Rs 5,000 Cr transferred to accounts of 7.15 Cr beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojana

Oil marketing companies initiated the transfer of Rs5,606 crore to 7.15 Crore PMUY beneficiary accounts for availing free delivery of LPG cylinder under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan package. There are over 8 crore PMUY beneficiaries in the country.

51. Govt approves ex-gratia compensation for FCI officials in case of death

The government has approved the proposal for grant of ex-gratia monetary compensation to 1,08,714 workers and officers of the FCI including 80,000 labour who are working round the clock to supply food grains across the country amidst the pandemic. Union Minister for Food & Consumer Affairs - Ram Vilas Paswan.

52. Govt notifies Mauritius as eligible country for Category – I FPIs

The government notified **Mauritius** as an eligible country enabling its investment entities as Category I FPIs with lower KYC requirements and hence would get the benefit from indirect transfer provisions under the Income Tax Act, 1961. Mauritius remains the 2nd largest source of FPI money.

53. e-NAM completes four years of implementation

The pan-India Agriculture trading portal **e-NAM** completes **four years** of implementation. It helps to realise the vision of One Nation One Market for Agri produces. E-NAM is expanded to cover 415 mandis. It was launched by PM Narendra Modi. More than 1.66 cr farmers are registered on e-NAM.

54. "DekhoApnaDesh" webinar series to provide information on many destinations and culture and heritage of Incredible India

Tourism Ministry launched **DekhoApnaDesh** webinar series to provide information on the cultural & heritage sites. The first webinar was about Delhi titled City of Cities-Delhi's Personal Diary. It is to be available on social handles of the Ministry. Tourism Ministry: Prahlad Singh Patel.

55. Fit India and CBSE organise first-ever live fitness sessions for school students

After a good response for Fit India Active Day Programme, GoI in partnership with **CBSE** has launched a new series of **Fitness sessions** for school student. During this programme, guidelines of Ministry of AYUSH to stay healthy will be shared with students. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports: Kiren Rijiju.

56. Jim Corbett is India's first quarantine facility for animals

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in big cats in the US, India's oldest **Jim Corbett National Park** in Uttarakhand has built **isolation ward for animals**. At least ten quarantine centres are being prepared within the premises to contain animals. National Tiger Conservation Authority-NTCA was launched in 2005.

57. MNRE appoints IREDA to handle its CPSU Scheme II

MNRE appointed the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) as the implementing agency for the ministry's CPSU Scheme Phase II, which is aimed at setting up of 12,000MW grid-connected solar PV power projects with Viability Gap Funding support. VGF – One-time grant to support infrastructure projects.

58. Centre releases Rs 7,300 cr. to states & UTs under MGNREGS

To liquidate pending dues of last financial year the centre has released Rs 7,300 crores to States and UTs under MGNREGS. Also, under PM Awaas Yojna (Gramin) Rs 800 Cr has been released to the states. Rural Development Minister: Narendra Singh Tomar.

59. Centre unveils PUSA decontamination, sanitizing tunnel

Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Chaudhary inaugurated a PUSA decontamination and sanitizing tunnel developed by the government research body ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute. In this tunnel, QAC are used at concentration of 0.045%. QAC- Quaternary Ammonium Compounds.

60. Power Ministry floats draft Electricity Act Bill 2020

Ministry of Power issued a draft proposal for amendment of Electricity Act, 2003 in the form of the draft Electricity Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 for comments from Stakeholders. National Renewable Energy Policy is proposed to provide for a policy document. Cross border trade in Electricity provision was added.

61. Procurement operations of Pulses and Oilseeds directly from Farmers at MSP

Government through Central Nodal Agencies like NAFED & FCI has been striving to assure better returns for the farmers. Procurement of notified commodities at Minimum Support Price from the farmers in several States in the Rabi 2020-21 season has started. It is done under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) scheme.

62. Govt approval needed for FDI from neighbouring countries

Government tweaked its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy by putting a ban on investments made from countries sharing a border with India via the automatic route. It could be assumed as being aimed at Chinese investors in particular. Ministry of commerce made amends to the FDI Policy.

63. Dr Harsh Vardhan launches 'COVID India Seva', an interactive platform for citizen engagement on COVID-19

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare launched the **COVID India Seva**, the initiative is aimed at enabling transparent e-governance delivery in real-time & answering citizen queries swiftly, at scale, especially in crisis situations like COVID 19. MoHFW's @CovidIndiaSeva already has over 1,700 followers.

64. Govt. to conduct telephonic survey on COVID-19

Government announced that it will conduct a telephone survey to garner feedback from citizens on prevalence and distribution of coronavirus symptoms and urged people to participate in the exercise in good measure. They will be called from the number 1921. The survey will be conducted by the National Informatics Centre.

65. Centre forms a high-level task force on coronavirus vaccine, drug testing

Government has formed a high-level task force for vaccine and drug testing for coronavirus disease (Covid-19). The task force will be co-chaired by Vinod Paul, member NITI Aayog, & Professor K Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific advisor to the government. COVID-19 is a disease caused by the SARS-CoV2 virus.

66. Cabinet approves Rs. 15,000 Crore for ''India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package"

Union Cabinet has approved significant investments to the tune of Rs.15,000 crore for 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package'. The funds sanctioned will be utilized in 3 Phases and for immediate COVID-19 Emergency Response Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

67. BRO builds 484-meter permanent bridge connecting Kasowal enclave in Punjab with rest of the country

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and opened a new permanent bridge on the **river Ravi** connecting Kasowal enclave in Punjab to the rest of the country much ahead of its schedule. The bridge costed Rs 17.89 crore excluding the approaches. 484-meter bridge has been built under **Project Chetak**.

68. Himachal Pradesh to provide free online medical consultation to sick people through e-sanjeevani-opd

In order to provide health services in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic, the **Himachal Pradesh** Health Department has come up with a unique idea of providing free online medical consultation to sick people at their residence through e-**sanjeevani-opd**. Timing: From 9:30 AM- 4:00 PM on all working days.

69. DRDO develops India's first Covid-19 sample collection mobile lab

Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in collaboration with labour ministry governed ESIC medical college & hospital, Sanathnagar (Hyderabad) has developed India's first COVID-19 sample collection mobile lab named 'Mobile BSL-3 VRDL Lab'. Lab was launched by defence minister Rajnath Singh.

70. No 100% quota for tribal teachers: Supreme Court

A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held it unconstitutional to provide 100% reservation for tribal teachers in schools located in Scheduled Areas across the country. The court held that 100% reservation is discriminatory and impermissible. Bench was led by, Justice Arun Mishra.

71. SVP Institute becomes first to carry out plasma research in view of Covid-19

Ahmedabad based **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Medical Science** and **Research** became the 1st authorized study centre in the country to carry out plasma research under trial in view of COVID-19.MoU was signed b/w ICMR & the institute in this regard. SVP institute, a government hospital run by City Municipal Corp.

72. Chemicals, Petrochemicals industry becomes top exporting sector for 1st time

India's chemical exports rose by 7% to 2.68 lakh crore rupees during the April-January period of the last fiscal and became the top exporting sector in the country for the first time. This constitutes 14.35 per cent of the total exports. Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilisers: D V Sadananda Gowda.

73. Remittances to India likely to drop by 23% this year: World Bank

The World Bank has said that **remittances** to India are likely to **drop by 23 per cent** from 83 billion US Dollars last year to 64 billion US Dollars this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic, which has resulted in a global recession. It is supposed to be the sharpest decline in recent history.

74. Over 684 tons of essential and medical cargo delivered across the country under Lifeline Udan during Covid-19 lockdown

'Lifeline Udan' flights are being operated by MoCA to transport essential medical cargo to remote parts to support India's war against COVID-19. 383 flights have been operated under Lifeline Udan by Air India, Alliance Air, IAF & private carriers. Air India and Alliance Air operates 223 of these flights.

75. Government reconstitutes National Shipping Board; to be headed by ex-DG Shipping Malini Shankar

Shipping ministry has approved reconstitution of the 16-member NSB, which will be headed by former Director General of Shipping Malini Shankar. Members of the Board include DG Shipping Amitabh Kumar, Joint Secretary Shipping Satinder Pal Singh, among others. Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State (I/C) Shipping.

76. Neyveli Lignite Corporation commences coal production at Talabira-II & III Opencast Coal Mine

NLC India has commenced coal production at its Talabira-II and III Opencast Coal Mine in Odisha. The Talabira II and III coal mines were allotted to this Navratna firm in 2016 to meet the requirement of its existing and future coal-fired power plants. NLC achieved renewable energy capacity of 1404 MW in 2019-20.

77. Ministry of Tourism hosts the 11th webinar 'an epic called India- a land of myriad stories'

The **Ministry of Tourism** hosted the 11th webinar '**an epic called India**- a land of myriad stories, as part of its ongoing engagement with industry and its audiences on the overall theme of 'Dekho Apna Desh' to promote various tourism destinations of India. It was conducted by Ms. Shoba Mohan, Founder of Rare India.

78. Govt task force lays out Rs 111-lakh-crore infra investment road map

Task force under economic affairs secretary submitted its final report on the "national infrastructure pipeline" to fin min. It pledged 71% of the expenditure for energy, roads, urban development & railways,& envisaging a key role for private investors. Economic affairs secretary; Atanu Chakraborty.

International

1. About 11 million people could be driven into poverty in East Asia and the Pacific: World Bank

The World Bank has said that the economic slowdown due to the pandemic could put millions of people into poverty in China and other East Asian-Pacific countries. The World Bank report projected that growth in the region would slow to 2.1% from 5.8%. IMF had said that the global economy has entered a recession.

2. India, China exchange messages of felicitations on 70 years of Diplomatic Relations

President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi exchanged messages of felicitations with their Chinese counterparts on the occasion the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries. India is first non-Communist country in Asia to establish ties.

3. UN Sect General Antonio Guterres terms Covid-19 a human crisis; calls for action to combat pandemic

Launching a report titled "Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19" UN Sect Gen called the pandemic a **'human crisis'** and the most challenging since WWII and that the pandemic will lead to a recession. UN has called for a $2.5 trillion rescue package.

4. United Nation's COP 26 climate change summit postponed till next year

UN's COP26 climate change summit due to take place in Glasgow in November has been postponed. Global CO2 emissions needed to drop 45% by 2030 and reach **net zero by 2050**, to limit temperature rise to a safe cap of 1.5° C set as a goal in the Paris accord. UN Climate Change - Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa.

5. UNGA adopts resolution calling for global solidarity in fight against COVID-19

Co-sponsored by 188 nations including India, the resolution titled Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is first such document on the global pandemic to be adopted by the world organization. General Assembly President: Tijjani Muhammad Member States: 193.

6. Bangladesh to use AI for Corona management, scales up Testing

The government of Bangladesh under its Access to Information (a2i) programme and the Ministry of Health will utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the management of Coronavirus spread. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

7. June 29, 2021: IOC sets new deadline for Tokyo Olympics qualification

According to International Olympic Committee the new deadline for the qualification period for the postponed Tokyo Olympics has been set to June 29, 2021. IFs can define their own qualification period deadlines should the deadline be prior to this date. International Olympic Committee (IOC) HQs- Lausanne, Switzerland

8. ITTF announces new dates for World Team Table Tennis Championships

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) announced the new provisional dates for the 2020 World Team Table Tennis Championships. The showpiece event will now provisionally take place from September 27 to October 4, 2020, in Busan, Korea Republic. ITTF Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

9. China joins UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Panel

China was appointed to a United Nations Human Rights Council panel. It will play a key role in picking the world body's human rights investigators- including global monitors on freedom of speech, health, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary detentions. UNHRC Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland. President: Coly Seck.

10. World Trade to slump 13 – 32% in 2020: WTO

According to the **World Trade Organisation**, World Merchandise trade is set to decline **13-32%** in 2020. Exports from North America, Asia hit the hardest. Goods trade volume already fell 0.1% in 2019 on trade tensions. WTO DG – Roberto Azevedo.

11. World Athletics suspends Olympic qualification period until December,2020

World Athletics suspended the qualification period for the Tokyo Olympics until December 2020 in wake of the fast-spreading COVID-19 pandemic following consultation with its Athletes' Commission, Area Presidents and Council. World Athletics, HQs: Monaco; Membership: 214 member federations.

12. Chinese Central Bank's stake in HDFC crosses 1%; worth around Rs 3000 Cr.

China's Central Bank, the **People's Bank of China** raised its shareholding in **HDFC** to over 1%. It now has 17.49 million shares or 1.01% of HDFC equity capital, according to BSE. HDFC is India's largest mortgage firm in the private sector. HDFC Vice Chairman & CEO – Keki Mistry.

13. IMF proposes to deploy its full $ 1 trillion lending capacity to support countries

IMF head Kristalina Georgieva proposed to deploy its full **1 trillion USD** lending capacity to support countries. She also called it the worst recession since the Great Depression. IMF had already approved debt relief for 25 of its poorest countries. Member Countries of IMF: 189.

14. South Korea's ruling party wins an absolute majority in parliamentary elections

In South Korea, **President Moon Jae-In's** left-leaning party won an absolute majority in Parliamentary elections. According to the results declared by the National Election Commission, the Democratic party and its allies took 180 seats out of 300. South Korea Capital: Seoul. Currency: South Korean Won.

15. MEA announces Covid-19 training programme for SAARC countries

The External Affairs Ministry announced rolling out of a training programme on management of coronavirus pandemic for healthcare professionals from SAARC countries. The training will be imparted by the ministry under its prestigious ITEC programme. ITEC- Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation.

16. NASA Sets Launch Date for SpaceX U.S. Manned Mission to Space Station

NASA and **SpaceX** have picked May 27 for resuming astronaut launches from the United States after nine years of complete dependence on Russia. Astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken will blast off atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. NASA Administrator: Jim Bridenstine.

17. China's first Mars exploration mission named Tianwen-1

China's first **Mars exploration** mission has been named **Tianwen-1**, announced the China National Space Administration, on April 24- China's Space Day. China plans to launch the Mars probe in 2020, aiming to complete orbiting, landing, & roving in one mission. Space Day is to mark the launch of 1st satellite Dongfanghong-1.

18. Lebanon becomes first Arab country to legalize cannabis farming

Lebanon became the **1st Arab country** to **legalize cannabis** farming in the hopes that sales from the plant will provide some relief to its debt-ridden economy. Parliament passed legislation legalizing marijuana cultivation for medicinal & industrial purposes. Lebanon is the third-largest source of cannabis resin worldwide.

19. Trump announces 60-day ban on immigrants seeking permanent status in US

Donald Trump has announced a 60-day ban on immigrants seeking to live and work in America permanently, and said he could extend it depending on the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic. It will not apply to those entering on a temporary basis. Permanent residents are ones who receive green cards.

20. Swiss astronomers find a Six-Planet System which orbit in Lockstep with each other

A system consisting of an innermost large rocky planet (a "super-Earth") & 5 small gas giants ("mini-Neptune") that have exceptionally regular spacing b/w them, have been found by Swiss scientists. The planets are well inside the star's habitable zone. Discovery was led by, Dr. Nathan Hara.

21. World Bank in collab with AIMA organises virtual workshop on 'Contract Management during Emergency Situations'

Workshop on Contract Management during Emergency situations organized by World Bank & All India Management Association for Project Management Unit of Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project which is implementing USD 250 Million Flood Recovery in J&K. Lieutenant Governor of J & K: Girish Chandra Murmu.

22. G-20 launches access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator Initiative

The **Saudi G20 Presidency** has welcomed the launch of WHO's 'Access to COVID-19 Tools (**ACT**) Accelerator', a landmark, global and timely collaboration for the accelerated development, production and equitable access to new COVID-19 tools. WHO Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

23. USGS releases first complete geologic map of the Moon

The USGS (with help from NASA and the Lunar Planetary Institute) has released the first complete geologic map of the Moon, providing a truly comprehensive look at our nearest cosmic neighbour. The team created the map using a mix of Apollo-era maps. USGS- United States Geological Survey.

24. LIGO detects first merger of two unequal-mass black holes

For the 1st time since it started functioning, the gravitational wave observatories at LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Laboratory) scientific collaboration have detected merger of 2 unequal-mass black holes which are 2.4 bn light years away. The black holes were 20 and 40 times the mass of the sun.

25. UK unveils 100% state-backed 'Bounce Back Loan Scheme' for small businesses

UK has unveiled a 100 per cent state-backed **'Bounce Back Loan Scheme'** for the small businesses to help them tide through the coronavirus pandemic lockdown. Qualifying small businesses can apply online to borrow 2,000- 50,000 pounds as interest-free loans. This facility is available for the first 12 months.

