

**June 2020**

# **BOLT**

***Monthly Current Affairs***



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## Banking

### 1. PSBs sanction collateral free loans worth 3,200 crore rupees in a single day under Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

PSBs sanctioned collateral-free loans worth **Rs 3200 cr.** in a single day. According to FM, MSMEs located in over 3000 Tier-2 towns were covered on the first day. This is to help MSMEs meet the expenses towards payment of salaries, stocking of goods, etc., Collateral free loans worth Rs. 3 lakh Cr. is provisioned.

### 2. IndusInd Bank launches mobile app-based facility for opening current accounts

IndusInd Bank announced the launch of a 1st-of-its-kind assisted mobile application-based facility, that enables the bank to open current accounts for self-employed individuals & businesses digitally without the hassle of arranging physical KYC documents. **IndusInd Bank HQ: Pune, Maharashtra.**

The new feature will help customers to avail a seamless account opening with the bank, without the hassle of arranging physical KYC documents or their firm.

### 3. RBI creates ₹500 cr. fund to boost payment infrastructure

RBI has created a **Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)** to encourage acquirers to deploy Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure -- both physical and digital modes-- in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and north-eastern states. RBI to contribute ₹250 cr, rest by card issuing companies.

RBI will make an **initial contribution of ₹250 crores** to the PIDF, covering half of the fund, while the remaining contribution will be from card-issuing banks and card networks operating in the country. The PIDF will also receive recurring contributions to cover operational expenses from card-issuing banks and card networks. RBI will also contribute to yearly shortfalls, if necessary.

### 4. Karnataka Bank appoints Ramesh S as Chief Risk Officer

The Board of Karnataka Bank has designated **Ramesh S**, General Manager, in-charge of Risk Management Department, as the Chief Risk officer (CRO) of the Bank w.e.f. 06 June 2020, in place of Prakash Kumar. Karnataka Bank MD & CEO- Mahabaleshwara M S. **Karnataka Bank Headquarters – Mangalore.**

Karnataka Bank Limited is a leading 'A' Class Scheduled Commercial Bank in India incorporated on **February 18th, 1924** at Mangalore; The bank had mergers with Sringeri Sharada Bank Ltd., Chitradurga Bank Ltd. and Bank of Karnataka.

### 5. World Bank lends Rs. 1,950 crore loans to West Bengal Govt for tackling COVID situation

WB has given **Rs. 1,950 Cr loans to the West Bengal** for tackling COVID situation & developmental work in the State. Out of it, Rs. 1,100 Cr will be spent for creating Industrial infrastructures, remaining Rs. 850 crores are for the Social-Welfare schemes. West Bengal Chief Minister- Mamata Banerjee.

Established in 1944, the World Bank Group is **headquartered in Washington, D.C**; The World Bank Group has set two goals for the world to achieve by 2030: End extreme poverty by decreasing the percentage of people living on less than \$1.90 a day to no more than 3% & Promote shared prosperity by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40% for every country; **World Bank Group President- David Malpass.**

### 6. PhonePe launches domestic trip insurance with ICICI Lombard

**PhonePe**, a digital payments platform has partnered with **ICICI Lombard** to launch first-of-its-kind domestic multi-trip insurance cover for travellers. This unique insurance scheme covers unlimited trips for a year at a very affordable price, company said. PhonePe Co-founder & CEO- Sameer Nigam.

All kind of travels — road, rail and air — within the country will be protected by PhonePay's new travel insurance; For domestic travellers, this insurance scheme will cover losses arising from trip cancellations, home burglary while travelling, missed connecting flights, lost baggage and more. In addition to this, it also provides protection against death or hospitalisation due to an accident during the journey with a **sum assured of ₹ 5 lakh.**

PhonePay offers this comprehensive travel insurance scheme at ₹499 for 365 days for all modes of transport; PhonePe can purchase the domestic multi-trip insurance policy under the '**My Money**' section on the PhonePe app. The policy purchase process takes less than 2 minutes; Bhargava Dasgupta- Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of ICICI Lombard.

## 7. RBI proposes new norms for loan sales and securitisations

RBI has issued new draft frameworks for the sale of loan exposures and the securitisation of standard assets by banks and NBFIs. The definition of securitisation has been modified to allow **single asset securitisations against the previous multiple assets**. 25th Governor of RBI- Shaktikanta Das.

Securitisation of exposures purchased from other lenders is also allowed under the new guidelines, a change from existing rules; Under the guidelines, only transactions that result in multiple tranches of securities being issued reflecting different credit risks will be treated as securitisation transactions.

The new securitisation framework is aimed at developing a “strong and robust” securitisation market in India by incentivising simpler securitisation structures, while also seeking to align India’s regulatory framework for securitisation with Basel guidelines that took effect from 1 January 2018.

A special case of securitisation, called **Simple, Transparent and Comparable (STC)** securitisations, has been prescribed with clearly defined criteria and preferential capital treatment; With respect to **RMBS (Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities)**, the RBI asks for feedback on whether notes issued in a securitisation deal should be mandatorily listed, if the issue size is above a INR 5 billion threshold.

The framework for the sale of loan exposures is proposed to be separated from the securitisation guidelines, harmonising the existing guidelines issued through various circulars, while also making them consistent with India’s resolution regime; Lenders will also be able to sell standard assets via a loan participation contract, either by funded participation or risk participation; The minimum retention requirement for the sale of loans has been removed. This requirement previously forced lenders to maintain a part of the loan on their books.

The new framework also allows lenders the flexibility to decide their own board-approved policies for the adoption of an auction-based method for price discovery in loan sales. Previously, the RBI prescribed the so-called Swiss challenge method, under which a prospective buyer would submit a bid before the lender calls for counterbids from other potential buyers; The guidelines also permit the sale of stressed assets to any regulated entity that is permitted to take on loan exposures by its statutory or regulatory framework – including non-financial entities.