26. ADB, AIM Launch Global Hackathon for Digital Ideas to Respond to COVID-19 Crisis

Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) and the Asian Institute of Management (**AIM**) launched the **#DigitalAgainstCOVID-19** virtual challenge to crowdsource digital solutions and ideas to help countries in Asia and the Pacific deal with COVID-19 pandemic. ADB President, Masatsugu Asakawa.

27. BRICS Foreign ministers attended COVID-19 meeting

The foreign ministers of the BRICS grouping discussed measures to combat COVID-19. External Affairs Minister Shri S Jaishankar represented India at the meet. The video conference was hosted by Russia as it is the current rotating head. BRICS- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

28. AIBA moves 2021 world boxing championships to Belgrade

The 2021 **Men's World Boxing Championships** have been moved to **Belgrade** from New Delhi, the International Boxing Association (AIBA) said. AIBA said it had terminated India's contract after it did not pay an agreed host fee. Belgrade- Capital of Serbia; AIBA HQs: Lausanne, Switzerland.

State

1. Odisha launches online cultural competition to engage children during lockdown

Odisha government in collaboration with the **UNICEF** launched an online cultural competition among children to keep them engaged at home. The "**Mo Prativa**" (My talent) programme is for children in the age group of 5 to 18 years. The competition is held in three categories.

2. Maharashtra govt, BMC to launch a 24 X 7 helpline to address mental health during COVID-19

To alleviate these mental health concerns during a lockdown, **Mpower**, an Indian mental healthcare institute has partnered with the Maharashtra govt & the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation to launch a toll-free helpline number called '**BMC-Mpower 1on1'**. Mpower HQ: Mumbai.

3. Telangana govt launches website to fact-check false social media posts

To keep a strict vigil on the spreading of fake news and misinformation through social media platforms by individuals, the **Telangana** government in partnership with **Factly Media & Research** launched a fact-checking website and dissecting misleading posts. The portal is first of its kind by a state government.

4. Tamil Nadu finishes on top in micro-irrigation coverage

In the just-concluded financial year 2019-20, the State finished on top at the all-India level for **micro-irrigation coverage**. This has been achieved as part of implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). PMKSY is aimed at promoting the "more crop per drop.

5. Kerala installs Walk in Sample Kiosks for Covid-19 testing in Ernakulam district

Kerala has installed **Walk-in Sample Kiosks** (WISK) for mass collection of samples for COVID-19 testing in Ernakulam district based on the South Korean model. The Walk-in Sample Kiosks are being developed by Doctors of Kalamsessry Medical College. The model in **Kochi** is one of the first of its kind in India.

6. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik gets PETA award for allocating funds to feed community animals

Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has been conferred with the '**Hero To Animals Award**' by animal rights body PETA India after the state government sanctioned Rs 54 lakh to feed stray animals in five municipal corporations and all 48 municipalities. Odisha Governor – Ganeshi Lal

7. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal announces 5T plan to tackle novel coronavirus crisis

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a **5T plan** to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. The 5T plan includes Testing, Tracing, Treatment, Teamwork and Tracking. Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.

8. Telangana deploys Covid-19 monitoring app developed by start-up

Telangana govt deployed an automated COVID-19 monitoring system app to identify & undertake live surveillance, track, monitor & provide real-time analytics to the CM & the health department. It has been developed by the start-up Vera Smart Healthcare. Telangana Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan.

9. UP govt launches Annapurna, Supply Mitra portals for citizens' food needs

UP's government launched two portals for the convenience of the people of the state. The **Annapurna Portal** will help people get the knowledge of food products and packets. **Supply Mitra portal** will provide free home delivery of eatables. UP Governor: Anandiben Patel.

10. Andhra launches COVID-19 & YSR Nirman portals

Andhra Pradesh CM launched COVID-19 portal for registration of units manufacturing essential medical supplies and YSR NIRMAN portal for supply of cement for government projects. COVID19 portal enables MSME manufacturers to register themselves

11. Delhi Launces 'Op SHIELD' across its containment zones

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched **'Operation Shield'**, a strategy involving sealing, isolation and tracing to contain the spread of the virus. SHIELD – Sealing; Home-Quarantine; Isolation; Essential Supplies; Local Sanitation; Door to Door Checking. It is launched to spread the disease in 23 Containment zones.

12. Goa blends Allopathy, Ayurveda to treat Corona virus patients

Goa is the **first state** in India to use **Allopathy** and **Ayurveda** in the treatment of COVID-19. A mobile app has also been launched in association with the AYUSH Ministry. Ayush Minister: Shripad Naik Goa CM: Pramod Sawant.

13. Mumbai first city in India to make face masks a must in public

As community transmission of coronavirus has begun in Mumbai local civic body -Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) -issued a circular making three-ply or cloth mask a must if they are venturing out for any purpose in the city. Maharashtra CM -Uddhav Thackeray; BMC chief Praveen Pardeshi.

14. Ahmedabad railway station gets sanitizing tunnel

The **Ahmedabad** Railway station at **Kalupur** has become the first in the country to install a **walk-through mass sanitizing tunnel**. It is a pilot project and an attempt to ensure that passengers do not contract the infection. It runs on vaporization process that converts sanitizer mixture.

15. Food Bank to help the needy and poor introduced in Manipur

A new initiative called, **Food Bank** is introduced in **Manipur** to provide immediate aid in the form of free food to the poor and the needy. Items to be distributed after proper verification of beneficiaries. Manipur CM: N Biren Singh.

16. Uttar Pradesh to start pool testing for COVID-19 to expedite process

UP obtained clearance from ICMR to start "**pool testing**" becoming the **first** in the country to attempt this method which aims at expediting the testing process. Pool testing is done using a single RTPCR – Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction. Maharashtra also got permission for pool testing.

17. Maharashtra government launches 'COVID-MADAT' for tele-screening

Pune platform for COVID-19 Response (PPCR) with support of **Maharashtra** state Innovation Society launched **'COVID-MADAT'**, a telemedicine helpline to telescreen people. The caller is expected to answer some questions through an intelligent IVR Platform. Operated by 'Telemeds Vs COVID-19', a group of start-up founders

18. Rajasthan govt. launches 'SMILE' for e-learning at School

Rajasthan's State Education Department launched '**SMILE**' – 'Social Media for Learning Engagement'. It is a digital platform to provide online classes and courses through various platforms of Social Media. Rajasthan Education Minister: Govind Singh Dotasra.

19. Uttar Pradesh-First State to Geo Tag Community Kitchens

Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to **geotag** its 7,368 **community kitchens** and community shelters across 75 districts which produce 12 lakh food packets a day. The state government has also tied up with Google to Geo-map the locations. Establishment on the Google Map is for the ease of recipients.

20. Rajasthan: First Indian to carry out Rapid Testing for Covid-19

Rajasthan has started rapid **antibody tests**, among the first states to do so, as the state capital Jaipur and Jodhpur have emerged as hotspots, reporting more than half the confirmed Covid-19 cases and accounting for 70% of deaths in the state. PCR tests or laboratory tests will continue to be done.

21. Arunachal CM inaugurates Hangpan Dada Bridge online

Arunachal Pradesh CM inaugurated the revamped strategic bridge over River **Subansiri** at Daporijo in Upper Subansiri district. This bridge is the only line of communication to Daporijo and other villages located on the other side of Subansiri River. Arunachal Pradesh CM-Pema Khandu, Governor-Brig (Retd) B D Mishra

22. Karnataka launches app for home delivery of essentials in Bengaluru

Karnataka CM launched '**Homeline**', an app to home-deliver groceries and vegetables, to cover Bengaluru Urban district and help keep people indoors during the lockdown. Over 3000 delivery partners will now be available for deliveries for a fee of **₹10**. Karnataka Governor- Vajubhai Vala.

23. Uttarakhand government using 'Sampark Didi' app to impart virtual classes

Uttarakhand state education department has started virtual lessons for students through a mobile application named **'Sampark Didi'**. Through the app, students can access animated lectures while they are confined to their homes during the pandemic. Trivendra Singh Rawat, Uttarakhand CM.

24. Rajasthan government partners with Aayu, Sehat Saathi apps

Rajasthan government has exclusively partnered with **MedCord's Aayu** and **Sehat Saathi apps** to help over 68 million population (Rajasthan) to consult doctors online and place orders for their medicine requirement in the wake of a lockdown due to COVID-19. Rajasthan Day is celebrated on March 30 every year.

25. Assam gov launches new scheme 'Dhanwantari' for home delivery of medicines

Under this scheme, locally unavailable medicines (within 10 km of their radius) are provided to patients at home. Medicines below Rs 200 will be provided free of cost to patients. Assam Health Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

26. CM Jagan launches zero-interest loan scheme

Andhra Pradesh CM launched the YSR **Zero Interest Loan Scheme** under which Rs 1400 Cr has been credited to 8.78 Lakh SHGs. Women SHG members can avail loan of Rs 20,000 - 40,000. It will benefit over 91 Lakh women. Of the 8.78 lakh SHGs, 6.95 are in rural areas.

27. CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan launches Jeevan Shakti Yojana in Madhya Pradesh

CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan launched the **Jeevan Shakti Yojana**. Under this scheme, women in urban areas can earn by making masks at home. The government will pay them **Rs 11/ mask**. They will submit their masks to the nodal officer appointed by the government. They will get orders to make at least 200 masks at a time.

28. Punjab appoints expert group to shape post-Covid economic revival

Punjab Government has constituted a Group of Experts, headed by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, to come out with the post-CoVID revival strategy for the state. The 20-member Group has been mandated to submit its initial set of recommendations by July 31, 2020. Captain Amarinder Singh, CM Punjab.

30. Gujarat: WCD Ministry takes unique initiative 'doorstep Aanganwadi' to reach out to children during lockdown

In **Gujarat**, Women and Child Development Ministry (WCD) has taken a unique initiative called **Umbare Aanganwadi**, i.e. doorstep Aanganwadi to reach out to children during the lockdown. The ICDS Department telecasts Umbare Aanganwadi through TV. It is targeted to children in the age group of 3-6 years.

31. Covid-19: AP launches pharmacy app for surveillance on cold, fever patients

Concerned over steady rise in Coronavirus positive cases, **Andhra Pradesh** Government began tracking patients who could be suffering from cold and fever. It has launched a customised mobile application- **'CoVID Pharma'** for pharmacies across the state. AP tops the number of sample tests conducted per million people.

32. Kerala Starts 'Ayur Raksha' Clinics at Govt Hospitals

The **Kerala** government has set up Ayurveda bodies at the state, regional and district levels for a COVID-19 prevention programme and started **'Ayur Raksha'** clinics at government hospitals at district and taluk levels. Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan.

33. Central University of Punjab (CUPB) launches Covid-19 information portal

Central University of Punjab, Bathinda has launched a "unique" **COVID-19 information portal** at CUPB City Campus, on which most of the "authentic information & sources are available for the references, research, & common understanding of the phenomenon.". CUPB, Vice-Chancellor Prof R.K. Kohli.

34. Tripura to start 'neighbourhood classes' amid coronavirus scare

Tripura government has decided to start "neighbourhood classes" where one teacher would teach a maximum of five students in their vicinity by maintaining social distancing until the schools reopen. This is to ensure that no student is left behind. This is in addition to online and television classes during the lockdown.

35. Karnataka: Online chess tournament to raise funds for Covid-19 relief fund

The Karnataka Youth Empowerment and Sports department and United Karnataka Chess Association will host an online chess tournament to raise funds for CM Covid-19 relief fund. The Chess players across the country can register on Mobile Premier League gaming platform by donating fifty rupees. The tournament will be held on May 2nd and 3rd.

Sports

1. Wimbledon Tennis tournament cancelled for the first time since World War-II

Wimbledon, the oldest Grand Slam tennis tournament, has been **cancelled for the first time** since World War-II, confirmed the Tournament Organiser, All England Club. The tournament was due to be played between 29 June & 12 July. 2019 Wimbledon Winner – Novak Djokovic

2. China to host 2021 Asian Youth Games in Shantou

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) announced that **China** will host the third edition of the **Asian Youth Games** in Shantou from November 20-28 next year. The 2021 Asian Youth Games will have 18 sports. The Asian Youth Games were first held in Singapore in 2011. OCA director-general: Husain Al Musallam.

3. World Athletics championship shifted to 2022 after new Tokyo Olympics dates

The **2021 world athletics championships** in Eugene, Oregon to be shifted to 2022 to accommodate the re-arranged Tokyo Olympics. It was scheduled to take place on August 6-15, 2021. World Athletics President: Sebastian Coe Headquarters: Monaco

4. FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup, scheduled in November postponed

The FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup, which was scheduled to be played in India between November 2nd and 21st, has been postponed. FIFA Confederations also postponed Under-20 Women's World Cup to be held in Panama and Costa Rica. U-17 Women's Cup was scheduled to be played across 5 cities.

5. Official mascots of 19th Asian Games unveiled in Hangzhou, China

The **Mascots** - **Congcong, Lianlian** and **Chenchen** which reflect the internet prowess of Hangzhou city and Zhejiang province, were unveiled. The Olympic Council of Asia's **19th Asian Games** will be held in Hangzhou from September 10 to 25, 2022. The three robot mascots – collectively called Smart triplets.

6. Test spinner Stephen O'Keefe retires from 1st class cricket

Former Australia Test spinner **Stephen O'Keefe** has **retired** from first-class **cricket**. The 35-year-old left-armer, who took 35 wickets in nine tests including 12 in a match against India. He took 16 wickets in Sheffield Shield 4-day title last season.

7. IWF: Thailand, Malaysia banned from weightlifting at Tokyo Olympics

The Independent Member Federation Sanctions Panel (IMFSP) of IWF imposed disciplinary sanctions on **Thailand** and **Malaysia** and **banned** both the countries to from participating in **weightlifting events** at the Tokyo Olympics. International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)HQ: Budapest Hungary.

8. Ben Stokes named Wisden's leading cricketer in the world to end Virat Kohli run

29-year-old **Ben Stokes**, who played a crucial role in WC last year is **Wisden's leading cricketer 2020** in the world. He is the 1st English player to win after **Andrew Flintoff in 2005**. Australian Ellyse Perry named the leading women cricketer. Before Stokes, Virat Kohli won the award three straight times.

9. World's most famous cycle race tour de France postponed

World-famous **cycling race Tour de France** has been postponed in the wake of the pandemic. The 3-week race was to set to start in June but has been postponed to August. The last time the tour was not held was 1946, as the nation was emerging from WWII. It was also not held during WWI.

10. Mascot for Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games unveiled

The **Mascot** for the **4th Asian Para Games** starting in October was unveiled. The design of '**FeiFei**' is inspired by the motif of the Divine Bird in the Liangzhu culture. It is also viewed as a messenger of joy and cultural distinction. The Para Games will be held in October featuring 22 sports.

11. Viswanathan Anand named ambassador for WWF India

5-time world champion **Viswanathan Anand** is the **new Ambassador** for **Worldwide Fund** (WWF) India's Environment Education Programme. Environment Education reaches out to children & citizens to create environmentally conscious children. It impacts over 5 million children across 2000 schools.

12. Rohit Sharma becomes Dubai-based coaching academy's brand ambassador

India's limited-overs Vice-Captain **Rohit Sharma** is the brand **ambassador** of '**CricKingdom**', a cricket academy based in Dubai. It seeks to merge time tested theories along with modern scientific technologies. It has Mumbai medium pacer Dhawal Kulkarni as one of its mentors

13. India to host Asian Boxing Championship

The national sports federation has announced that it will host the Asian Boxing Championships for men and women in November-December this year. The event is usually a biennial competition but was held in consecutive years in the past. India last hosted the men's Asian meet back in 1980 in Mumbai.

14. Cricket: IPL 2020 Suspended Indefinitely

BCCI has suspended the Indian Premier League 2020 indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier, the IPL 2020, was suspended until April 15 after the country went on a 21-day lockdown in a bid to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus outbreak. BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, Secretary- Jay Shah.

15. Mirabai Chanu and Jeremy Lalrinnunga qualify for Tokyo Olympics, confirms Indian weightlifting federation

Indian weightlifting federation president Sahdev Yadav confirmed that Mirabai Chanu and Jeremy Lalrinnunga have made the cut for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Top-8 athletes from IWF rankings list are eligible to participate in the Tokyo Olympics. Mirabai & Jeremy ranked 8th & 2ndrespectively in the IWF list.

16. World Games Birmingham unveils new logo, title for 2022 edition

The 11th edition of World Games which is set to be held in Birmingham, unveiled an updated logo and title after being delayed a year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The World Games 2021 Birmingham has been renamed to 'World Games 2022 Birmingham'. '**World Games 2022 Birmingham**' will be held from July 7 to 17.

17. Former Pakistan skipper Sana Mir announces retirement from international cricket

Former Pakistan women's skipper **Sana Mir** announced her **retirement** from **international cricket**, ending a 15 year long illustrious career. Mir featured in 226 international matches for Pakistan, including 137 as captain from 2009 to 2017. Her last ODI was against Bangladesh in Lahore in November 2019.

18. Olympic doubles silver medallist Boe announces retirement from badminton

Former doubles world number one **Mathias Boe** of Denmark has announced his **retirement** from **badminton** at the age of 39. Boe, silver medallist in the men's doubles at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, had been the oldest active player at elite level. Boe also won two European titles.

19. Middle distance runner Khatun handed 4-year ban for dope flunk

Middle distance **runner Jhuma Khatun** has been **banned** for four years by the Athletics Integrity Unit of the world governing body for testing positive for a banned substance- steroid- in a nearly two-year-old doping case which the NDTL had failed to detect. NDTL- National Dope Testing Laboratory.

20. Pakistan's Umar Akmal gets three-year ban for match-fixing approach

Controversial **Pakistani batsman Umar Akmal** was **banned** from all forms of cricket for 3 years after pleading guilty to failing to report match-fixing approaches. The batsman's ban is effective from February 20, when he was provisionally suspended by PCB. Pakistan Cricket Board charged the player with two breaches.

Agreements

1. Airtel Payments Bank partners with Bharti AXA General Insurance

Under the partnership, the insurer has rolled out 2 insurance plans: **Bharti Axa Group health Assure** & **Group Hospital Cash** offering lumpsum of ₹25,000 & daily benefit of ₹500/day, respectively. It can be availed from the Banking Section of the Airtel Thanks. MD & CEO of Bharti AXA (General): Sanjeev Srinivasan. HO: Mumbai.

2. PNB Housing Finance inks agreement with JICA to raise $ 100 million

PNBHF partnered with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to raise $75 mn with co-financing of $25mn by Citibank based on Facility for Accelerating Financial Inclusion in Asia. It will be used for affordable housing to low-income households. It is JICA's 1st debt funding in housing finance sector in India

3. HUL partners with UNICEF to support India's fight against COVID-19

HUL collaborated with **UNICEF** for a mass media campaign titled **#BreakTheChain** or #VirusKiKadiTodo. It brings together the marketing expertise and scale of HUL & the technical knowledge of UNICEF to create engaging communication tools to help people. Based on 3 themes-social distancing, handwashing & generosity.

4. Flipkart partners with Tata for distribution of essential supplies

E-commerce firm **Flipkart** and **Tata Consumer Products Ltd** have partnered to enable access to essential food and beverage products to Indians through a system where the latter's distributors will list as marketplace sellers on the former's platform. The partnership is already operational in Bengaluru.

5. Paytm Payments Bank ties up with Mastercard

Paytm Payments Bank will now issue **Mastercard Debit Cards** to its account holders to enable them to perform online transactions, payments in stores & to withdraw from ATMs. It is to start by issuing virtual cards for safer transactions. Paytm CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

6. Top 12 FMCG companies sign up with govt's Suraksha Stores

India's top 12 packaged consumer goods makers have signed up to work with the government for **Suraksha Stores**- an initiative in which companies will help neighbourhood stores ensure safety & hygiene practices. Initially, one million stores will be covered. Plans are under the ministry of Union consumer affairs.

7. Central Drug Research Institute signs MoU to sequence virus strains

The Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with King George's Medical University (KGMU) to sequence the virus strains obtained from COVID-19 patients in Uttar Pradesh. It will be under 1st vertical digital & molecular surveillance.

8. Tech Mahindra, IBM tie up to set up innovation centres

Tech Mahindra has decided to set up innovation centres in collaboration with **IBM**. It is meant to boost digital transformation and encourage adoption of more cloud-based technologies among its global customers. Tech Mahindra, Headquarters: Pune.

9. Paytm and Vodafone Idea partner to launch 'Recharge Saathi' for prepaid customers

Vodafone Idea has entered into partnership with **Paytm**. Individuals and small businesses would be able to earn up to an additional Rs 5,000 every month under the **'Recharge Saathi'** program. Vodafone Idea will offer assured cashback to merchant partners. Ravinder Takkar, MD and CEO of Vodafone Idea.

10. IICT to collaborate LAXAI Life Sciences to reduce dependency on China for active pharma ingredients

Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, has collaborated with Hyderabad-based integrated pharmaceutical company, LAXAI Life Sciences, to develop and manufacture Active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and drug intermediates. IICT, Hyderabad is a constituent laboratory of CSIR.

11. Flipkart partners with Meru to facilitate door-step delivery of essentials

Flipkart has partnered with ride-hailing cab operator **Meru** to facilitate door-step **delivery of essentials** to the e-commerce firm's customers. The service will be available across Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Hyderabad. Flipkart Group CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy.

Schemes

1. Govt disburses ₹15,841 Cr to 7.92 Cr farmers under PM-KISAN during lockdown

Govt. has disbursed the 1st instalment of ₹15,841 cr. to 7.92 cr. farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme, since March 24 ,to curb COVID-19.Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of ₹6,000/yr, in 3 equal instalments. PM-KISAN Scheme completed one year on February 24, 2020.

2. TRIFED asks Agencies to initiate procurement under 'MSP for MFP scheme'

TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has asked the State Nodal Departments & Implementing Agencies to initiate procurement of Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) from the available funds under MSP for MFP Scheme TRIFED: Tribal Co-op Marketing Development Federation

3. Govt launches Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme 2020-21

The GoI in consultation with RBI will launch **Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme**. The bonds will be issued in **six tranches**. The bonds will be sold through Scheduled Commercial banks (except SFBs & Payments Bank), SHCIL, BSE, NSE. Bond period - 8 years. Investment limit for Individual: 1gm – 4 kg of gold.

4. Government increases loss coverage for micro loan defaults under CGFMU scheme to 75% from 50% earlier

Finance ministry has increased coverage of a lender's loss in case of loan default under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units scheme to 75%, from 50% earlier. CGFMU covers micro loans up to Rs 10 lakh extended under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. CGFMU scheme was announced in April 2016.

5. MP Anganwadi workers, Assistants to get benefit of CM COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana

Under this initiative, Anganwadi workers and Assistants of the state will also get a special health insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs. The scheme has been launched by the Central Government for health workers who are fighting against COVID-19 epidemic. Madhya Pradesh Governor: Lalji Tandon.

6. PM launches e-Gram Swaraj, Swamitva yojana for faster development of villages

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **e-Gram Swaraj** and **Swamitva Yojana**, two web portals for accelerating the pace of development in India's villages. The eGram Swaraj app will provide panchayats a single interface to complete development projects. Swamitva Yojana will use drones in mapping of properties.

7. Narendra Singh Tomar issued guidelines for SVAMITVA scheme and SOP for e-Gram Swaraj

Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Narendra Singh Tomar issued guideline of the **SVAMITVA** Scheme aimed at providing people residing in Rural parts with the right to document their residential properties & SOP regarding the e-Gram Swaraj Yojana. SOP- Standard Operating Procedure.

8. SIDBI launches special liquidity scheme for MSMEs

Small Industries Development Bank of India launched a special liquidity scheme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through banks including Small Finance Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies including fintech NBFCs and Microfinance Institutions. Tenor of these loans will be 90 days.

9. Andhra Pradesh CM launched Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme

AP CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the **Jagananna Vidya Deevena** scheme, to provide 100% fee reimbursement to all students. The reimbursed amount will directly be credited into the accounts of the mothers of the students in four instalments annually. CM also announced a helpline number, 1902.

10. Assam govt announced Rs.50 lakh insurance cover to journalists

Assam State government has announced an insurance cover of Rs.50 lakh for the frontline journalists who have been bravely covering COVID-19 against all odds, risking their lives. The announcement was passed by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. Assam Governor- Jagdish Mukhi.

Appointments

1. Krishnan S appointed ED at Canara bank

Canara Bank appointed **Krishnan S** as its **executive director** after its merger with Syndicate Bank. He held the same portfolio at Syndicate Bank since November 2017. Lingam Venkat Prabhakar is the MD and CEO. Canara Bank HQ: Bangalore Tagline: Together We can

2. Laxminarayan D named MD of Sundaram Home finance

Sundaram Finance has announced the appointment of **D Laxminarayan** as the **MD** of its wholly owned subsidiary, Sundaram Home Finance. He will take over from Srinivas Acharya. In FY 19 the company posted a total income of ₹1006 cr. & a net profit of ₹145 cr. Sundaram Finance Headquarters – Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

3. Justice Rajnesh Oswal sworn in as permanent Judge of High Court of J&K, Ladakh under Indian Constitution

Justice Rajnesh Oswal was sworn in as a permanent **Judge of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh**. He is the first Judge of the High Court to take oath under the Indian Constitution. All previous Judges had taken oath under the constitution of J&K. Article 217(1) allows president to appoint judges of High Court.

4. Paytm Money founder MD Pravin Jadhav quits due to growing differences

Founder **MD & CEO of Paytm Money Pravin Jadhav resigned** from his post due to growing differences with the company board. Paytm Money is part of Paytm parent One97 Communications' alongside Paytm, Paytm Mall & Paytm Payments Bank. Paytm money received approval for stockbroking business.

5. SEBI Whole time member Madhabi Puri Buch gets six-month extension

Madhabi Puri Buch, Whole Time Member at **SEBI** is given a **six-month extension** by the govt. Buch was appointed in April '17 & her 3-year tenure ends in March. Buch is SEBI's 1st woman WTM and the 1st from the private sector to be appointed a board member. SEBI Chairman – Ajay Tyagi.

6. Nasscom appoints Infosys' Pravin Rao as chairman

The National Association of Software and Services Companies has appointed **UB Pravin Rao**, COO, Infosys as the **chairman** for the current FY. The newly appointed leader will help the industry body achieve its 2025 vision for the industry. Nasscom President: Debjani Ghosh.

7. Anurag Srivastava takes charge as MEA Spokesman

Senior diplomat **Anurag Srivastava** took charge as the **Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs**, succeeding Mr Raveesh Kumar. Mr Srivastava, an Indian Foreign Service Officer, was serving as India's Ambassador to Ethiopia before this appointment. Minister of State for External Affairs – V Muraleedharan

8. Maha Prasad Adhikari appointed governor of Nepal Central Bank

India-educated **Adhikari** along with **Keshav Prasad Bhattarai** and **Chintamani Siwakoti** were chosen as candidates for the position of the Nepal Rastra Bank governor by the recommendation committee coordinated by Finance Minister Yubaraj Khatiwada. He is a former CEO of Nepal Investment Board & a CA from ICAI.

9. Bharti AXA Life Insurance appoints Parag Raja as MD & CEO

Leading private insurer **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** appointed **Parag Raja** as **Managing Director** and Chief Executive Officer, subject to the requisite IRDAI approval. Raja will succeed Vikas Seth. Parag was one of the founding members of Max Life Insurance.

10. Rishikesh T Krishnan appointed as IIM-Bangalore's next director

Board of governors of India's premier business school, Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (**IIM-B**), appointed **Rishikesha T. Krishnan** as the new **director**, He will assume office on July 31, following the superannuation of current director G. Raghuram. IIM-B board of governor's chairperson Devi Shetty.

11. IFFCO Tokio Insurance names Anamika Roy Rashtrawar as MD & CEO

IFFCO Tokio General Insurance appointed **Anamika Roy Rashtrawar** its **Managing Director** and Chief Executive Officer. She replaces Warendra Sinha. She is the first woman to head a large private sector general insurance company in India. It is a joint venture b/w IFFCO & Tokio Marine Group Insurance.

12. Justice V Kanagaraj appointed new State Election Commissioner of Andhra Pradesh

Justice V Kanagaraj, a retired judge of the Madras High Court, assumed charge as the **State Election Commissioner** of **Andhra Pradesh** with the promulgation of an Ordinance amending Section 200 of the AP Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 AP Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan.

13. Tata Capital Announces the Elevation of Sarosh Amaria To Managing Director

The Board of Tata Capital Financial Services (**TCFSL**), subsidiary of Tata Capital Limited, announced the elevation of **Sarosh Amaria** to the **Managing Director**. Sarosh Amaria is currently the Chief Operating Officer of the Commercial & SME Finance Division. Amaria joined TCFSL as a founding member in 2007.

14. SC extends tenure of TDSAT chairperson Justice Shiva Kirti Singh

The Supreme Court **extended** by three months the tenure of Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal (**TDSAT**) chairperson **Justice Shiva Kirti Singh**. He was due to retire on April 20. The last appointment to the tribunal was made in April 2017. Bench was led by Chief Justice SA Bobde.

15. M S Mahabaleshwara reappointed as MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank for 3 more years

Private sector lender **Karnataka Bank** received RBI nod for reappointment of **Mahabaleshwara M S** as **MD** and **CEO** for next three years. The regulator has also approved for reappointment of P Jayarama Bhat as part-time (non-executive) chairman. HQ: Mangalore, Karnataka. Tagline:Your Family Bank, Across India

16. Monaz Noble joins Godrej Industries as Independent Director

Diversified Conglomerate **Godrej Industries** announced the appointment of **Monaz Noble** as **Non-Executive Director** for 5 years. Noble is the Chief Financial Officer at Novartis Global Service Centre in Hyderabad. Prior to Novartis, she was with Cadbury India Ltd.

17. Care Ratings appoints Ajay Mahajan MD, Chief Executive

Ajay Mahajan who has been working in IDFC First Bank has been appointed as the **MD**, Chief Executive of **Care ratings** for a period of five years. He had also worked with Bank of America in which he was the country head. CARE Ratings Head Office: Mumbai.

18. Lakshmi Vilas Bank appoints Chief Risk Officer

Lakshmi Vilas Bank appointed **S Vaidyanathan** as the **Chief Risk Officer** of the bank for a period of two years. He was the Assistant Vice President of the Risk Department. Lakshmi Vilas Bank HO: Chennai.

19. Andhra Bank, Syndicate Bank chiefs appointed as OSD in different banks

Andhra Bank MD **J Packirisamy** & Syndicate Bank CEO **Mruthanjay Mahapatra** appointed as **Officer on Special Duty (OSD)** in the **Union Bank of India** & **Canara Bank** resp. Andhra Bank & Corporation Bank merged with Union Bank. Syndicate Bank merged with Canara Bank. They are appointed until their retirement.

20. PayTm General Insurance names Vineet Arora as its MD, CEO

Digital Payments Major **PayTm** named **Vineet Arora** as its **MD**, CEO as its MD, CEO of Paytm General Insurance. Arora served as the MD, CEO of Aegon Life Insurance Company. He will lead the efforts to provide industry-leading solutions.

21. Weightlifting: IWF President Ajan resigns during corruption investigation

Tamas Ajan has **resigned** as President of the **International Weightlifting Federation** during an ongoing corruption investigation. Ajan, from Hungary, has been serving as the President for 20 years. **Ursula Papandrea**, first woman to lead IWF, is **Acting President**.

22. Kapil Dev Tripathi appointed Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Modi has appointed **Kapil Dev Tripathi** as **Secretary to President** Ram Nath Kovind. He was heading the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) that does top-level recruitments in the CPSEs. Ram Nath Kovind,14th President of India.

23. Former captain Smith appointed South Africa's director of cricket

Former captain **Graeme Smith** has been appointed **director** of cricket on a permanent basis by Cricket South Africa (CSA). Smith has signed a two-year deal with CSA and is set to remain in the position until April 2022. Graeme Smith, only player to captain a team in 100 Test matches.

24. RBI gives nod to Kamakodi's reappointment as MD & CEO of City Union Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval for the re-appointment of **N Kamakodi** as **MD** & CEO of **City Union Bank** (CUB) for three years with effect from May 1. He has been associated with the Kumbakonam (Tamil Nadu)-headquartered CUB since 2003. City Union Bank Founded in the year: 1904

25. Infosys appoints Uri Levine as an Independent Director

Infosys a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting announced the appointment of **Uri Levine** as an **Independent Director** of the Company. The appointment is for a period of three years and is subject to the approval of shareholders. Uri Levine co-founded Waze (traffic and navigation app).

26. SAP co-CEO Jennifer Morgan steps down just after 6 months on the job

SAP SE Co-Chief Executive Officer **Jennifer Morgan**, appointed in October to the top executive post alongside Christian Klein, will abruptly leave the German software company at the end of April. Klein, 39, will remain in the CEO role. Klein has been a member of SAP's executive board since 2018.

27. Huawei India appoints David Li as new CEO

Huawei Telecommunications India announced the appointment of **David Li** as Chief Executive Officer of its operations in the country. Li succeeds Jay Chen, who moves on to take up a leadership role within Huawei Asia Pacific Region. Ren Zhengfei, Founder and CEO of Shenzhen-based Huawei.