## 8. Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India reduce MCLR across all tenors

BoB and UBI have announced cut in their **Marginal Cost of Funds-Based Lending Rates (MCLR)** across all tenors. BoB has revised its one-year MCLR to 7.65% from 7.80%. Union Bank of India has reduced its one-year MCLR to 7.60 per cent from 7.70 per cent. SBI has reduced its MCLR by 25 basis points across all tenors.

While private sector lender HDFC Bank has cut its MCLR by 5 bps, state-run Bank of Maharashtra has reduced it by 20 basis points from June 8; **Bank of Baroda Headquarters- Vadodara; Union Bank of India Headquarters- Mumbai**; Rajkiran Rai G- Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Union Bank Of India; Sanjiv Chadha- Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Bank Of Baroda; Rajnish Kumar is the Chairman of State Bank Group.

## 9. RBI sets up panel to review ownership, corporate structure of private sector banks

The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a five-member Internal Working Group to review the guidelines related to ownership, governance and corporate structure of private sector banks. **RBI Central Board Director P K Mohanty will head the committee**. Committee will submit its report by 30th of September 2020.

## 10. RBI bars People’s Co-operative Bank from granting fresh loans, accepting deposits for 6 months

RBI has barred **Kanpur-based People’s Co-operative Bank** from granting fresh loans and accepting deposits for six months, due to its weak financial position. The RBI also said no withdrawal of amount of a depositor will be allowed from the co-operative bank. Bank is barred from selling, transferring/ disposing assets.

Bank is barred due to its weak financial position in exercise of powers vested in it under sub section (1) of Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949; **RBI was formed on 1 April 1935**.

### 11. SBI relaunches Aadhaar-based online savings account opening facility

The State Bank of India relaunches its Aadhaar-based instant digital savings account facility for customers who want to open an online account using the Yono platform. **Yono is the lender's integrated banking and lifestyle platform.** SBI Chairman- Rajnish Kumar.

The **'insta savings bank account'** will offer a complete paperless and instant digital savings account opening with just PAN and Aadhaar number; The bank will issue basic personalised RuPay ATM-cum-debit card to all the new account holders of insta saving bank accounts; Customers will have the flexibility to upgrade to full KYC (Know Your Customer) account by visiting their nearest SBI branch within one year's time.

### 12. IBBI reconstitutes advisory panel on insolvency, liquidation

Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India reconstituted its advisory committee on corporate insolvency resolution & liquidation. **Committee headed by Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO Uday Kotak**, among other changes, has seen its expansion to 14 members instead of 12. The term of most committee members will end on 11 June 2023.

Apart from Kotak, the committee includes Piramal Group Chairman Ajay Piramal, BSE MD and CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan, the Chairman of the Indian Banks Association; Ashu Suyash, MD & CEO of Crisil, Rashesh Shah, CEO of Edelweiss Group, and R. Shankar Raman, CFO of Larsen & Toubro, are among the new appointees to the committee; **The committee was last constituted in 2017.**

### 13. ICICI Bank launches 'Insta Flexicash' an Online OD facility for its salary account customers

ICICI Bank has launched an overdraft (OD) facility, **Insta FlexiCash**, for its salaried account customers who are facing a cash crunch. Insta Flexicash is an end-to-end fully digital facility which can be availed using the bank's Internet banking platform. Sandeep Bakhshi is the MD and CEO of ICICI Bank.

The facility can be sanctioned immediately while **customers can start using the approved OD limit within 48 hours.** Other features: Instant approval for overdraft facility: Customers get an instant approval for the OD facility with no documentation, using the Bank's internet banking platform.

Extensive credit limit of OD: The Bank offers customers a credit limit worth up to three times their net salary. Only pay for what you use: Interest should be paid only on the actual OD amount utilised. FlexiCash comes with a fixed rate of interest that is calculated on a daily reducing balance. The interest is charged only on the amount you use and the period for which you use it. In case there is no usage of the funds, there will be no interest payable.

Flexibility of repayment: Customers have the flexibility to clear the outstanding limit at their convenience. They are only required to pay the interest that is due every month. No foreclosure charges: The facility offers customers the flexibility to repay the OD amount that they avail, as and when they choose to, without any foreclosure charges.

Convenience of auto-renewal: Customers enjoy the convenience of the automated process enhancement and **renewal of OD limit every 12 months**; Fees and charges: These are the charges according to the ICICI Bank website, Processing fee: Starting at Rs 1,999 + Goods and Services Tax (GST), Renewal fee: Flat Rs 1,999 + GST, ROI: Between 12% and 14% per year.

### 14. RBI proposes upper age limit of 70 years for CEOs, whole-time directors of banks

The RBI has proposed **an upper age limit of 70 years for CEOs and whole-time directors of banks and a maximum term of 10 years for those belonging to the promoter group**, as part of the exercise to improve governance in the banking sector. The upper age limit for CEO/WTDs of banks is 70 years.

10 years is an adequate time limit for a promoter/ major shareholder of a bank as WTD or CEO of the bank to stabilise its operations and to transition the managerial leadership to a professional management; A management functionary "who is not a promoter/major shareholder can be a WTD or CEO of a bank for 15 consecutive years", the paper said, adding thereafter, **the individual could be eligible for re-appointment as WTD or CEO only after the expiration of three years.**

### 15. RBI modifies framework for financial market infra, retail payment system

RBI produced a modified oversight framework for financial market infrastructure & retail payment systems with a view to ensure safety of payment structure & released version 2.0 of Oversight for Financial Market Infrastructure & Retail Payment Systems. 25th & Current Governor of RBI- Shaktikanta Das.

RBI, as per the document, will carry out the oversight activity through monitoring existing and planned systems, assessment of the FMIs and RPSs against the oversight objectives, and inducing change for improvements, where necessary; The FMI generally refers to **Systemically Important Payment Systems (SIPS), Central Securities Depositories (CSDs), Securities Settlement Systems (SSSs), Central Counter Parties (CCPs), and Trade Repositories (TRs)** that facilitate the clearing, settlement and recording of financial transactions; RPS refers to transactions effected through mobile phones, internet, ATMs, PoS networks and with contactless technology (card payments and tokenisation), electronic billing and use of various systems and platforms for making instant.

The Reserve Bank of India had adopted the **Principles for Financial Market Infrastructures (PFMI)** for supervising and assessing the FMIs regulated by it, and had in June 2013 prepared a document titled **"Regulation and Supervision of FMIs regulated by RBI"**; The scope of the document was limited to oversight activities and tools used for supervision of the Financial Market Infrastructure (FMIs) prevailing then.

Over the following years, the supervisory rigour for FMIs both onsite and offsite has increased. Additionally, RPSs have assumed importance, given their acceptance, convenience and availability of multiple payment options; National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation for RPSs in the country, has emerged as a **System Wide Important Payment System (SWIPS)** because of the significant volume of transactions processed in the payment systems operated by it; The Oversight Framework for Financial Market Infrastructures (FMIs) and Retail Payment Systems (RPSs) has been updated in line with the commitment made in the Reserve Bank's Payment and Settlement Systems Vision 2019-2021.

### 16. PSBs disburse Rs 16,031 Cr to States & UTs so far: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

FM Nirmala Sitharaman said, the Public Sector Banks have disbursed Rs 16,031 crore to the States and Union Territories so far. She said, PSBs have sanctioned loans worth 32,049 crore rupees under the **100 per cent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme**. **SBI made the maximum disbursements, Canara Bank is the 2nd.**

SBI disbursed eight thousand 776 crore rupees whereas Canara bank disbursed one thousand 306 crore rupees. **Public Sector Banks have disbursed maximum amounts to Tamil Nadu followed by Uttar Pradesh.**

### 17. Airtel Payments Bank launches 'Suraksha Salary Account' for MSMEs

Airtel Payments Bank launched a new salary account for micro, small & medium enterprises. Called the **Suraksha Salary account**, it will enable MSMEs & other organisations to make cashless payments and provide a financial security blanket to their employees. The account has no minimum balance condition. **It offers no charges on cash withdrawals of up to Rs 50,000 and deposits of up to Rs 20,000 in one month.** The account holder also gets two free card less cash withdrawal via IMT at ATMs across the country. The account holder can make online money transfers to any bank across India; **Airtel Payments Bank is a public limited company with its headquarters in New Delhi.** The company is a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel. It is the first company in India to receive a payments bank license from the Reserve Bank of India and it became the **first live payments bank in the country**; It was founded on 2017; CEO- Anubrata Biswas.

### 18. AIIB approves USD 750 million loan to India for Covid-19 response

**Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has approved a USD 750 million (around Rs 5,714 crore) loan to India to help the government strengthen its battle against the adverse impact of Covid-19 on poor and vulnerable households. **President & Chairman of AIIB- Jin Liqun.**

AIIB's total sovereign loans to India that have already been approved amount to USD 3.06 billion, including a recent USD 500 million Covid-19 emergency response; The current loan will be the second for India under AIIB's Covid-19 **Crisis Recovery Facility (CRF)**; **AIIB began operations in January 2016 and has 102 approved members worldwide.**

### 19. SEBI panel suggests measures to strengthen enforcement, recovery mechanism

A **SEBI panel headed by Anil Dave** suggested measures to strengthen markets watchdog's enforcement mechanism and improve the system of recovery of siphoned off money. Currently only 4 whole time members have been appointed to SEBI by the central government. WTM's function as designated member (DM) of SEBI.

At present, the opportunity of personal hearing is granted by the DM, issues relating to inspection of documents and/or cross-examination increases at this stage of the enquiry proceeding; **Upon receipt of the report of the DA, the DM may issue a show cause notice calling upon the notice to submit within 21 days**, a suitable response as to why action as recommended by the DA or any other action may not be initiated; With regard to recovery of money, SEBI should be given power to impound and retain the proceeds or securities or money not exceeding the value of the proceeds in respect of any transaction, which is under investigation; **SEBI Headquarters- Mumbai**, Maharashtra; SEBI Chairman- Ajay Tyagi.

### 20. Karnataka Bank launches COVID-19 health cover

Karnataka Bank launched a health insurance policy to cover the uncertainties posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The bank launched in association with **Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited** with an objective of providing insurance against COVID-19. MD & CEO of Karnataka Bank – Mahabaleshwara M S

At a premium of ₹399 (inclusive of all taxes), one can avail health cover for Covid-19 under this policy. This policy will cover in-patient hospital expenses up to ₹3 lakh, outpatient treatment expenses of ₹3,000, and also provide a sum of ₹1,000 a day for expenses incurred towards 14 days of quarantine at a government or military hospital. **The validity of this policy is for a period of 120 days.** The policy will be available to all the customers of the bank in the age group of 18-65 years.

### 21. Bank of Baroda to completely digitise lending operations

BoB is set to completely digitise its lending operations including home, agriculture, MSME, personal & auto loans. It has reached out to the big four & other consultants like McKinsey and Boston Consulting Group to help set up a digital lending department. **MD and CEO of BoB: Sanjiv Chadha.**

The validation and disbursement of fresh loans will happen via this digital platform while past loans will also be digitised to cut costs and improve profitability. The bank is planning to digitise a large proportion of its retail and MSME processes in the next six months.

### 22. RBI proposes changes in regulations for housing finance companies

RBI proposed to double the minimum **Net Owned Fund (NOF)** requirement for **housing finance companies to Rs 20 crore** and classification of such firms under its draft framework for these companies. It is aimed at strengthening the capital base of small HFCs. Home Financiers to now be regulated as a category of NBFCs.