28. Justice Biswanath Somadder new chief justice of Meghalaya High Court

The Supreme Court collegium, led by Chief Justice Sharad A Bobde, has recommended the name of **Justice Somadder** as the new chief justice of **Meghalaya High Court**. Justice Mohammad Rafiq has been named as chief justice of Orissa High Court. Meghalaya Governor: Tathagat Roy.

29. Kerala Blasters officially appoint Kibu Vicuna as head coach

Indian Super League (ISL) side Kerala Blasters appointed **Mohun Bagan**'s I-League winning coach Kibu Vicuna as their head coach for the upcoming season.Spain's Vicuna oversaw Mohun Bagan win the title with four rounds to spare. Mohun Bagan merged with ATK to enter the ISL from next season.

30. Shiv Das Meena takes charge as HUDCO's CMD

Shiv Das Meena, additional secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has been appointed as **chairman** and managing director of **Housing and Urban Development Corporation** for a period of six months with immediate effect. HUDCO, Headquarters: New Delhi

31. Jammu and Kashmir Bank appoints new CFO

Jammu and Kashmir Bank (**J&K Bank**) has appointed **Satya Narayan Gupta** as **Chief Financial Officer** of the Bank. The exact date of joining along with the necessary documents will be intimated to the Stock Exchanges. R. K. Chhibber CMD, J&K Bank.

32. IMMA appoints Rakesh Sharma as President

The International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association, the representing association of the global motorcycle industry has appointed **Rakesh Sharma**, Executive Director, Bajaj Auto from its member organisation Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers. He will succeed Johannes Loman.

33. Sanjay Kothari takes over as Central Vigilance Commissioner

Sanjay Kothari, a retired IAS officer, took oath as **Chief Vigilance Commissioner**. Prez Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath. Social distancing was strictly followed. PM and Vice President were also present.

34. T.S. Tirumurti to succeed Akbaruddin as India's Permanent Representative to UN

Veteran diplomat **T. S. Tirumurti** will be the new **Permanent Representative of India to UN**. Tirumurti, who joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1985, will be the **22nd Permanent Representative**. He currently serves as the Secretary of Economic Relations. He served in Indian missions in several countries.

35. Bureaucratic reshuffle in govt (1), Tarun Bajaj appointed Department of Economic Affairs Secretary

Ravi Mittal- new Sports & Youth Affairs Secretary, Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan given a 3-month extension; Rajesh Bhushan Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Health and Family Welfare Dept.; Nagendra Nath Sinha new Secretary of Rural Development. Amit Khare-Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Leena Nandan-Consumer Affairs Secretary; CBSE chairperson Anita Karwal-Secretary, Department of Education & Literacy; Rajesh Verma-new Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs; Anand Kumar-new Culture Secretary; Aramane Giridhar-Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH).

36. Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar appointed PESB chief

Former finance secretary **Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the **chairperson** of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (**PESB**). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Modi

has approved his appointment to the post for a period of 3 years. PESB, government's head-hunter for public sector undertaking.

37. Suresh N. Patel takes oath as Vigilance Commissioner

Suresh N. Patel took oath as **Vigilance Commissioner**, he was administered the oath of office by Shri Sanjay Kothari, Central Vigilance Commissioner. He was the Managing Director & CEO of Andhra Bank and was an Executive Director in Oriental Bank of Commerce. Tenure of Vigilance Commissioner is of four years.

38. Former Karnataka batsman J Arunkumar named as USA national team coach

Former Karnataka batsman **J Arun Kumar** was appointed coach of the **USA cricket team**. He has worked with the Karnataka team for several years and as batting coach with IPL franchise Kings XI Punjab. He guided Karnataka to a treble for two successive seasons -- Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy and Irani Cup -- in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Awards

1. Indian NGO ARMMAN wins prestigious USD 1.5 million Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship

ARMMAN, an India-based non-profit organization was awarded the **Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship 2020** for its work in the maternal and child health space in India. ARMMAN works towards empowering mothers and enabling healthy children in India. Dr Aparna Hegde - Founder, Chairperson of ARMMAN. HO: Mumbai.

2. Tata Power bags Edison Award for social innovation

Tata Power has been conferred with the **Edison Award** under social innovation category and social energy solutions sub-category. The Edison Awards, named after Thomas Alva Edison, recognises and honours the world's best innovations and innovators. It was awarded for 'Club Enerji #Switchoff2SwitchOn' campaign.

3. Four Indian – Americans awarded 2020 Guggenheim fellowships

4 Indian Americans have been awarded the prestigious **US fellowship** for their accomplishments & exceptional promise. **Pradeep Sharma**; **Kavita Ramanan**; **Dilip Da Cunha** & **Mukul Sharma** were awarded the 2020 Guggenheim fellowships. The size of the grant varies. Approximately 175 such fellowships are awarded every year.

4. International Prize for Arabic Fiction 2020: Abdelouahab Aissaoui of Algeria

The International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) has its 1st winner from **Algeria** for his Novel **'The Spartan Court'**. IPAF is one of the most generous literary awards sponsored by Dept of Culture & Tourism (Abu Dhabi) & the Booker Prize Foundation. Aissaoui receives $50000 prize: English translation of his book.

5. Marion Hollins elected to 2021 class of Golf Hall of Fame

Marion Hollins has elected into the **World Golf Hall of Fame** through the contributor's category, joining a 2021 class that so far includes Tiger Woods. Marion Hollins developed a golf course for women in New York and two fabled golf courses in California. Hollins, who died in 1944 was 51.

Ranks & Reports

1. India, China may escape global recession: UN

According to a report by UNCTAD titled 'The COVID-19 Shock to Developing Countries: Towards a 'whatever it takes' programme' the world will go into a recession with a predicted loss of trillions of dollars with the likely exception of India and China. UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2. India's February core sector growth at 11-month high of 5.5%

The output of the 8 core sectors of Indian industry -coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement & electricity – grew 5.5% in February as compared to the same month last year. The growth was the best in 11 months. Data was released by Ministry of commerce & industry.

3. China overtakes U.S. with most patent filings in 2019: UN

China became the **world leader** in international **patent filings** in 2019, with 58,990 applications, overtaking the U.S.A record 265,800 international patent applications were filed last year, according to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). WIPO was created in 1967; Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

4. Bank credit growth slumps to 5-decade low of 6.14% in FY20

According to RBI data, Bank credit growth decelerated to an over five-decade low of 6.14 percent in the fiscal ended March 31, 2020, amid a faltering economy, lower demand and risk aversion among banks. Earlier in 1962 loans had grown by 5.38 percent. It was slowest since the fiscal ended March 1962.

5. India retains 108th slot at FIFA's latest ranking

India football team retained its **108th spot** in the latest FIFA rankings. **Belgium** & **France** retained their **first** & **second** positions respectively in the latest rankings. Brazil is on the 3rd place followed by England. South Sudan move into joint-168th position. The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).

6. MS Sahoo panel suggests Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)-type regulator for valuation professionals

Panel under IBBI chairman has suggested to set up a **national body for valuation professionals**. The proposed cadre of valuers (like chartered accountants, etc) will include both the current practitioners and freshers wishing to have a career in valuation. Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), Founded in 2016.

7. India is the most digitally dextrous country in the world: Survey

The Gartner 2019 Digital Workspace Survey found that **India** is the **most digitally dextrous country** in the world followed by UK and USA due to having the largest GenZ workforce along with a desire to learn new skills. 27% of digital workers in India skilled for the work in tech.

8. India's subsidies to renewables drops 35% from FY17 to FY19

India's renewable energy subsidies fell 35% from 2017-18 to 2018-19, while its oil and gas subsidies increased by 65 per cent, a study by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) & the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). Since 2014, fossil fuel subsidies have fallen by more than half.

9. Fitch Solutions cuts India's GDP to 1.8% for FY21

Fitch Solutions slashed India's economic growth forecast for FY21 to 1.8% citing private consumption likely to contract due to large-scale loss of income given the worsening domestic outbreak of COVID-19. IMF, recently slashed India's growth estimate for FY21 to 1.9%.

10. India ranks 142nd on global press freedom index

India has dropped two places on a **global press freedom index** to be ranked **142nd out of 180 countries** in the annual Paris-based Reporters Without Borders analysis. **Norway** is ranked **first** in the Index for the 4th year running. No murders of journalists occurred in India in 2019.

11. India's GDP growth likely to range up to 1.5% in FY21: CII

India's GDP is likely to range between a decline of 0.9 per cent and a growth of 1.5 per cent in the current financial year, with the economy undergoing a 'turbulent' phase caused by the coronavirus-induced lockdown, according to CII report. Confederation of Indian Industry President- Vikram Kirloskar.

12. IIT Kharagpur ranked 57th in THE's 2nd edition of Impact Rankings 2020

IIT Kharagpur has been ranked **57th** in the Times Higher Education's (**THE**) global list that ranks institutes of higher education in terms of their social and political impact framed around the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals (SDG). The list includes 766 universities across 89 countries.

13. India is world's 3rd largest military spender; expense rose by 6.8% in 2019

The **US**, **China** and **India** were the world's three **biggest military spenders** in 2019, followed by Russia and Saudi Arabia. The two Asian countries made it to the top three for the first time, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said. Total global spending rose to almost $2 trillion in 2019.

14. 1,338 patents filed by India-domiciled companies in the US in 2018-19: NASSCOM

A total of 1,338 patents were filed in 2018-19, of which 59.4 percent were tech patents with computer technology, communication technology, and AI being the top domain areas, a report by industry body NASSCOM said. Non-tech patents (40.6 percent). National Association of Software & Service Companies (NASSCOM).

15. Mazumdar-Shaw recognised among world's top 20 inspirational leaders in Biopharma

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Biocon Chairperson has been recognized as one of the world's **top 20 inspirational leaders** in biopharmaceuticals in The Medicine Maker 'Power List 2020' for her contribution to the world of medicine as an innovative business leader. Group: Small molecules, biopharmaceuticals & advanced medicine.

16. Farm sector to grow at a decent 3% in FY21: NITI Aayog

According to NITI Aayog, The farm and allied sector will likely remain somewhat insulated from the damaging impact of the pandemic and grow at 3% in FY21, contributing about 50 basis points to the country's economic growth. In FY19, the sector had witnessed a 2.4% expansion.

Important Days

1. Odisha celebrates 85th foundation day

Odisha celebrated 85 years of its foundation. The day is also known as **'Utkal Divas.'** To commemorate the sacrifices of people for the formation of Odisha province in 1936. Odisha was the first State to be formed on linguistic basis in 1936. Earlier, Odisha was part of Bihar.

2. World Autism Awareness Day: April 2

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) is observed every year on 2 April in order to raise public awareness of autism. First WAAD was celebrated in 2008. It highlights the need to help and improve the quality of life of those with autism. The theme for WAAD 2020 - "**The Transition to Adulthood**".

3. International Day of Conscience: April 5

The resolution invites everyone to build a culture of peace with love and conscience in accordance with the culture and other appropriate circumstances or customs of their local, national and regional communities. The day is inspired by **article 1** of the Universal Declaration.

4. National Maritime Day: April 5

To create awareness to support intercontinental commerce and the global economy as the most well-organised, safe and sound, environmentally responsive approach of transporting goods from one place to another. It was the 57th edition. Theme: **Sustainable shipping for a Sustainable Planet**.

5. International Day of Conscience: 5 April

At the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Kingdom of Bahrain sponsored an initiative by the Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, to designate 5 April as an International Day of Conscience. April 5, **2020 marked the first** International Day of Conscience.

6. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace: April 6

Sport has the power to change the world & is a fundamental right. In response to global developments of the pandemic, International Day of Sport for Development and Peace will focus on the health benefits of participating in sporting and physical activity. For International Day of Sport 2020, **let's #BeActive**.

7. World Health Day: April 7

April 7 of each year marks the celebration of World Health Day. the celebration has aimed to create awareness of a specific health theme to highlight a priority area of concern for the World Health Organization. Theme: **Support Nurses and Midwives**.

8. April 9: World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Play True Day

9 April marks the World Anti-Doping Agency's Play True Day, which is dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of clean sport among athletes, the broader public & sports stakeholders. This year, the day is entitled **Play Safe on Play True day 2020**. World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) HQs: Montreal, Canada.

9. World Homoeopathy Day: April 10

World Homoeopathy Day is observed every year on April10 to commemorate the Birthday of Dr. Hahnemann, the Founder of Homoeopathy. Academic homeopathy institutes comprise 35.8% of AYUSH colleges, while homeopathy practitioners are 37% of the AYUSH in India. AYUSH (Ayurveda Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy).

10. National Safe Motherhood day observed on April 11

National Safe Motherhood Day is an initiative of the White Ribbon Alliance. The govt. of India declared in 2003 the national safe motherhood day on April 11. On the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the national motherhood day is observed every year. Kasturba Gandhi is wife of Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi

11. World Chagas Disease Day: April 14

The Chagas disease also called as the American trypanosomiasis has been termed as a silent and silenced disease. It is a vector-borne disease caused by the parasite Trypanosoma cruzi transmitted by triatomine bugs. It mainly affects poor people of Latin America.

12. Himachal Pradesh celebrates 73rd state day

The 73rd Himachal Day was celebrated with gaiety and fervour in the state. The Governor greeted former Chief Ministers Virbhadra Singh, Shanta Kumar & Prem Kumar Dhumal on phone. The tiny hill-state developed rapidly after coming existence on April 15,1948. Bandaru Dattatreya, Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

13. International Day for Monuments and Sites

Every year on 18 April, ICOMOS celebrates the International Day for Monuments and Sites, whose establishment was approved by the 22nd UNESCO General Conference in 1983. ICOMOS GA2020 will take place in Sydney, Australia on 1-10 of October 2020. GA2020- General Assembly and Scientific Symposium.

14. UN Chinese Language Day celebrates around 20 April

The UN observes the UN Chinese Language Day every year on or around April 20. The contribution of Chinese literature, poetry and language in world culture is highlighted on this day. Chinese was established as an official language of the UN in 1946. General Assembly included Chinese as a working language in 1973.

15. World Creativity and Innovation Day: 21 April

UN designated 21 April as World Creativity and Innovation Day to raise the awareness of the role of creativity & innovation in all aspects of human development. Acc. to UNESCO, Cultural & creative industries should be part of economic growth strategies. World Creativity & Innovation Week, April 15-21.

16. International Mother Earth Day: 22 April

April 22nd, 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the annual celebration of the environmental movement. This Mother Earth Day, coinciding with the Super Year of Biodiversity, is focused in its role as an indicator of the Earth's health. The theme for Earth Day 2020 is **climate action**.

17. World Book and Copyright Day: 23 April

World Book and Copyright Day celebrated on April 23 each year is a worldwide celebration of books & readers. From April 1st to 23rd, UNESCO shares quotes, poems and messages to symbolize the power of books and encourage reading as much as possible. World Book Capital for 2020: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

18. National Panchayati Raj Day: April 24

24th April 1993 marks a defining moment in the history of decentralization of power to the grassroots, with the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj, through the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 which came into force with effect from that day. PM Modi launched unified e-GramSwaraj Portal and Mobile App.

19. International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace: 24 April

The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace was established on 12 December 2018.The International Day is a reaffirmation of the UN Charter and its principles of resolving disputes among countries through peaceful means. The day was first observed on April 24, 2019.

20. 25 April: World Malaria Day

On 25 April 2020 World Malaria Day, WHO joins the RBM Partnership to End Malaria in promoting **'Zero malaria starts with me'**, a campaign that aims to keep malaria high on the political agenda & empower communities to take ownership of malaria prevention. Roll Back Malaria Partnership was established in 1998.

21. World Veterinary Day (WVD): April 25th, 2020

WVD is celebrated on the last Saturday of April. It is observed every year to mark the importance of Veterinary doctors who serve to protect animals. The theme of WVD this year is **'Environment Protection for Improving Animal and Human Health'** WVA started World Veterinary Day in 2000.

22. International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day: April 26

The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant was built in 1977 to provide electricity for the Soviet Union. On 26 April 1986, it exploded and released harmful levels of radioactive material into the atmosphere. The day was first observed in 2016.

23. World Intellectual Property Day: April 26

This day is celebrated to learn about the role that Intellectual Property (IP) rights play in promoting creativity and Innovation. World IP Day 2020 places creativity at the centre of attempts to build a green world. 2020 Theme: **Innovate for a Green Future**.

24. World Immunization Week- celebrated in the last week of April

World Immunization Week- celebrated from 24 to 30 April- aims to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease. Immunization is widely recognized as one of the world's most successful & cost-effective health interventions. The theme this year is **#Vaccines Work for All**.