RBI's proposal has also clearly defined home finance firms and those that are systemically important among them. RBI has also proposed that home financiers should not be simultaneously allowed to lend to a real estate developer as well as homebuyers in the developer's project.

According to the draft regulations, RBI also classified housing finance companies as systemically important and non-systemically important. **“Non-deposit taking HFCs with asset size of ₹500 crores and above, and all deposit-taking HFCs irrespective of asset size will be treated as systemically important HFCs. HFCs with asset size below ₹500 crores will be treated as non-systemically important HFCs”.** For HFCs, minimum **Capital Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)** is currently at 12%, which will be increased to 14% by 31 March 2021 and 15% by 31 March 2022.

### 23. RBI-appointed panel recommends population-based ATM charges

RBI panel set up in June 2019, recommended a population-based approach for fixing ATM charges. For transactions in centres with a population of over 1 million, the interchange fee would be **increased to Rs 17 from Rs 15, for every financial transaction. For every non-financial transaction fee will be Rs 7.**

For ATM transactions in all centres **with a population of below 1 million, the fee would be increased to Rs 18 from Rs 15, for every financial transaction, and to Rs 8 from Rs 5, for every non-financial transaction;** Only cash withdrawals up to Rs 5,000 should be considered as free transactions, while banks

**can levy a charge on the customer for every transaction above Rs 5,000.** Between April and June 2019, around 66 percent of ATM transactions were below Rs 5,000.

Increase the cap for charging customers for financial transactions, over and above the free transaction limit, by 20% to Rs 24 per transaction from Rs 20 per transaction, not including taxes; For centres where the population is less than 1 million, the number of free ATM transactions should be increased from five, at present, **to six per month**. Continue with the existing three free ATM transactions per month in metros and satellite cities/towns.

The same would apply to all centres with a population of over 1 million and above. Banks can decide on the number of free transactions on their ATMs for their customers; As of March 2020, there were over 2.1 lakh ATMs deployed across the country, according to RBI data. According to the report, state-owned banks have a 61% market share of deployed ATMs, private banks have 30% and white-label operators have a market share of 9%.

#### **24. Karnataka Bank launches new loan product for small firms**

Private sector lender Karnataka Bank launched '**KBL Micro Mitra**' to offer financial assistance of up to Rs 10 lakh to micro manufacturing & service enterprises either to meet their working capital needs for investment purposes. **Karnataka Bank HQ- Mangalore.** Karnataka Bank MD & CEO- Mahabaleshwara MS.

Karnataka Bank Limited, a leading 'A' Class Scheduled Commercial Bank in India, was incorporated on February 18th, 1924 at Mangaluru; Over the years the Bank grew with the merger of Sringeri Sharada Bank Ltd., Chitradurga Bank Ltd. and Bank of Karnataka.

#### **25. Yes Bank & Affordplan launch co-branded cashless card for healthcare needs**

Yes Bank has partnered with **fintech startup Affordplan** to launch a co-branded health card on Saturday to address healthcare needs. The co-branded healthcare card will enable families plan and manage their finances for their healthcare needs. **The card has flexible recharges from Rs 100- Rs 1 lakh.**

Yes Bank's wallet has also been integrated on **Affordplan Swasth** to enable wallet QR scan for making payments to merchant partners empanelled on the app; Affordplan CEO- Tejbir Singh; Prashant Kumar- Managing Director and CEO of YES Bank.

#### **26. World Bank enhances the financial Support for Ganga rejuvenation with \$400 million through SNGRBP**

The World Bank enhanced its support for the Government of India's program to rejuvenate the Ganga River with a \$400 million operation that will help stem pollution in the river and strengthen the management of the river basin. WB has been supporting the government's efforts since 2011.

The Ganga Basin covers a quarter of India's landmass, and is a critical economic and environmental resource for the country. It provides over one-third of India's surface water, includes the country's largest irrigated area and is key to India's water and food security. **Over 40 percent of India's GDP is generated in the densely populated basin.**

#### **27. President promulgates ordinance to bring co-operative banks under RBI supervision**

President Kovind has promulgated Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 to bring all urban cooperative banks & multi-state cooperative banks under the supervision of the RBI. The **Ordinance amends the BRA, 1949 as applicable to cooperative banks.** RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das.

The Ordinance seeks to protect the interests of depositors and strengthen cooperative banks by improving governance and oversight by extending powers already available with RBI in respect of other banks to Co-operative Banks as well for sound banking regulation, and by ensuring professionalism and enabling their access to capital.

The amendments do not affect existing powers of the State Registrars of Co-operative Societies under state co-operative laws. The amendments also do not apply to **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** or co-operative societies whose primary object and principal business is long-term finance for agricultural development, and which do not use the words "bank", "banker" or "banking" and do not act as drawees of cheques.



### 28. SBI sanctions Rs 20,000 cr loans to MSMEs under credit guarantee scheme

SBI has sanctioned loans worth Rs 20,000 crore to over 400,000 micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) accounts under the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**. It is part of the Rs 20 trillion package crafted to revive the economy SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar; HQ: Mumbai

Data from good and services tax (GST) filings, income tax returns and analytics is helping the lender in classifying and disbursing credit. It encouraged the enterprises to utilise these digital platforms as it will help them in getting better access to credit.

### 29. RBI extends enhanced borrowing limit to banks under MSF till Sept 30

Reserve Bank has decided to extend the enhanced borrowing facility provided to the banks to meet their liquidity shortages till September 30. RBI, as a temporary measure, had increased the borrowing limit of scheduled banks under MSF from 2% to 3% of NDTL Under MSF, banks borrow overnight funds by dipping in their SLR

**The RBI has also extended the relaxation on the minimum daily maintenance of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) at 80 per cent for a further period of three months till September 25, 2020.**

### 30. World Bank approves USD 500 Million to improve quality of education system in 6 Indian states

The World Bank has approved USD 500 million (about Rs 3,700 crore) loan to improve quality and governance of school education in six Indian states. The board approved the loan for **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS)**. 6 States- HP, Kerala, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

Prior to STARS, the bank had provided a total assistance of more than USD 3 billion towards this goal; The USD 500 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a **final maturity of 14.5 years, including a grace period of five years**; The multilateral funding agency noted that India has, over the years, made significant strides in improving access to education across the country; between 2004-05 and 2018-19, the number of children going to school increased from 219 million to 248 million. However, the learning outcomes of students across all age groups continue to remain below par.

### 31. SIDBI sets up fund to facilitate free onboarding of MSMEs on TReDS platform

SIDBI has set up **'Swavalamban Crisis Responsive Fund'** to support free onboarding for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) on trade receivables discounting system (TReDS). The free onboarding of MSMEs would be available till September-end. Fund target to onboard 10,000 MSMEs during the period.

SIDBI Chairman and Managing Director- Mohammad Mustafa; **Usually, an MSME has to pay a fee of Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 for getting registered on a TReDS platform**; The fund would be utilised to offset the cost of joining/registration fee on the TReDS platform; Three TReDS platforms -- Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL), M1xchange and Invoicemart -- will help MSMEs gain access to working capital through invoice discounting via multiple financiers.

TReDS is an electronic platform where receivables of MSMEs drawn against buyers, including large corporates, public sector undertakings and government departments, are financed through multiple financiers at competitive rates through an auction mechanism.

### 32. India & World Bank signs loan agreement for 1st TN Housing Sector Strengthening Programme

The Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu and the World Bank signed legal agreements for two projects- **\$200 million 1st Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Programme and \$50 million Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project**. Loan Maturity- 20 years including a grace period of 3.5 years.

Nearly half of Tamil Nadu's population is urban, and this is expected to increase to 63 percent by 2030; Concurrently, the Board also approved a \$50 million Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project to support innovations in housing finance and strengthen housing sector institutions in the state. It will finance the newly created **Tamil Nadu Shelter Fund (TNSF)** – an innovation in housing finance in India – by providing an **equity contribution of \$35 million**.

## Economy

### 1. Moody's downgrades India rating for the first time in 22 years

Global rating agency Moody's Investors Service downgraded India's sovereign rating to the lowest investment grade. The lowering of the rating from Baa2 to **Baa3** brings it on par with S&P and Fitch India which rate India at BBB (minus), the lowest grade. It was done before in 1988, aftermath India's nuclear tests.

**Moody's expects India's GDP to contract by 4% in fiscal 2020** due to the shock from the coronavirus pandemic and related lockdown measures followed by **8.7% growth in fiscal 2021 and closer to 6% thereafter**. What is Investment – Grade rating? An investment-grade is a rating that signifies a municipal or corporate bond presents a relatively low risk of default. Bond-rating firms like Standard & Poor's and Moody's use different designations, consisting of the upper- and lower-case letters "A" and "B," to identify a bond's credit quality rating. **Moody's awards an "Aaa" rating to companies it considers to be the least likely to default.**

### 2. Tata AIG launches 'pay-as-you-drive cover' for private cars

Tata AIG General Insurance to offer usage-based insurance cover to private car owners. The new policy called '**AutoSafe**' uses telematics-based next-gen application to track the usage of the car & decide on the premium. Edelweiss General Insurance had also launched a similar product.

### 3. SEBI approves regulatory sandbox framework for stock market ecosystem

SEBI has approved the regulatory sandbox framework for the stock market ecosystem. The term is used for live testing new financial technology (fintech) solutions on customers, without having to be fully licensed, but under strict regulatory supervision. **SEBI HQ: Mumbai; Chairman: Ajay Tyagi.**

### 4. Global economy to shrink 5.2% this year due to coronavirus pandemic: World Bank

**The global economy, which has plunged into a severe contraction, will shrink by 5.2 per cent this year** due to the massive shock of the coronavirus pandemic and the shutdown measures to contain it, the World Bank President David Malpass said. WB releases the Global Economic Prospect report.

According to the report, economic activity among advanced economies is anticipated to shrink by seven per cent in 2020 as domestic demand and supply, trade and finance have been severely disrupted; **Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs)** are expected to **shrink by 2.5 per cent this year**, their first contraction as a group in at least 60 years; **Per capita incomes are expected to decline by 3.6 per cent**, which will tip millions of people into extreme poverty this year.

The current projections suggest that the coronavirus recession will involve a **decline in global per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 6.2 per cent**, making it the deepest global recession since 1945-46, and more than twice as deep as the recession associated with the global financial crisis; Current forecasts suggest that in 2020, the highest share of economies will experience contractions in annual per capita GDP since 1870; The World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference; **The World Bank and the IMF are both based in Washington, D.C.**

### 5. Customs duty hiked on bamboo imports from 10% to 25%

Union Government has hiked Customs duty on bamboo imports by Agarbatti manufacturers from **10 per cent to 25 per cent with immediate effect**. The decision has been taken to encourage use of domestic bamboo under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme. Fiscal outgo for Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme- 20.97 Lakh Crore.

**The Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme package included Rs 8 lakh crore in liquidity measures announced by the RBI.** The government will also provide a 100% guarantee to Rs 3 lakh crore in small business loans. This package is 10% of India's total GDP. **TRANCHES- AMOUNT:** Part I- 5,94,550, Part II-3,10,000, Part III- 1,50,000, Part IV & V-48,100.