25. 28 April: World Day for Safety and Health at Work

In 2003, ILO began to observe World Day to stress the prevention of accidents and diseases at work, capitalizing on the ILO's traditional strengths of tripartism and social dialogue. 28 April- International Commemoration Day for Dead & Injured Workers. Theme- **Stop the pandemic: Safety & health at work can save lives**

26. 29 April: International Dance Day

International Dance Day was created on 1982 by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute- the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO. This is a celebration day for those who can see the value & importance of the art form dance. It is the birthday of modern ballet creator Jean-Georges.

27. Ayushman Bharat Diwas, 30th of April

Ayushman Bharat Diwas is significant to help provide and promote affordable medical facilities in the remote parts of the country. The day included a special scheme that was launched by PM Narendra Modi in the year 2018. The Scheme has various benefits with a cover of 5 lakh rupees per family to be given per year. The scheme is called Ayushman Bharat Yojana and is also known as Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

Summit & Conferences

1. Finance Minister attends the 2nd Extraordinary G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting

FM Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 2nd Extraordinary G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Saudi Arabian Presidency to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the global economy and coordinate efforts to fight it. India made an offer of $10 million after SAARC Countries meet.

2. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan participates in G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers' virtual meeting

Minister Dharmendra Pradhan participated in the G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers' virtual Meeting. The meeting was attended by Energy Ministers of G20 countries, guest countries and heads of international organizations including OPEC, IEA and IEF. Meeting chaired by-Saudi Arabia Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz.

3. FM Nirmala Sitharaman attends the 2nd G20 FMCBG

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the virtual session of the 2nd G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors meeting under the Saudi Arabian Presidency, to discuss the global economic outlook amid evolving COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Saudi Arabia assumed the G20 2020 Presidency on 1 December 2019.

4. Narendra Singh Tomar chairs the National Conference on Kharif crops 2020 by video conference

Minister for Rural Development, Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar conducted detailed review meeting of all flagship schemes of Ministry. Rs.7300 Cr released to States and UTs under MGNREGS to liquidate pending dues of FY 2019-2020. He emphasised the need to develop e-content for DDUGKY.

5. FM attends Development Committee Meeting of World Bank-IMF

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the **Development Committee Meeting of the World Bank-IMF** through video conference. She shared the measures taken to combat COVID-19 including social support measures for poor and vulnerable. Government has announced support measures worth $23 billion.

6. Dharmendra Pradhan holds meeting of National Biofuel Coordination Committee

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan held a meeting of National Biofuel Coordination Committee. At the meeting, he discussed ways in which biofuel industry can help the country in stepping-up its fight against COVID-19. National Biofuel Coordination Committee set up in the year 2009.

7. 11th Session of Petersburg Climate Dialogue held via video conferencing

The 11th session of Petersburg (Germany) Climate Dialogue witnessed India along with 30 other countries deliberating over ways and means to tackle the challenge of reinvigorating economies and societies after COVID-19. Prakash Javadekar represented India. Prakash Javadekar, UM for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

8. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal holds video conference with FICCI and leading industry members

Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal chaired a video conference with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**) & its members to discuss the current outlook of food processing industry and requirements. FICCI, Secretary General Dilip Chenoy.

Science & Technology

1. IIT Kanpur to develop prototype of portable ventilator to support medical infrastructure

Bioscience of **IIT Kanpur** has prepared a design of **live saver portable ventilator**. Prof. A. Bandyopadhyay told that within 3 to 4 days the prototype will be ready & in 1 month will be able to produce maximum number of ventilators to save the lives of public Ventilators only provide support and keep the lung inflated.

2. Coating developed by JNCASR may prevent transmission of infection

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (**JNCASR**) has developed a one-step curable anti-microbial covalent coating which when coated on different surfaces such as textile, plastic & so on could kill a range of virus types including COVID 19 It can be synthesized in large scale via Contract Research Org.

3. DRDO develops bio suit to keep personnel engaged in combating COVID-19 safe from virus

Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed a **bio-suit** to keep the medical, paramedical personnel engaged in combating COVID-19 safe. The current production capacity is 7,000 suits/day. Efforts are on to ramp up to 15,000 suits/day. DRDO Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy; Headquarters – New Delhi

4. Spacewatch: Nasa SunRise mission to study solar storms

Nasa has selected a new mission, Called the Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (**SunRISE**) to study how space weather forms on the sun and launches radiation storms into space. It consists of 6 small CubeSats to provide 3D maps of solar activity. It could protect astronauts on Moon or Mars exploration missions

5. IIT Roorkee develops low-cost face shields for protection of first line healthcare professionals fighting COVID-19

IIT Roorkee has developed **low-cost face shields** for first-line healthcare professionals at **AIIMS Rishikesh**. The frame of the face shield is 3D printed & can be used along with the protective gear while entering the wards housing patients. The manufacturing cost per shield is approximately Rs 45.

6. IISc Bengaluru develops indigenous ventilator prototype in view of COVID-19 crisis

Indian Institute of Science has developed a prototype of an indigenous **ventilator** under project **Praana**. The project is a voluntary effort to help the nation at the time of crisis. It has been designed using materials readily available in India. Pneumatics is built around mass-produced water filter hardware.

7. Bione launches India's first COVID-19 home screening test kit

Bione launched a **rapid COVID-19 at-home Screening test kit** & is the first healthcare company in India to introduce this. It is priced between ₹2000-3000/-. Bione, based in Bangalore is the first company to bring NSG Sequencing to India. Bione was founded by Surendra K Chikara, a renowned genomicist.

8. Dr Dang Lab launches India's 1st drive-through coronavirus test centre

In a first of its kind in the country, **Dr Dang Lab**, Delhi launched a testing drive through a COVID-19 testing Centre on the western side of the national capital's Punjabi Bagh area. The testing Centre can conduct about 35-40 tests in a day. SARS-CoV-2 is the seventh coronavirus known to infect humans.

9. VRDE designs full-body disinfection chamber

Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (**VRDE**), Ahmednagar, a DRDO laboratory, has designed a **full-body disinfection chamber** called **Personnel Sanitization Enclosure**. This is a portable system equipped with sanitizers and soap dispenser. VRDE Director Sangam Sinha.

10. IIT Hyderabad-incubated start-up's low-cost ventilator can be controlled via a phone app

IIT Hyderabad, incubated start-up Aerobiosys Innovations developed a low-cost, portable, emergency-use ventilator called **Jeevan Lite** at a price of ₹1L. Jeevan Lite can perform both invasive and non-invasive ventilation. Aerobiosis Co-founders Rajesh Thangavel and Cyril Antony.

11. NASA unveils plan for Artemis 'base camp' on the moon beyond 2024

The American Space Agency **NASA** has announced that it is working on the **Artemis Program**. The Mission costs $35 billion from 2020-2024. NASA has dubbed Artemis Base Camp, meant to be a long-term foothold for lunar exploration. NASA will land the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024.

12. Indian Robotics Solution launches Corona Combat Drone to fight COVID-19

To aid the **Delhi** Government, Indian Robotics has come up with a **Corona Combat Drone** (CCD) that can sanitize large congested slums and colonies within a short duration. Sagar Gupta Naugriya is the founder of Indian Robotics Solution. The company is based in Delhi.

13. Biofortified carrot variety developed by farmer scientist benefits local farmers

Madhuban Gajar, a biofortified **carrot variety** with high β-carotene and iron content developed by **Vallabhhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya**, a farmer in Gujarat. It is a highly nutritious carrot variety. Marvaniya was conferred with National Award & Padma Shri.

14. CSIR- National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune ties up with Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) for production of medical devices

CSIR NCL & **BEL** collaborated to form **Digital IR Thermometer** & **Oxygen Enrichment Unit** to mitigate the pandemic. NCL's incubate BMEK headed by Mr Pratik Kulkarni developed handheld digital thermometer. OEUs been developed by CSIR-NCL and Genrich Membranes. DG CSIR – Shekhar Mande. Chairman & MD BEL – M V Gowtama.

15. International Day of Human Space Flight: 12 April

12 April 1961 was the date of the **first human space flight**, carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen. UN Assembly declared 12 April as the International Day of Human Space Flight to celebrate each year the beginning of the space era for mankind 1957: First human-made Earth satellite Sputnik I was launched

16. IIT Bombay develops 'smart stethoscope' which can hear heartbeats from a distance

IIT Bombay developed a '**digital stethoscope**' that can listen to heartbeats from a distance and record them minimising the risk of healthcare workers from contracting coronavirus. It has been developed with inputs from Reliance Hospital and Hinduja Group. The IIT-B has received a patent for the device.

17. NASA measures wind speed on the surface of a brown dwarf star

NASA announced a ground-breaking measurement of a brown dwarf star. A brown dwarf is described as an in-betweener that is not quite a star & not quite a planet. The brown dwarf NASA measured is called 2MASS J10475385+2124234 & is 32 light-years from Earth. Measurements showed winds moving around the planet at 1425 mph.

18. AIIMS – Rishikesh, BEL jointly develop remote health monitoring system

AIIMS-Rishikesh, and Bharat Electronics (**BEL**), to develop a **health monitoring system** to remotely assess the health of patients. It aims to reduce the risk of exposure to healthcare workers and to reduce the increasing demand for PPE and other logistics. Bharat Electronics is a Navartna Defence PSU.

19. DRDO develops COVID-19 sample collection kiosk 'COVSACK'

COVSACK – COVID Sample Collection Kiosk helps health workers to collect samples from patients without PPE kits. It is developed by **DRDO** & **doctors of ESIC**. DRDO also developed Personal Sanitation Enclosure (PSE) & Full-Face Mask (FFM). Chairman of DRDO: G Satheesh Reddy.

20. GSK and Sanofi join forces to create vaccine

Two of the world's largest pharmaceutical giants **GSK** & **Sanofi** joined hands to create a vaccine for COVID-19. Even if it's successful, it will not be ready until the second half of next year. Vaccines usually take a decade to be developed. GSK HQ: UK. Sanofi HQ: France.

21. Prof. builds Zero-Cov, a cost-effective disinfectant chamber

Researchers from **NIT Karnataka** at Suratkal developed a cost-effective **disinfectant chamber** that can disinfect PPEs, surgical masks and other day-to-day items. Named **Zero-Cov**, it can effectively kill 99.9% of germs including the SARS-CoV-2. It can be used on day-to-day items that can't be washed.

22. CeNS to develop a compact solid-state sensor to detect the heavy metal ions in water

Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (**CeNS**) developed a portable device which can help onsite **detection of heavy metal ions** in remote areas. It can detect lead ions down to 0.4 parts per billion (ppb) for onsite detection. CeNS is located in Bangalore, Karnataka.

23. Chitra GeneLAMP-N makes confirmatory tests results of COVID 19 possible in 2 hours

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, an Institute of National Importance, of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has developed a diagnostic test kit that can confirm COVID19 in 2 hours at low cost. **GeneLAMP-N** can detect two regions of the gene.

24. CSIR-NAL develops personal protective suit to combat COVID-19

CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories along with **MAF Clothing Private Limited** has developed Personal Protective Cover all suit. The suit has been produced with polypropylene spun multi-layered non-woven fabric. The CSIR-NAL is to produce 30,000 suits per day.

25. Demo-2 mission: NASA to launch Astronauts to space first time in 11 years

NASA and **SpaceX** are targeting May 27 for the launch of **Demo-2**. Demo-2 will launch two NASA astronauts to the International Space Station for the first time since the end of the Space Shuttle program nearly a decade ago. This will be the 1st crewed launch for Elon Musk's space company

26. NASA discovers hidden 'Earth-like' planet from old Kepler data

Astronomers have found an Earth-size planet in its star's habitable zone, where conditions may be just right to allow the presence of liquid water on the surface. The planet called Kepler-1649c, is located 300 light-years from Earth. The planet is only 1.06 times larger than Earth.

27. DRDO innovates automatic sanitiser and ultraviolet devices to fight coronavirus

From an automatic mist-based sanitiser for use while entering offices to ultraviolet devices that can destroy the genetic material of COVID-19, the DRDO introduced these two new technologies that are aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus. CFEES developed the Sanitiser Dispensing Unit.

28. Gujarat's GBRC: 2nd Indian institute to decode COVID-19 genome sequence

Researchers at the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) have succeeded in decoding the entire genome sequence of the novel coronavirus after the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune and identified its three new mutations. 6 of the mutations were already found by other institutes.

29. New model to predict ionospheric electron density can help communication, navigation

Researchers from Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Navi Mumbai have developed a global model to predict the ionospheric electron density with larger data coverage. It is a new Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) based global Ionospheric Model. ANNs replicate the processes in the human brain.

30. Bangalore-based JNCASR develops predictive model for spread of covid-19

Bengaluru-based **JNCASR**, along with collaborator from **IISc**, have developed a heuristic **predictive model for covid-19** that provides short-term predictions about the evolution of the disease. The model focuses on the 'Achilles' heel' of covid-19 response. Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)

31. Pune-based ARI develops 'sensor-based bug sniffer'

Pune-based c (ARI), an autonomous institute under the DST has developed a low-cost sensor device to rapidly detect bacteria. The portable device can detect as low as 10 bacteria cells from a sample size of one millilitre in just 30 minutes. Department of Science and Technology (DST).

32. Fish Gills Used to Develop Rechargeable Metal-Air Battery

Scientists at **INST**, Mohali have recently come up with an efficient, low-cost **electro-catalyst from fish gills** that can help develop environmentally friendly energy conversion devices/ rechargeable batteries. It is a bio-inspired carbon nanostructure. Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST).

33. IGIB scientists develop low cost COVID-19 test; name it after detective character 'Feluda'

Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology operating under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have developed a COVID-19 test called '**Feluda**'. The test has been named after a detective character in the stories of film maker Satyajit Ray. The total time taken by the test to produce results is 1 hour.

34. Shilpa Medicare launches cancer drug at monthly therapy cost of Rs 6,440

Shilpa Medicare has launched Indian branded generic of **Dasatinib**, an anti-cancer drug with a brand name Dasashil at a monthly therapy cost of Rs 6,440. The drug substance patent on Dasatinib owned by Bristol-Myers-Squibb had expired on April 12, 2020. It is used for treatment of Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML).

35. Microreactor developed by ARI produces uniform size of nanoparticles- a major requirement in biomedical technology

Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute, Pune- an autonomous institute under the Department of S&T have developed a microreactor that can produce large quantities of uniform size of nanoparticles, serving a major requirement in biomedical technology. It can synthesize metal, semiconductor & polymer nanoparticles.

36. IIT-Mandi team develops magnetic RAM to enable higher data storage, faster computation

Researchers at IIT Mandi, developed magnetic Random-Access Memory, which is faster, more energy-efficient & capable of storing more information in a smaller volume than existing data storage technologies. Data are represented as spin of electrons in it. Spin-Transfer Torque-Magnetic Random-Access Memory (STT-MRAM).

37. NASA develops new ventilator tailored specifically to treat COVID-19 patients

NASA engineers developed **VITAL** – Ventilator Intervention Technology Accessible Locally, an easy to build, high-pressure ventilator specifically to treat COVID-19 patients. It can be built faster and maintained easily.

38. IIT-Delhi develops web dashboard to predict coronavirus spread in country

IIT Delhi developed a web-based dashboard for tracking & predicting the spread of COVID-19 in India. **PRACRITI** (Prediction & Assessment of Corona Infections & Transmission in India) dashboard will provide the R0 values of each district & state in India. R0- Number of people to whom virus spreads from a single person.

39. CSIR-NBRI scientist develops herbal decongestant spray on mask to protect from suffocation

Scientists at the CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (**NBRI**), Lucknow, have developed an herbal decongestant spray that helps in clearing the windpipe and congestion by removing the mucus or cough leading to ease of breathing. Reason- Collection of CO2 & humidity in the mask's inner cavity.

40. SCTIMST develops Chitra Magna, an innovative RNA extraction kit

Chitra Magna, an innovative **RNA extraction kit**, has been developed by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, an Institution under the Department of S&T, as an innovative technology for isolating RNA from swabs for COVID 19 tests. SARS-COV-2, the causative virus of COVID-19, is an RNA virus.

41. IIITM-K developed an AI-based search engine for COVID-19 research

Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management - Kerala has developed an AI Semantic search engine to enable researchers to get deeper insights into scientific studies, especially when they need to find an early solution to the COVID-19. Named '**www.vilokana.in**', which in Sanskrit means 'finding out'.

42. Team led by IIT Bombay student develops low-cost mechanical ventilator Ruhdaar

Team led by **IIT Bombay** student has developed low-cost mechanical ventilator **Ruhdaar**. Design has been incubated at Design Innovation Centre, IUST, Pulwama. The project head Zulqarnain, a first-year student of Industrial Design Centre of IIT Bombay. Prototype costed the team around Rs. 10,000.

43. 19 Interstellar Asteroids discovered between Jupiter and Neptune

The Brazilian Astronomers have discovered 19 new asteroids between the Jupiter and the Neptune. The astronomers believe that they joined the solar system 4.5 billion years ago. Centaurs are group of asteroids between Neptune and Jupiter. They are now a part of 'Centaurs' orbiting the sun.

44. KGMU becomes 1st govt hospital in country to launch plasma therapy for COVID-19

A 58-year-old doctor became the first coronavirus patient in Uttar Pradesh to receive plasma therapy as an experimental treatment for the disease at the King George Medical University (KGMU) Lucknow. It is an experimental procedure for COVID-19 patients. Patient was administered 200 ml plasma.

45. Experts developing protocol to test sewage for Covid-19 traces

The expert group **COVID Action Collab** (CAC), ideated by social enterprise platform Catalyst Group, aims to explore a more feasible and efficient way to test for presence of COVID-19 in the communities of selected densely populated urban residential areas. Testing will be done in areas of Kolkata & Bangalore.

46. IIT-Bhubaneswar develop multi-surface sanitizer to disinfect devices

IIT-Bhubaneswar has designed multi-surface **sanitizer using UV light** for the disinfection of devices in the combat against COVID-19. When the infected object was placed into the chamber, it gets exposed to UV light & will be disinfected within 15 minutes. It was developed based on the results available for SARS CoV-1.

47. Durgapur-based CSIR lab develops Robotic device "HCARD"

HCARD (Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device) is developed by Durgapur-based CSIR lab, Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute. It will help frontline healthcare workers in maintaining

physical distance from those infected by coronavirus. Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute created this.

48. IIT Kanpur develops sensor-based covid-19 sanitisation box

To help sanitisation of essential commodities used at home, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (**IIT-Kanpur**) has developed a **corona killer box**. The box can sanitise all kinds of vegetables, fruits, sugar, milk, pulses, mobiles, and currency. The corona killer box can also sanitise masks and PPE kits.

Defence

1. US approves sale of missile; torpedoes worth $155 million to India

The Trump administration notified its determination to sell **Harpoon air-launched missiles** and **lightweight torpedoes** worth USD 155 million to India. Harpoon Missile – UDS 92 million manufactured by Boeing and Torpedoes – USD 63 million by Raytheon. India to use the torpedoes on its P-8I aircraft.

2. NOOR: Iran's first military satellite launched successfully

Iran recently launched its **first military satellite** to orbit at 425 km. This has increased tensions between US and Iran amidst COVID. The Iran Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) launched the satellite. Messenger satellite launcher was used for this. Iran Capital- Tehran, Currency- Iranian Rial.

3. Australia cancels premier multilateral air combat training exercise Pitch Black 2020: COVID-19

Australia has informed **India** that their premier multilateral air combat training exercise **Pitch Black 2020** scheduled from July 27 to August 14 has been **cancelled** due to the COVID-19 situation. The next edition of Pitch Black is scheduled in 2022. IAF for the 1st-time deployed fighter aircraft in 2018 edition.

Books & Authors

1. Italian writer Paolo Giordano's "How Contagion Works" published

How Contagion Works: Science, Awareness and Community in Times of Global Crises - The essay that helped change the COVID-19 debate is written by **Paolo Giordano**. "How Contagion Works" reflects on the crises in the wake of the coronavirus epidemic. The book has been released by Borj Publications.

2. Kobe Bryant's 'The Wizenard Series: Season One' to Debut No. 1 On New York Times Best-Seller List

The latest release from Bryant's Granity Studios, "**The Wizenard Series**: Season One," made debut at No. 1 on The New York Times' middle-grade hardcover list. It had already hit No. 1 on Amazon's bestseller for children's basketball books. The Mamba Mentality: How I Play: Book by Kobe Bryant.

3. The art of Her Deal: The Untold Story of Melania Trump

The Pulitzer Prize-winning American reporter for the Washington Post, **Mary Jordan** has written a book titled **The Art of Her Deal**: The Untold Story of Melania Trump. Book Publisher: Simon & Schuster. To be Released: June 16, 2020.

4. Sudha Murty's new book 'How the Onion Got Its Layers' released

Sudha Murty's new book was launched in e-book and audio-book format. **How the Onion Got Its Layers** is dedicated to all weavers "who have spun magical tales over time,". How the Onion Got Its Layers is the second book following How the Sea Became Salty. Sudha Murty is the chairperson of the Infosys Foundation.

5. Book on Chernobyl nuclear accident wins William E. Colby Award

Adam Higginbotham's Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster has won $5,000 prize by winning William E. Colby Award- named for the late CIA director, given for an outstanding book on military intelligence history. It is presented by Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont.

Miscellaneous

1. Govt extends existing foreign trade policy (2015-20) for one year till March 2021

The Government extended the existing foreign trade policy (2015-20) for one year till Mar 21 in light of COVID-19. Exports during April-February this fiscal dipped by 1.5% to $292.91 billion. Imports during the period declined by 7.30% to $436 billion. Export Promotion Capital Goods is an export-promotion scheme.

2. MakeMyTrip launches 'Stays for Saviours' initiative to support healthcare providers

Online travel firm **MakeMyTrip** has launched **'Stays for Saviours'** initiative to support temporary accommodation needs of the medical frontline at special rates. It will enable medical practitioners to book from over 900 hotel properties across 200 cities. Make My Trip CEO – Deep Kalra Headquarters – Gurugram, Haryana

3. Vikram Solar bags 300 MW solar project in Rajasthan from NTPC

Green Energy provider, **Vikram Solar** bagged a **300 MW solar plant** project for Rs 1,750 cr. From NTPC. The plant is to be spread across 1,500 acres in **Rajasthan** under the CPSU – II scheme. It is expected to be completed in 18 months. CEO of Vikram Solar: Saibaba Vutukuri. HO: Kolkata.

4. Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launches the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of India

Union Minister for Culture (I/C) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launched the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India in New Delhi. List is an attempt to recognize the diversity of Indian culture embedded in its intangible heritage. 13 ICH of the list have also been recognized by UNESCO.

5. Microsoft adds five new Indian languages to its Microsoft Translator service

Microsoft India announced that it will be **adding five new Indian languages** to its Microsoft Translator. The Microsoft translator now supports ten Indian languages with the addition of Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, Malayalam and Punjabi. Translator service is part of Azure Cognitive Services API.

6. Karnataka launches digital helpline and mobile app 'Apthamitra' to take on Covid-19

Karnataka state government launched '**Apthamitra**' helpline with a toll-free number and a mobile app, to help with online medical assistance to the people during the lockdown. The services will also guide people and provide medical advice. 'Apthamitra' helpline will be operational between 8 AM to 8 PM.

7. HDFC buys 6.43% stake in Reliance Capital

Mortgage Firm **HDFC acquired 6.43% stake** in debt-trapped **Reliance Capital** by invoking pledged shares. These shares were acquired pursuant to invocation of a pledge by a security trustee on behalf of the corporation. HDFC Bank CEO: Aditya Puri.

8. NTPC launches Hydrogen Fuel bus and car project for Leh and New Delhi

NTPC Ltd, India's largest power producer & a central PSU under Ministry of Power, has invited Global Expression of Interest to provide 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell based electric buses & an equal number of Hydrogen Fuel Cell based electric cars in Leh and Delhi. The EoI has been issued by NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam.

9. NAFED to distribute about 6 lakh metric tonne pulses to 20 Cr households for 3 months under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

NAFED will distribute 5.88 lakh metric tonnes pulses to 20 Cr households under National Food Security Act through ration shops for 3 months. Most of the beneficiaries will receive the quota for the 1st month within April or latest by the 1st week of May. NAFED: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation.

10. JNCASR scientists develop a natural product-based Alzheimer inhibitor

Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research an autonomous institute under the Department of S&T have modified the structure of **Berberine**, a natural and cheap product similar to curcumin, to use as an Alzheimer's inhibitor. Alzheimer's accounts for more than 70% of all dementia.

Obituary

1. Gurbani maestro Nirmal Singh Khalsa dies of novel coronavirus in Amritsar

Nirmal Singh Khalsa, a noted **singer** of Sikh 'Gurbani' hymns, died of the novel coronavirus in Amritsar. He was the former Hazoori Raagi at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Nirmal Singh Khalsa received the Padma Shri in 2009.

2. Tony Lewis, famous for Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method, dies at 78

Tony Lewis, one of the men behind the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method used in weather-affected limited-overs **cricket** matches passed away. He, alongside fellow mathematician Frank Duckworth, devised the Duckworth-Lewis method and was adopted by ICC. He belongs to England.

3. Former Minister Pasang Wangchuk Sona passes away after prolonged illness

In Arunachal Pradesh, **Pasang Wangchuk Sona** passed away after a prolonged illness. He served as **Deputy Speaker** in Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly. He served in the State Cabinet in the capacity of Minister for Mines and Minerals. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister: Pema Khandu

4. 'Lean on Me' singer Bill Withers passes away at 81

Bill Withers, a soulful **singer** best known for the 1970s hits 'Lean on Me', 'Lovely Day' and 'Ain't No Sunshine', has passed away at the age of 81. 'Lean On Me' was based on his childhood in West Virginia. He was an American Singer & Songwriter.

5. Emmy award-winning musician Adam Schlesinger dies at 52 of COVID-19

Emmy Winner Adam Schlesinger, best known as the co-founder of the 2000s pop-rock band Fountains of Wayne, has succumbed to coronavirus. He is also known for co-writing the band's 2003 hit Stacy's Mom. He won three Primetime Emmys.

6. Kannada actor Bullet Prakash passes away at 44

Famous **Kannada actor Bullet Prakash** passed away He was 44. He is known for his comic roles & he was named 'Bullet' because of his love for Royal Enfield Bullet motorbikes which he used to ride. He was also a member of the ruling Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP). He has worked in over 300 films in his career.

7. Former Libya Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril dies from coronavirus

Mahmoud Jibril, the former **head** of the **Libyan rebel government** that overthrew long time ruler Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, has died from the coronavirus. He was an economic advisor to the Gaddafi government in its final years, before joining the revolution. Libya PM: Fayez al-Sarraj. Currency: Libyan Dinar.

8. Film-theatre actor Kalinga Sasi passes away

Film-theatre **actor Kalinga Sasi** died.He was 59.Though his real name was V. Chandrakumar, the actor has been known as Kalinga Sasi throughout his decades-long acting career. He made his debut in Malayalam cinema in 1998 in the movie Thakarachenda. He has acted in more than 250 films.

9. 1960s Bond Girl Honor Blackman dead at 94

Honor Blackman, one of the most memorable co-stars of the early James Bond films, has passed away. The **actress** shot to fame in her late 30s after playing Bond girl in Goldfinger. She was also well known for TV series: The Avengers.

10. Veteran Malayalam music director MK Arjunan Master passes away

Renowned **Malayalam music composer MK Arjunan**, who has composed music for over 700 songs in 200 films and regarded as the original master of melody in Malayalam films, passed away. He composed music for nearly 50 films with Sreekumaran Thampi.

11. Former Mizoram Assembly speaker Hiphei dies at 82

Former **Mizoram Assembly speaker** and **veteran politician Hiphei**. Hiphei was elected to the state assembly from Tuipang constituency (Now Palak) as Independent in 1972 when Mizoram was Union territory and was made deputy speaker. He is also called "father of the Mara tribe".

12. Indian American journalist Brahm Kanchibotla dies of coronavirus at 66

Indian American **journalist Brahm Kanchibotla** has died of COVID-19. He was a correspondent for United News of India. During his 28-year career in the US, he had worked for 11 years as a content editor for Merger Markets, a financial publication. He had emigrated to the US in 1992.

13. John Prine, US folk and country songwriter, dies

John Prine, the US folk and country **singer** has died due to complications from COVID-19. Prine won two Grammy Awards from 11 nominations and was also given a lifetime achievement award at the 2020 ceremony. In 2016 he recorded a duets album For Better, or Worse.

14. Italian Olympic 800m finalist Donato Sabia dies of coronavirus aged 56

The Italian former middle-distance **runner Donato Sabia** has died from COVID-19 at the age of 56, the Italian Olympic Committee (Coni) has announced. Sabia reached the 800m Olympic final twice. He is the 1st Olympic finalist in the world to die from virus.

15. Padma Shri Classical Singer Shanti Hiranand passes away at 87

Shanti Hiranand Chawla, a well-known **classical music singer** and **Padma Shri recipient** passed away. She was very well-known within the area of classical music. Apart from music, Shanti Hiranand additionally earned quite a lot of identify in Ghazal. She studied music at Begum Akhtar in Thumri, Dadra and Ghazal.

16. Veteran Congman RK Dwivedi passes away

Freedom fighter and veteran **Congress leader Ram Krishna Dwivedi** passed away. The 88-year-old leader served as minister of state for home in the Congress government in UP. He shot to limelight by defeating then CM TN Singh in Maniram assembly constituency. He was also a member of Congress Working Committee.

17. Former Gujarat cricketer Walter D'Souza passes away

Former Gujarat **cricketer**, **Walter D'Souza** passed away at the age of 93. He was one of India's oldest living first-class cricketers, who featured in 16 fixtures for state. D'Souza's first-class career lasted for nearly 2 decades from 1947-1948 to 1965-1966. Saurashtra lifted 2019-20 edition of Ranji Trophy.

18. Former South Africa Test Cricketer Jackie du Preez passes away

Former South Africa **spinner** and Zimbabwe selector, **John Harcourt du Preez**, fondly known as Jackie, has died at the age of 77. He was one of the many Zimbabweans to play for South Africa in his country's pre-independence days. Later years he served as national selector of Zimbabwe Cricket.

19. Veteran Congress leader MV Rajasekharan dies at 91

Congress leader and former **Union Minister M V Rajasekharan** passed away. He was also an **agriculturalist** and a **rural development consultant**. He represented Kanakapura constituency in Lok Sabha. He hails from Ramnagara, Karnataka.

20. Former Chelsea goalkeeper Peter Bonetti dies aged 78

Bonetti began his professional **football** career with Chelsea, making a total of 491 appearances for them between 1960 and 1975 and keeping over 200 clean sheets for the club overall. He was properly known as 'Cat'.

21. Formula One great Stirling Moss no more

Stirling Moss who ranked as an all-time **Formula One** great despite never winning the world championship passed away. 4 times a championship runner-up, & also third overall on 3 occasions, no other driver won as many races without taking the title. Moss was the first Briton to win his home Grand Prix.

22. Former Attorney General of India Ashok Desai passes away

Former **Attorney General of India** and **Senior Advocate Ashok Desai** passed away. He was one of the **leading lawyers** and served as **Solicitor General**. He was awarded **Padma Bhushan** and Law **Luminary Awards**. He dealt landmark cases like decriminalisation of homosexuality.

23. Former Pro Golfer Doug Sanders dies aged 86

Known as the "Peacock of the Fairways," **Sanders** was one of the most colourful personalities on the PGA Tour, capturing 20 titles including the 1956 Canadian Open. Sanders also played in 218 events on the senior Champions Tour.

24. Former Pakistani Cricketer Zafar Sarfaraz develops symptoms of COVID-19; passes away at 50

Former Pakistani first-class **cricketer Zafar Sarfaraz** became the first professional player in the country to die after contracting COVID-19. Sarfaraz was a middle-order batsman played 15 First-class games and retired in 1994. Pakistan President: Arif Alvi.

25. Willie Davis, Pro Football Hall of Famer, dies

NFL Hall of Famer, **Willie Davis**, passed away. He was the first black captain for the Packers in 1965 and spent 10 years with the Wisconsin team. Davis never missed a single game of 138 with the packers. Davis was inducted in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1981.

26. Veteran Actor Ranjit Choudhry dies in the US

Veteran **Actor**, **Ranjeet Choudhry** died in the US. He was a part of Hindi Classic movies like Khubsoorat, Khatta Meetha, etc., He was also a part of popular American Drama Prison Break. Ranjit's last Bollywood film was Kaante.

27. Legendary 'Tom & Jerry' and 'Popeye' animator Gene Deitch has died, aged 95

Oscar-winning illustrator and legendary **Tom & Jerry director Gene Deitch** has died aged 95. He went on to work with Rembrandt Films through the 1960s to produce a number of Popeye cartoons, as well as a dozen Tom and Jerry shorts for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. In 1958, Deitch was nominated for an Academy Award.

28. Renowned Litterateur Ratnakar Chaini no more

An **Odia writer** & **academician**, **Chaini** passed away. He was born at Salepur in Cuttack in 1945. He was an Odia lecturer at Ravenshaw, former president of Sanskar Bharti and Utkal Sahitya Samaj & was felicitated with Sahitya Bharati Samman for the year 2016. His literary works, Santha Kabi Achyutananda, Niraba Kolahala etc

29. BMW India CEO Rudratej Singh passes away

Rudratej Singh, the President and **CEO of BMW Group India**, passed away. He was 46. His demise comes at a crucial junction when BMW Group India was in midst of implementing strategic measures for strengthening the dealer network across India. Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW).