### 6. Indian economy will shrink 5% in FY21, stimulus not enough: S&P Ratings

In a report titled '**Financial Conditions Reflect Optimism, Lockdown Fatigue Emerges**', S&P Global Ratings said Indian economy will shrink **5% in the CY**, saying the fiscal stimulus worth 1.2% of GDP will not be enough to provide significant growth support. **S&P projected growth to be 8.5% in 2021-22.**

**S&P projected growth to be 6.5 per cent in 2022-23; India's GDP growth slumped to a 11-year low of 4.2 per cent in 2019-20; Rating agencies Fitch and CRISIL too had projected a 5 per cent contraction of Indian economy, while Moody's forecast economy to shrink by 4 per cent.**

**World Bank too estimates Indian economy to contract 3.2 per cent in 2020-21;** The government had last month announced a Rs 20.97 lakh crore economic package, which include liquidity support from the RBI; S&P had earlier said that the government's stimulus package, with a headline amount of 10 per cent of GDP, has about 1.2 per cent of direct stimulus measures, which is low relative to countries with similar economic impacts from the pandemic. The remaining 8.8 per cent of the package includes liquidity support measures and credit guarantees that will not directly support growth; **S&P Global Ratings is headquartered in New York, USA.**

### **7. Indian economy to grow at 9.5% in next fiscal, says Fitch Ratings**

After a contraction in the current financial year, India's economy is forecast to bounce back with a sharp growth rate of 9.5 percent next fiscal, Fitch Ratings has said. It has forecast a **5 percent contraction in the GDP in the ongoing financial year. Govt has announced stimulus measures amounting to 10% of GDP.**

Fitch Ratings said after the global crisis, India's GDP growth is likely to return to higher levels than 'BBB' category peers; To support the economy, the Reserve Bank of India has eased monetary policy by cutting policy rates and providing liquidity through long-term repo operations. Prudential requirements for banks have also been eased to free up liquidity for lending; Fitch Ratings Inc. is an American credit rating agency and is one of the 'Big Three credit rating agencies', the other two being Moody's and Standard & Poor's; **Fitch Ratings Headquarters- New York, USA.**

### **8. S&P's retains India's sovereign rating at BBB- with stable outlook**

**S&P retained India's sovereign rating at BBB-** with a stable outlook, saying that while risks to growth are rising, the economy & fiscal position will stabilise and begin to recover from 2021 onwards. S&P Global Ratings is an American credit rating agency. **S&P Rating Headquarters- New York, USA.**

S&P also said the stable outlook also assumes that the government's fiscal deficit will recede markedly following a multi-year high in fiscal year 2021; Douglas L Peterson- S&P President & CEO.

### **9. FM Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 40th GST council meeting**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 40th GST council meeting through video conferencing. The Council decided on ways to garner funds to compensate states for the revenue loss due to GST implementation. **The Union Cabinet in 2016 approved setting-up of GST Council.**

### **10. India's foreign exchange reserves surge to cross half-a-trillion mark for 1st time**

India's foreign exchange reserves have surged by a massive USD 8.22 billion to cross the half-a-trillion mark for the first time. The reserves rose to USD 501.70 billion for the week ended 5th of June, helped by a whopping rise in foreign currency assets. India's Special Drawing Rights with IMF went up to \$1.44-b.

Foreign currency assets, a major part of the overall reserves, rose by 8.42 billion dollars to 463.63 billion dollars; India's special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund went up by 10 million dollars to 1.44 billion dollars, while the country's reserve position also rose by 120 million dollars to 4.28 billion dollars; **The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969** to supplement its member countries' official reserves. So far SDR 204.2 billion have been allocated to members, including SDR 182.6 billion allocated in 2009 in the wake of the global financial crisis. **The value of the SDR is based on a basket of five currencies—the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling.**

### **11. Indian economy to contract by 4% in 2020-21, forecasts ADB**

Hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Indian economy is expected to contract by 4% during the current financial year, according to the ADB in a supplement to its Asian Development Outlook (ADO).** Countries in 'Developing Asia' to 'barely grow' in 2020. China is expected to grow of 1.8% in 2020 down from 6.1%.

**Growth is expected to rebound by 5% in FY2021. For the countries in Developing Asia, ADB forecasts growth of 0.1% in 2020.** This is down from the 2.2% forecast in April and would be the slowest growth for the region since 1961. Developing Asia' refers to a group of over 40 countries that are members of the ADB.

International rating agencies like Moody's Investors Service, Fitch Rating and S&P Global Ratings have all predicted a 4-5 per cent contraction in India's economic growth rate from April 2020 to March 2021 fiscal. Crisil has said this would be the country's fourth recession since Independence, first since liberalisation, and perhaps the worst to date. Asian Development Bank: It is a regional development bank which is **headquartered Manila, Philippines**. President: Masatsugu Asakawa.

### **12. India becomes 12th largest holder of US govt securities at April end**

India has become the 12th largest holder of US securities at the end of April, with holding worth \$ 157.4- b. After significantly reducing the exposure in March to \$156.5 billion, India marginally hiked the holding by \$ 0.9-b to \$ 157.4-b the next month. **At the end of April, Japan had the maximum exposure.**

Japan remained the country with the maximum exposure at 1.27 trillion dollars, followed by China at 1.1 trillion dollars and the UK at 368.5 billion dollars; India's holding touched a record high of 177.5 billion dollars in February, the same was drastically reduced in March. The exposure stood at 164.3 billion dollars in January.

### **13. Karnataka pegs priority sector credit requirement at Rs 2.55 lakh Cr for FY21**

Karnataka pegged its annual priority sector credit requirement at Rs 2,55,940 Cr for FY 2020-21, up 20%, as compared to previous year's Rs 2,12,517 Cr. As of March 2020, Karnataka has secured 3rd position in India with respect to Mudra loan disbursement. **Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh secured the first & 2nd spots.**

The SLBC meet appreciated the banks for achieving 79.64 per cent under agriculture and allied sector and 170.24 per cent under MSME against targets; According to Canara Bank's Executive Director, A Manimekhalai, under Annual Credit Plan 2019-20, banks have disbursed ₹2,00,118 crore as against the annual target of ₹2,12,517 crore. Priority Sector Credit recorded an achievement of 94.17 per cent during 2019-20.