30. Usha Ganguly, theatre legend and founder of Rangakarmee, passes away

Thespian Usha Ganguly, 75, founder of the famous **Hindi theatre group**, Rangakarmee, passed away. She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for direction in 1998. West Bengal government had conferred her with the Girish Samman honour in 2016. She founded the Rangakarmee group in 1976.

31. Senior Congress leader Badruddin Sheikh passes away following COVID19 infection

Senior Congress leader and councillor in Amdavad Municipal Corporation **Badruddin Sheikh** passed away late last night following COVID19 infection. He had also served as State Congress spokesperson and Leader of opposition in AMC in past. He was 68 and active in politics and public life.

32. Former Governor, Veteran Congress Leader Devanand Konwar Passes Away in Guwahati

Former Governor of Bihar and **Tripura** and veteran Congress leader **Devanand Konwar** died of old age ailments at his Guwahati residence. He was 86. He had also served as governor (additional charge) of West Bengal from December 2009 to January 2010. He was a Cabinet minister in the government of Assam.

33. Bollywood actor Irrfan Khan dies at 54

Bollywood **actor Irrfan Khan** passed away at the age of 54 years. He went on to deliver memorable performances in films such as The Life of Pi, Slumdog Millionaire, The Mighty Heart and Jurassic World. His last film was Angrezi Medium. He had won IIFA and Filmfare Award multiple times.

34. Former Liverpool striker Michael Robinson passed away at 61

The former **Brighton & Liverpool striker Michael Robinson**, who finished his career at Osasuna, has died aged 61. Robinson was part of the Liverpool squad who won a league, League Cup & European Cup treble in 1984. He won 24 Republic of Ireland caps. He had received the XIII International Vazquez Montalban prize.

35. Veteran Bollywood actor Rishi Kapoor passes away at 67

Veteran Bollywood **actor Rishi Kapoor** passed away at 67. The actor, known for his work in films like Bobby and Chandni, was treated in New York for cancer and returned to Mumbai last year. The actor's last Bollywood film was the 2018 film 102 Not Out. In 1973, Rishi Kapoor made his film debut, with Bobby.

36. Indian artist Zarina Hashmi passes away at 83 in London

Acclaimed Indian artist Zarina Hashmi, who went by the mononym Zarina, has died in London at the age of 83. Her subtle and profound work investigated the key issues of the subcontinent in the 20th and 21st centuries. Her work was minimal, rendered in wood-block prints and silkscreens, or metal, wood and terracotta sculptures.

Person in news

1. MS Dhoni replaces Nawazuddin Siddiqui as PokerStars India's Brand Ambassador

PokerStars India has appointed **MS Dhoni** as its new brand **ambassador**. PokerStars India's motive to bring MS Dhoni on board is aimed at increasing its market share in the industry. Currently, the brand is at rank four for player traffic among poker sites. MS Dhoni net worth figure -₹760 crore (March 2020).

2. Kobe Bryant and Tim Duncan among 2020 Basketball Hall Of Fame Inductees

Kobe Bryant along with 8 others, have been inducted into the Naismith Memorial **Basketball Hall of Fame**. Tim Duncan, Kevin Garnett will also be inducted. Duncan won two most valuable awards, while Garnett & Bryant each won one. Naismith Memorial Basketball HOF is in Springfield Massachusetts

3. Mukesh Ambani's net worth drops 28% to $48 billion in 2 months

The **net worth** of India's richest man **Mukesh Ambani dropped 28 per cent** or $300 million a day for two months to $48 billion. Ambani is the second biggest wealth loser globally after French fashion giant LVMH's chief executive Bernard Arnault. India lost 3 rankings in the top-100 rankings.

4. IMF Inducts Raghuram Rajan to Key Advisory Panel

IMF MD named former RBI governor **Raghuram Rajan** & 11 others to her **external advisory group** to provide perspectives from around the globe on key developments and policy issues, including responses to the exceptional challenges due to corona virus. International Monetary Fund MD-Kristalina Georgieva.

5. Twitter Founder Jack Dorsey gives $1 Billion Worth of Equity In Square to COVID-19 Relief

Twitter founder-CEO Jack pledges $1 billion worth of equity in Square- a mobile payments platform he founded and also runs- to a COVID-19 relief fund. The figure represents about 28% of his net worth. Dorsey has a net worth of about $3.9 billion. In 1997, Ted Turner made an historic $1 billion pledge to UN.

6. Former Miss World Manushi Chhillar raises awareness on coronavirus with UNICEF

Manushi Chhillar joined hands with the (**UNICEF**) to raise awareness about the novel coronavirus. She is a part of UNICEF's initiative to make my fellow citizens aware of the tremendous threat that exists if they decide to step outside their homes. United Nations Children's Fund HQ-New York, United States.

7. Kylie Jenner is youngest self-made billionaire for second year in row

The reality-star-turned-makeup-mogul **Kylie Jenner** has sustained her reign as the **world's youngest self-made billionaire** for the second year in a row. 22-year-old's Kylie Cosmetics empire is valued at $1.2 billion. Jenner launched Kylie Cosmetics in 2014. Jeff Bezos topped Forbes list of billionaires, again.

8. Nation remembers Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar on his 129th Birth Anniversary

Dr Ambedkar is known as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and has been bestowed with the country's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna. Born in MP, he was a jurist, economist & social reformer. He was the first Law and Justice Minister of Independent India.

9. Chess: Magnus Carlsen shocked by 16-year-old in Banter Blitz Cup final

Magnus Carlsen's was defeated 8.5-7.5 in the final of the $14,000 Banter Blitz Cup by the tactical skills of 16-year-old Alireza Firouzja. Iran-born Firouzja is the 2nd youngest player to reach the 2700 Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) rating. FIDE headquarters- Lausanne, Switzerland.

10. US Prez Trump appoints Indian American Sudarsanam Babu to country's top science board

US President Donald Trump appointed Indian American **Sudarsanam Babu** to country's **top science board**. He would be the third Indian American in this prestigious board. The other two being Sethuraman Panchanathan and Suresh V Garimella. Donald John Trump is the 45th and current president of the US.

11. BWF names PV Sindhu as an ambassador for its 'I Am Badminton' Campaign

World Champion **PV Sindhu** was unveiled as one of the **ambassadors** for Badminton World Federation's **'I am badminton'** awareness campaign. It is a platform for players to express respect for badminton by advocating and committing to clean and honest play. Badminton World Federation (BWF), HQs- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

12. RBI extends Madhavan Menon's term as part-time Chairman of CSB Bank

CSB Bank said the Reserve Bank of India has extended the term of appointment of **Madhavan Menon** as the **part-time Chairman** of the Bank till July 21, 2020. Extension is in terms of Section 10B (1A) (I) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. CSB Headquarters- Thrissur, Kerala.

13. US President Donald Trump nominates Indian American as US envoy to OECD

US President Donald Trump has nominated senior Indian American diplomat **Manisha Singh** as America's next envoy to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. She is currently Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs. OECD is Headquartered in Paris, France.

14. Govt promotes Air India chief Rajiv Bansal to secretary-level rank

Air India chief **Rajiv Bansal** has been promoted to the secretary-level rank, according to a Personnel Ministry order. He was appointed the chairman and managing director of Air India in February this year at the rank of additional secretary. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by PM.

15. US: Joe Biden wins Ohio's Presidential Primary

In United States, **Joe Biden** won Ohio's Presidential Primary, clinching a contest that was less about the Democratic nomination and more about how states can conduct elections in the era of the Corona virus. United States, Capital: Washington, D.C.

Insurance

1. Phonepe unveils Insurance policy for treatment of covid-19

Digital Payments Platform **PhonePe** tied up with **Bajaj Allianz General Life Insurance** & announced the launch of insurance policy **'CORONA CARE'** for hospitalisation of those with COVID-19. The policy has an insurance cover of ₹50,000 for persons under 55 years Payments Bank cannot provide loans to its customers.

2. Arogya Sanjeevani product to cover COVID-19 treatment

IRDAI has clarified that the standard health insurance plan **Arogya Sanjeevani** will also cover the hospitalisation treatment costs. It has issued clearance to 29 general and health Insurance companies to market it. Policy coverage between ₹1 L & ₹5 L. Age Group: 18 – 65.

3. Tata AIA becomes first life insurance company to give additional benefits related to Covid-19

As part of Tata AIA Life's initiative, its individual policyholders will get COVID-19 related additional benefit up to Rs 500,000 at no additional cost. Recently Tata Trusts & Tata group have announced their contribution towards the management of COVID-19. Tata AIA is a JV company formed by Tata Sons & AIA Group Ltd.

4. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance ties up with GOQii under regulatory sandbox

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has launched a preventive healthcare platform in partnership with GOQii under the regulatory sandbox initiative. The premium will range between Rs. 1,895 to Rs. 7,635 for an individual policy holder excluding GST. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance CEO: Tapan Singhel.

India & World

1. ADB assures $2.2 bn support package to India for COVID-19 response

Asian Development Bank (ADB) assured USD 2.2 billion (about Rs 16,500 crore) in immediate assistance to the health sector and to help alleviate the economic impact of the pandemic on the poor informal workers; MSMEs and the financial sector. Asian Development Bank President- Masatsugu Asakawa.

2. Nirmala Sitharaman attends the 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of NDB

UM of Finance & Corporate Affairs attended the 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank through videoconference in New Delhi. The NDB was established by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in 2014. New Development Bank, Headquarters location: Shanghai, China.

3. TCS to power Israel's first fully digital bank

TCS was selected by Israel's Ministry of Finance to transform its banking sector by building a banking service bureau that would serve as a shared, plug-and-play, **digital banking operations** platform - powered by the **TCS BaNCS** Global Banking Platform. Natarajan Chandrasekaran Chairman, TATA Consultancy Services (TCS)

4. COVID-19: India Approves USD 1 Million To Antigua As Project Outlay

India has approved **USD 1 million** to **Antigua** as project outlay, with immediate assistance of USD 1,50,000 for medical equipment to combat coronavirus crisis. India had earlier announced that it will send hydroxychloroquine to 55 nations to fight COVID19. Antigua Capital- Saint John's, Currency- EC Dollar.

5. Sri Lanka to seek $400 million debt swap facility from RBI to meet short term financial needs

Sri Lanka is set to enter into an agreement with the Reserve Bank of India for a **currency swap** worth **USD 400 mn**. to boost the foreign reserves and ensure the financial stability of the country. Cabinet has approved a proposal made by PM Mahinda Rajapaksa. Sri Lankan President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

6. India Attends Pak-Hosted SAARC Conference On COVID-19 Situation

India joined a virtual meeting of the ministers and senior health officials of the eight South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations on the Covid-19 crisis. India was represented by Director General of Health Services, Rajiv Garg. SAARC HQs- Kathmandu, Secretary-General, Esala Ruwan Weerakoon.

7. ADB gives $ 346 million loan for power sector in rural Maharashtra

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 346 million loan to Indian government to provide reliable power connection in rural areas of Maharashtra. The loan will support the state government's high voltage distribution system (HVDS) program. Maharashtra is the second-most populous state in India.

Environment

1. New pit viper from Arunachal named after Salazar Slytherin from Harry Potter

A team of researchers has discovered a new species of venomous snake in Arunachal Pradesh and named it Trimeresurus Salazar. It was discovered in the thick evergreen forest of the Pakke Tiger Reserve during a field expedition conducted in 2019. It is the fifth variety of reptile to be discovered in AP.

Apps & Portals

1. 'Stranded in India': New govt portal to help foreign tourists

Union Tourism ministry launched a web portal named '**stransdedinindia.com**' to reach out to foreign nationals stranded in India owing to the lockdown. It consists of information around Covid-19 helpline numbers that foreign tourists can reach out for help. Minister of Tourism–Prahlad Singh Patel Constituency–Damoh, MP

2. Govt launches official COVID-19 tracking app: 'AarogyaSetu'

The App, called '**AarogyaSetu**' joins Digital India for the health and well-being of every Indian. The App will enable people to assess themselves the risk for their catching the Coronavirus infection. The app is available in 11 languages. The app has been developed by MeitY in just four days.

3. AICTE comes out with unique helpline portal to support students during lockdown

In order to support students, All India Council for Technical Education has come out with MHRD AICTE COVID-19 Student Helpline Portal to address the issues. The website **https://helpline.aicte-india.org** was launched by HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank. Chairman AICTE - Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe.

4. Geo-fencing app will be used to locate quarantine violators

The government has tested an app that triggers e-mails & SMS alerts to a government agency if a person has jumped quarantine, based on the person's mobile phone's cell tower location. The geo-fencing is accurate up to 300 m. Kerala was one of the first states to use geofencing to track.

5. Centre launches learning platform to combat COVID-19

Centre announced the launch of a learning platform, **igot.gov.in** to combat COVID-19 for all front-line workers to train them. **iGOT platform** is designed to population-scale & will provide training to around 1.50 crore workers. The first 9 courses have been launched in basic of COVID-19.

6. Bihar govt launches Corona Sahayata App

Bihar state government has launched the **Bihar Corona Sahayata app** to combat COVID-19. The Bihar govt. will provide Corona Sahayata of Rs 1000 to each worker who enters Bihar from other states or is stranded outside Bihar under the Bihar Aapda Prabandhan. Chief Minister of Bihar-Nitish Kumar.

7. Sanitation app updated with pandemic-related features

Sanitation App **'Swachhata MoHUA'** has been updated to include features such as reporting of suspected cases and lockdown violations. The app's primary use was to report sanitation-related grievances, but 9 features are added. Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs: Durga Shankar

8. HRD Minister launched 'YUKTI' in New Delhi

Union HRD Minister launched a web portal **YUKTI** to monitor and record the efforts and initiatives of MHRD. The portal intends to cover the different dimensions of COVID-19 challenges in a very holistic and comprehensive way. Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology & Innovation

9. AICTE launches e-learning portal 'ELIS'

In order to foster digital learning, AICTE launched Enhancement in Learning with Improvement in Skills (ELIS) portal. The e-learning content consists of 26 different courses with the help of 18 leading Ed-tech companies. AICTE Chairman: Anil Sahasrabudhe.

10. Chhattisgarh launched 'Cghaat' website for online essential delivery

Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the online delivery website **Cghaat** to provide home delivery of fruits and vegetables during the extended lockdown phase. The website 'cghaat.in', has been developed by Chhattisgarh government's agency Chips. The service has first been made available in Raipur city.

11. India's Aarogya Setu becomes world's fastest app to reach 50 million downloads in 13 days

Aarogya Setu application that tracks Covid-19 cases around and helps in fighting the virus on an individual level, reached 50 million downloads just 13 days, making it the world's fastest downloaded app, said NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant. It is developed by the NIC under Ministry of Electronics and IT.

12. Kisan Rath app launched by Agriculture Ministry to help farmers, traders to connect with transporters

Government launched **'Kisan Rath App'** to on-board logistics service providers who can extend transportation facility for movement of agricultural and horticultural produce from farm gate to regulated markets, Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) etc. App has been developed by National Informatics Center (NIC).

13. Delhi Government introduces 'Assess Koro Na' application

The Delhi government has asked officials to use the new **'Assess Koro Na'** app for door-to-door survey in COVID-19 containment zones to speed up decision-making by analysing real-time data, removing a major obstacle in the efforts to contain the virus. 1st phase of the assessment will be launched in South Delhi.

14. IIM-Kozhikode team develops one-stop COVID-19 platform for accessing emergency services

International team led by an IIM Kozhikode student has developed a one-stop COVID-19 platform for accessing emergency services from official government sources. The website - **covidfyi.in** - is a one-stop digital directory for all COVID-19 related services. The core team of 16 is led by IIM Kozhikode student Simran Soni.

15. Union HRD Minister chairs the review meeting on SWAYAM and SWAYAM Prabha in New Delhi

Union Minister for HRD, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' held a detailed review of the National online education platform SWAYAM and the 32 DTH Television Education Channels SWAYAM PRABHA in New Delhi.1902 courses are available currently in SWAYAM. SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active–Learning for Young Aspiring Minds).

16. Road Ministry launched dashboard containing list of Dhabas and Truck Repair Shops on its website

MoRTH has created a dashboard link for providing list & details of Dhabas & Truck repair shops available across the country by various organisations like NHAI, States, Oil Marketing companies. NHAI's centralized call number 1033 has also been enabled. Nitin Gadkari, In charge-Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

17. Karnataka government launches GetCETGo for NEET, CET students

Karnataka govt. has launched an online crash course programme '**GetCETGo**' to help students from the state to prepare for Common Entrance Test & National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).Android application ,developed by Sinchu Infotech & Deeksha Online. Karnataka Chief minister: B. S. Yediyurappa.