### **14. First instalment of 15th Finance Commission Grants to RLBs released**

The 15th Finance Commission worked out the total size of the grant to be Rs.60,750 Cr for the period FY 2020-21 which is the highest ever allocation made by the Finance Commission in any single year. Ministry of Panchayati Raj will actively support this. Fund will provide gainful employment to migrant laborers.

The Commission has recommended Grants-in-aid to all tiers of the Panchayati Raj including the Traditional Bodies of Fifth and Sixth Schedule areas, in 28 States, in two parts, namely, **(i) a Basic Grant and (ii) a Tied Grant**. 50 % of the grant will be Basic Grant and 50 % will be the Tied Grant. The basic grants are untied and can be used by RLBs for location-specific felt needs, except for salary or other establishment expenditure. The Tied Grants are to be used for the basic services of (a) sanitation and maintenance of open-defecation free (ODF) status and (b) supply of drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling.

### **15. Moody's sees India's GDP contracting 3.1% in 2020; geopolitical tensions raise uncertainty**

**India's GDP will contract 3.1% in 2020**, according to **Moody's Global Macro Outlook report for June**, which notes that the global economy has started showing signs of life, but the recovery will be long & bumpy. **G20 economies will contract by 4.6% in 2020. India's GDP is seen bouncing back to 6.9 percent in 2021.**

**G20 economies will grow by 5.2 percent in 2021**; Q2 2020 will go down in history as the worst quarter for the global economy since WW-II; The Asian countries are particularly vulnerable to changes in geopolitical dynamics, finds the report highlighting that China's clashes with countries bordering the South China Sea, India suggest geopolitical risks rising for the entire region.

### **16. SEBI relaxes rules for listed companies with stressed assets**

SEBI decided to relax pricing framework under the preferential route and exempted allottees of preferential issues from open offer obligations in such cases with immediate effect. It is meant to ease fundraising for companies with stressed assets. Ajay Tyagi- Chairman, SEBI.

Eligible listed companies having stressed assets will be able to determine pricing of their preferential allotments at not less than the average of the weekly high and low of the volume weighted average prices of the related equity shares during the **two weeks preceding the relevant date.**

### 17. PhonePe launches UPI handle in partnership with ICICI Bank

PhonePe has officially launched '@ibl' handle in partnership with ICICI Bank as part of an effort to diversify into a multi-bank partnership model. The Flipkart-backed payments player had started with Yes Bank and was offering the '@ybl' handle. **Launched in April 2016, UPI was developed by NPCI.**

It is a part of the payment app's effort to get into a multi-bank partnership model to reduce dependence on one bank.

### 18. Govt offers filing of NIL GST statement in form GSTR-1 through SMS

In an effort to ease the GST compliance for over 12 lakh registered taxpayers, the government has provided the facility of filing the NIL statement of GSTR-1 form through SMS, from July 2020 to improve ease of GST compliance, according to Finance Ministry Union Finance Minister: N. Sitharaman; MoS: Anurag Thakur.

The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has already made available the facility to file NIL monthly GSTR-3B return through SMS since 8th June 2020. CBIC said that to initiate the SMS facility, the taxpayers who wish to file Nil statement in their FORM GSTR-1 are to send SMS to 14409.

### 19. Indian economic growth may contract 5% this year: S&P

In its report titled 'Asia-Pacific losses near USD 3 trillion as balance sheet recession looms', **S&P projected the region's economy to shrink by 1.3% in 2020, but grow by 6.9% in 2021.** This implies a loss nearing USD 3 trillion output over these 2 years. S&P Global Ratings HQ: New York, USA.

### 20. Government announces launch of seven-year floating rate savings bonds

Government has announced the launch of seven-year **Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable) scheme commencing from 1st July.** Bonds will enable a person resident in India or Hindu Undivided Family to invest in a taxable bond, without any monetary ceiling. **The interest on the bonds is payable semi-annually.**

The interest on the bonds is payable semi-annually on 1st January and 1st July every year. **The coupon on 1st January 2021 shall be paid at 7.15 percent.**

## National

### 1. Ministry of Tribal Affairs announces inclusion of 23 additional MFP items in MSP list

Ministry of Tribal Affairs headed by Arjun Munda has announced inclusion of 23 additional **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** items in Minimum Support Price (MSP) list. They include Van Tulsi seeds, Van Jeera, Mushroom, Black Rice and Johar Rice among others. Minister of State for Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta.

**MSP is a form of market intervention by the Government to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.** The central government notifies MSPs based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** which works under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' welfare. The MSP fixed for each crop is uniform for the entire country. The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** is responsible for the distribution of food grains throughout the country for the public distribution system.

### 2. My Life, My Yoga: PM launches video blogging contest for citizens

PM Narendra Modi launched a video blogging competition and invited citizens to participate in it during his 'Mann Ki Baat' address to the nation. **The 'My Life, My Yoga' contest, also called Jeevan Yoga is a joint effort by the Ministry of AYUSH & the ICCR. Sixth International Day of Yoga (IDY) – June 21.**

Through the competition, the Ministry of AYUSH and ICCR seeks to raise awareness about Yoga and to inspire people to prepare for and become active participants in the observation of IDY 2020.