18. NPPA develops IT platform to monitor sale of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), has developed an IT platform to monitor the availability of HCQ and azithromycin tablets at all distribution channel C&F agents or depot, distributors, wholesalers and retailers. NPPA chairperson: Shubhra Singh. Founded :29 August 1997.

19. Mizoram: Mobile app 'mCOVID19' to act as online pass for drivers and handymen

Mobile app, **mCOVID19** will act as the online pass for the drivers & handymen. The truck drivers & handlers coming from outside **Mizoram** state need to be thoroughly screened to contain the spread of the pandemic & this mPASS will be useful for the purpose. Mizoram Governor: P S Sreedharan Pillai

20. HRD Minister launches VidyaDaan 2.0 amid coronavirus lockdown

Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launched **VidyaDaan 2.0** programme for inviting e-learning content contributions. Programme has been launched due to the increasing requirement for e-learning content for students. The content will be used on DIKSHA app. VidyaDaan has a content contribution tool.

21. COVID-19: CISF launches 'e-karyalay' app for movement of files

An e-karyalay application, that enables movement of files and documents without physical touch, has been launched for usage in the 1.62 lakh personnel-strong CISF to prevent coronavirus infection. It will enable officials to work from home. A data recovery site has also been established with this.

22. World's First Ayurvedic only Telemedicine Service Launched

Bangalore-based wellness company **TotalAyurvedaCare.com**, recently launched a novel telemedicine platform that blends traditional Ayurvedic practices with modern technology, giving patients face-to-face interactions with Ayurvedic doctors. Ed Lateef, Founder and CEO of TotalAyurvedaCare.com

23. Aarogya Setu app now mandatory for all central govt employees

Government has made it mandatory for all central govt. officials to use the Aarogya Setu mobile app on their mobile phones. Before starting for office, they must review their status on 'Aarogyasetu' and commute only when the app shows 'safe' or 'low risk'. Central government of India launched Aarogya Setu on April 3.

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. CCI approves acquisition of GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited by JSW Energy Limited

Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition by **JSW Energy Limited** of **GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited** under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act. GMR is engaged in generation of power through its coal-based thermal power plant at Odisha. JSW Head Office: Maharashtra.

2. CCI approves Hitachi's proposed acquisition of 80.1% in power grid business of ABB Limited

CCI approved the proposed acquisition of 80.1% stake by **Hitachi** in the power grid business of **ABB Limited**. ABB Management will hold the entire power grid business of ABB. The deal is expected to be complete by the first half of 2020. Hitachi is headquartered in Japan. ABB HQ: Switzerland.

3. IndiGrid to acquire Sterlite Power's asset for ₹1,050 crore

India Grid Trust (**IndiGrid**) is acquiring a transmission asset from **Sterlite Power** for ₹1,050 crores. IndiGrid is one of India's two listed Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT). CEO of IndiGrid: Harsh Shah. HO: Mumbai.

4. Hindalco closes $2.8bn acquisition of Aleris Group

K M Birla's **Hindalco Industries** completed the acquisition of Aluminium rolled products maker **Aleris Group** through its subsidiary Novelis Inc. The enterprise value of the deal is $2.8billion. Hindalco is now one of the world's largest aluminium makers.

5. CCI approves proposed acquisition of 9.93% stake by Emerald Sage Investment Limited in Apollo Tyres Limited

The Proposed combination envisages subscription by **Emerald Sage Investment** Limited to 10.80 Cr constituting approx. 9.93% shares of **Apollo Tyres Limited**. Emerald is investment holding company under Mauritius. Apollo manufactures and sells automotive tyres. Apollo Tyres HO: Gurugram.

6. GP Global acquires lubricants assets of Nigeria's Grand Petroleum

GP Global, an energy-agriculture conglomerate has acquired Nigeria based **Grand Petroleum** assets to strengthen its presence in Nigeria. It includes a lubricant plant and a blending plant. GP Global plans to set up a new blending plant in India. GP Global is based on UAE.

7. IL & FS sells entire stake in IWPSL to ORIX Corp for Rs 6.05 cr.

Cash strapped Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (**IL&FS**) sold its 100% stake in IL&FS Wind Power Services Ltd (IWPSL) to **Orix Corporation of Japan** for Rs 6.05 cr. IWPSL is a wholly owned subsidiary of IL&FS Energy Development Company. IWPSL, classified as a 'green company' has no outstanding debt.

8. TVS acquires Britain iconic sporting motorcycle brand Norton

TVS Company has acquired Britain's iconic sporting motorcycle, **Norton**, in an all-cash deal for a consideration of GBP16 million by acquiring certain assets of Norton Motorcycles (U.K.) Limited through one of TVS Motor's overseas subsidiaries. Norton was founded by James Lansdowne Norton in 1898.

9. Eros International & Hollywood's STX Entertainment to merge all share- 1st of its kind

In a first of its kind deal, Indian movie producer and distributor **Eros International** announced an all-share merger with Hollywood's six-year-old, privately held **STX Entertainment** to create an equally held global entertainment company. Existing shareholders will hold about 42% of the merged entity.

10. Singapore Govt. increases stake in Bandhan Bank to 4.49pc

Singapore's Sovereign Wealth Fund GIC increased its stake in NBFC Bandhan Bank by 1.1%.GIC, through its affiliate entity Caladium Investment PTE Ltd., earlier held 3.39% stake in the bank. Following the transaction, GIC now holds 7.23 crore shares of Bank. Bandhan Bank CEO: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh.

11. Facebook Invests $5.7 Billion in Indian Internet Giant Jio

Facebook made its largest single investment by putting $5.7 billion into **Jio Platforms** of India. The investment, which requires approval from competition regulators, would give Facebook a 9.99 percent stake in Jio Platforms. Jio Platforms is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries.

12. Federal Bank approves 4% additional stake in life insurance JV from IDBI Bank

Federal Bank is set to buy an additional 4% stake in **IDBI Federal Life Insurance** Co Ltd (IFLIC) from IDBI Bank, to price finalization & regulatory approvals. This will increase the total shareholding of IDBI in the life insurance joint venture to 30 %. Federal Bank CEO: Shyam Srinivasan; HQs- Aluva, Kerala.

13. IIFL Wealth Finance buys L&T Capital Markets for Rs 230 crore

L&T Finance Holdings has sold its wholly owned subsidiary L&T Capital Markets (LTCM) to **IIFL Wealth Finance** for Rs 230 crore. As at end-March 2019, LTCM had total income of Rs 124.81 crore while the net worth stood at Rs 82.45 crore. The company had announced the deal in August 2019.

14. Ashok Leyland Ltd increases stake in Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited to 68.81%

Ashok Leyland Ltd has acquired 15,796,406 shares of Rs 10 each constituting 3.36 per cent of the equity of its subsidiary **Hinduja Leyland Finance** for Rs 1.8 billion. The company's shareholding in HLFL stands increased from 65.45% to 68.81%. Vipin Sondhi, CEO, MD- Ashok Leyland.

15. Axis Bank to buy 29% stake in Max Life Insurance for Rs 1,600 crore

Axis Bank will acquire an additional 29% stake in **Max Life Insurance** for an estimated price of Rs 1,592 crore, raising its total holding in the life insurer to 30% after the completion of the deal. Max Financial Services will hold the remaining 70% in JV. Axis is looking to purchase around 556 million shares of Max.

16. GSK plans to sell Rs 28,000 crore stake in Hindustan Unilever

After completion of the merger between GlaxoSmithKline(**GSK**) Consumer Healthcare and Hindustan Unilever Ltd (**HUL**), GSK is reportedly planning to sale its $3.7 billion (Rs 28,000 crore) stake in HUL.GSK owns 5.7 per cent stake in Hindustan Unilever Ltd. GlaxoSmithKline plc, British drug maker.

QUICK LEARNERS

BANKING

POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO	PERCENTAGE
Repo Rate	4.40%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.75%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	4.65%
Bank Rate	4.65%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	3.0%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.0%

ECONOMY

ORGANIZATION/ PARAMETERS	RATE/ FIGURES
ADB (India's economic growth)	4% in FY21
Interest rates on PPF account	7.1%
Interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra	6.9%
Interest rate on Sukanya Samriddhi scheme	7.6%
CARE Ratings (India's economic growth)	4.7% in FY20 & 1.1%-1.2% in FY21
ICRA (India's economic growth)	4.4% in FY20
Goldman Sachs (India's economic growth)	1.6% in FY21
UN Economic & Social Survey of Asia & the Pacific 2020 (India's GDP Forecast)	4.8% in FY21
RBI (CPI based inflation for Q4)	2.4%
World Bank-South Asia Economic Focus report (Economic Growth of South Asia & India)	1.5% to 2.8%
RBI (Retail Inflation on March)	5.91%
IMF (India's economic growth)	1.9% in FY21

Barclays (India's GDP projection)	0% in CY20 & 0.8% in FY21
Barclays (Economic cost of the lockdown in India)	8.1% of GDP
SBI (India's GDP growth)	1.1% (Real) & 4.4% (Nominal) for CY20
IMF (Asia's Economic Growth)	0% in FY20
S&P (India's economic growth)	1.8% in FY21
S&P (Economic growth for Asia-Pacific region)	0.3% in CY20
Fitch Ratings (India's economic growth)	0.8% in FY20-21 & 6.7% in 2021-22
Fitch Ratings (Global GDP estimate)	3.9% in FY20-21
Care Ratings (India's GVA)	1.4% in FY21
India Ratings (India's economic growth)	1.9% in FY20
APEC Secretariat (APEC region's economic contraction)	2.7% in 2020
Moody's (India's economic growth)	2.5%in 2020

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Krishnan S	Canara Bank Executive Director
Laxminarayan D	MD of Sundaram Home finance
Rajnesh Oswal	Permanent Judge of High Court of J&K, Ladakh
Pravin Jadhav	Paytm Money founder quits
Madhabi Puri Buch	SEBI Whole time member gets 6-month extension
Pravin Rao	NASSCOM Chairman
Anurag Srivastava	Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs
Maha Prasad Adhikari	Governor of Nepal Central Bank
Parag Raja	MD & CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance
Rishikesh T Krishnan	IIM-Bangalore's next director
Anamika Roy Rashtrawar	MD & CEO of IFFCO Tokio Insurance
V Kanagaraj	State Election Commissioner of Andhra Pradesh
Sarosh Amaria	MD of Tata Capital
Shiva Kirti Singh	Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal Chairperson gets 3-month extension
M S Mahabaleshwara	MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank
Monaz Noble	Independent Director of Godrej Industries
Ajay Mahajan	MD 7 CEO of Care Ratings
S Vaidyanathan	Chief Risk Officer of Lakshmi Vilas Bank
J Packirisamy	Officer on Special Duty in the Union Bank of India
Mruthanjay Mahapatra	Officer on Special Duty in the Canara Bank

Vineet Arora	MD & CEO of PayTm General Insurance
Tamas Ajan	International Weightlifting Federation President resigns
Kapil Dev Tripathi	Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind
Graeme Smith	South Africa's director of cricket
N Kamakodi	MD & CEO of City Union Bank
Uri Levine	Infosys Independent Director
Jennifer Morgan	SAP co-CEO steps down
David Li	CEO of Huawei India
Biswanath Somadder	Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court
Mohammad Rafiq	Chief Justice of Orissa High Court
Kibu Vicuna	Kerala Blasters Head Coach
Shiv Das Meena	HUDCO's CMD
Satya Narayan Gupta	CEO of Jammu and Kashmir Bank
Rakesh Sharma	International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association President
Sanjay Kothari	Central Vigilance Commissioner
T.S. Tirumurti	India’s Permanent Representative to UN
Ravi Mittal	Sports & Youth Affairs Secretary
Preeti Sudan	Union Health Secretary gets 3-month extension
Rajesh Bhushan	Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Health and Family Welfare Department
Nagendra Nath Sinha	Secretary of Rural Development
Amit Khare	Secretary of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Tarun Bajaj	Department of Economic Affairs Secretary
Leena Nandan	Consumer Affairs Secretary
Anita Karwal	Secretary of Department of Education & Literacy
Rajesh Verma	Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Anand Kumar	Culture Secretary
Aramane Giridha	Secretary of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
Rajiv Kumar	Public Enterprises Selection Board Secretary
Suresh N. Patel	Vigilance Commissioner in the anti-corruption watchdog CVC

AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
Indian NGO ARMMAN	Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship 2020
Tata Power	Edison Award for social innovation
Pradeep Sharma, Kavita Ramanan, Dilip Da Cunha & Mukul Sharma	2020 Guggenheim fellowships
Abdelouahab Aissaoui	International Prize for Arabic Fiction 2020
Marion Hollins	2021 class of Golf Hall of Fame

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
1 April	85th foundation day of Odisha	NA
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day	The Transition to Adulthood
5 April	International Day of Conscience	NA
5 April	National Maritime Day	Sustainable shipping for a Sustainable Planet
5 April	International Day of Conscience	NA
6 April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	NA
7 April	World Health Day	Support Nurses and Midwives
9 April	World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Play True Day	NA
10 April	World Homoeopathy Day	NA
11 April	National Safe Motherhood day	NA
14 April	World Chagas Disease Day	NA
15 April	Himachal Pradesh's 73rd state day	NA
18 April	International Day for Monuments and Sites	NA
Around 20 April	UN Chinese Language Day	NA
21 April	World Creativity and Innovation Day	NA
22 April	International Mother Earth Day	Climate action
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day	NA
24 April	National Panchayati Raj Day	NA
24 April	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	NA
25 April	World Malaria Day	Zero malaria starts with me

25 April	World Veterinary Day	Environment Protection for Improving Animal & Human Health
26 April	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	NA
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day	Innovate for a Green Future
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	NA
29 April	International Dance Day	NA
24-30 April	World Immunization Week	Vaccines Work for All

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Nirmal Singh Khalsa	Noted singer of Sikh 'Gurbani' hymns
Tony Lewis	Men behind the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method used in weather-affected limited-overs cricket matches
Pasang Wangchuk Sona	Former Minister
Bill Withers	Singer best known for the 1970s hits
Adam Schlesinger	Musician
Bullet Prakash	Kannada actor
Mahmoud Jibril	Former Libya Prime Minister
Kalinga Sasi	Film-theatre actor
Honor Blackman	Actor
MK Arjunan Master	Veteran Malayalam music director
Hiphei	Former Mizoram Assembly speaker
Brahm Kanchibotla	Indian American journalist
John Prine	US folk and country songwriter
Shanti Hiranand	Padma Shri Classical Singer
Ram Krishna Dwivedi	Freedom fighter and veteran Congress leader
Walter D'Souza	Former Gujarat cricketer
Jackie du Preez	Former South Africa Test Cricketer
MV Rajasekharan	Veteran Congress leader
Peter Bonetti	Former Chelsea goalkeeper
Stirling Moss	Formula One driver
Ashok Desai	Former Attorney General of India
Doug Sanders	Former Pro Golfer
Zafar Sarfaraz	Former Pakistani Cricketer
Willie Davis	Pro Football Hall of Famer
Ranjit Choudhry	Veteran Actor

Gene Deitch	'Tom & Jerry' and 'Popeye' animator
Ratnakar Chaini	Odia writer & academician
Rudratej Singh	BMW India CEO
Usha Ganguly	Theatre legend and founder of Rangakarmee
Badruddin Sheikh	Senior Congress leader
Devanand Konwar	Former Governor & Veteran Congress Leader
Michael Robinson	Former Liverpool striker
Irrfan Khan	Bollywood actor
Rishi Kapoor	Veteran Bollywood actor

Agreement

COMPANIES INVOLVED	PURPOSE
Airtel Payments Bank & Bharti AXA General Insurance	Rolled out 2 insurance plans: Bharti Axa Group health Assure & Group Hospital Cash
PNB Housing Finance & JICA	To raise $75 Mn for Accelerating Financial Inclusion in Asia
HUL & UNICEF	For a mass media campaign titled #BreakTheChain or #VirusKiKadiTodo
Flipkart & Tata Consumer Products	To enable access to essential food and beverage products to Indians
Paytm Payments Bank & Mastercard	Enable customers to perform online transactions, payments in stores & to withdraw from ATMs
12 FMCG companies & Government's Suraksha Stores	Companies will help neighbourhood stores ensure safety & hygiene practices
Central Drug Research Institute & King George's Medical University	To sequence the virus strains obtained from COVID-19 patients in Uttar Pradesh
Tech Mahindra & IBM	To set up innovation centres
Paytm & Vodafone Idea	To launch 'Recharge Saathi' initiative for prepaid customers
IICT & LAXAI Life Sciences	To reduce dependency on China for active pharma ingredients
Flipkart & Meru Cabs	To facilitate door-step delivery of essentials

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	Lalji Tandon
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

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