### 3. EPFO Pensioners to Get Enhanced Pension

EPFO released Rs 868 crore pension along with Rs 105 cr arrear on account of restoration of commuted value of pension. Commutation is an option given to EPFO pensioners to convert a part of their monthly pension into a lumpsum payment during retirement. Employees Provident Fund (EPFO) has more than 65 lakh pensioners

The Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employee Provident Fund had approved a proposal for the restoration of commuted value of the pension to the pensioners after 15 years of drawing commutation under the EPS 1995 scheme. It is expected to benefit over 6 lakh pensioners in their retirement.

Essentially, on retirement, if the employee opts for commutation of pension, a portion is paid as a lump sum to the pensioner while on the balance the pension begins. In such a case, the amount of pension will be lower than the amount of pension without any commutation. **Now, as per the new pension rules, the original amount of pension after 15 years equal to the same amount as it would have been without commutation.**

### 4. Nitin Gadkari announces development of new Greenfield expressway to Amritsar

The centre has announced the development of a new Greenfield connectivity to Amritsar City from Nakodar via Sultanpur Lodhi, Goindwal Sahib, Khadoor Sahib as part of Delhi-Amritsar Expressway. The road from Amritsar to Gurdaspur to be made signal free. First phase of project to have an investment of Rs 25,000 cr.

Once the project is completed, the travel time from Amritsar to Delhi International airport will reduce by about four hours. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has taken up development of Delhi Amritsar Katra Expressway **under Bharatmala Pariyojana. Bharatmala Pariyojana (Project)** is a centrally sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India.

### 5. PM Modi appoints committee headed by Rajnath Singh for MSME loan scheme implementation

According to the MSME Minister, Nitin Gadkari Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed a **committee headed by Rajnath Singh to resolve any problem in the implementation of the Rs 3 lakh crore collateral-free loan scheme for MSMEs** announced by the FM. Cabinet recently approved the change in the definition of MSME.

Indian Energy Exchange, largest energy exchange in India, has launched its Real-Time Electricity Market platform, with an intent to help discoms to better plan their power requirements. RTM is an endeavour by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

## 6. Indian Energy Exchange launches its Real-Time Electricity Market (RTM) platform

Indian Energy Exchange, largest energy exchange in India, has launched its Real-Time Electricity Market platform, with an intent to help discoms to better plan their power requirements. **RTM is an endeavour by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.** This could help India create a common pool for its neighbours.

An RTM platform, with 48 auction sessions of 15 minutes each in a day, pushes trade closer to the real-time. This, in turn, will help get more green energy such as wind and solar on the national grid, usher in competition and support grid balancing. It assumes importance as India has 34.6 gigawatts (GW) of solar power and 38GW of wind power and runs the world's largest clean energy programme.

**India has set a target of attaining 175 GW in renewable capacity addition by 2022. Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) is the first and largest energy exchange in India providing a nationwide,** automated trading platform for physical delivery of electricity, Renewable Energy Certificates and Energy Saving Certificates. Headquarters: New Delhi. Managing Director & CEO: Rajiv Srivastava.

## 7. DPIIT revises public procurement order to encourage Make in India initiative

Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently revised the public procurement order to encourage Make in India initiative with an aim to enhance income and employment generation in the country. **It will strengthen Atma- Nirbhar Abhiyaan package.**

Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals prescribed minimum 60 per cent for 2020-21, 70 per cent for 2021-23 and 80 per cent local content for 2023-25 respectively of local chemicals and petrochemical contents in public procurement.

## 8. Cabinet approves EGoS, Project Development Cells for attracting investments in India

The cabinet gave its approval for setting up of an Empowered Group of Secretaries & **Project Development Cells (PDCs)** in Ministries/Departments for attracting investments. **It aims to reinforce India's vision of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-2025.** It aims to make India a more investor-friendly nation.

The Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) has the following composition: • **Cabinet Secretary (Chairperson)** • CEO, NITI Aayog (Member) • Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (Member Convenor) • Secretary, Department of Commerce (Member) • Secretary, Department of Revenue (Member) • Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (Member) • Secretary of Department concerned (to be co-opted) A Project Development Cell (PDC) is also approved for the development of investible projects in coordination between the Central Government and State Governments and thereby grow the pipeline of investible projects in India and in turn increase Foreign Direct Investment inflows.

Under the guidance of the Secretary, an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary of each relevant central line Ministry, who will be in charge of the PDC will be tasked to conceptualise, strategize, implement, and disseminate details with respect to investible projects.

## 9. Cabinet approves renaming of Kolkata Port Trust as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Trust

Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi had given its approval to rename **Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port.** The Kolkata Port is the first Major port as well as the only riverine port of the country. Syama Prasad was a politician & barrister. He was the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, predecessor to BJP.

The Kolkata Port came to be governed by a Trust on October 17, 1870, on the appointment of the Commissioners for Improvement of the Port of Calcutta as per Act V of 1870. **Nhava Sheva Port Trust was renamed as Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust by the Government in the year 1989.** The **Tuticorin Port Trust was renamed as V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust** in the year 2011 and the **Ennore Port Limited has been re-named as Kamarajar Port Limited** in the honour of Shri K Kamarajar, eminent freedom fighter and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Recently, in 2017 **Kandla Port was re-named as Deendayal Port.**

## 10. Cabinet approves re-establishing of Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy

Aimed at optimal use of infrastructural facilities & resources, Union Cabinet gave its approval to re-establish Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy as subordinate office **under Ministry of**

**AYUSH** by merging the two central laboratories. The two laboratories were established at Ghaziabad since 1975.

The two central Laboratories are **Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM)** and **Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL)**. The merger is aimed at optimizing the use of infrastructural facilities, technical manpower and financial resources of the three organizations for enhancing the standardization outcomes of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs towards their effective regulation and quality control. Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) is an autonomous body under the aegis of Ministry of AYUSH established since 2010. Consultation in this regard has been done with the Director General Health Services, Drugs Controller General and Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board (ASUDTAB), which is a statutory body under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 meant for advising Central and State Governments in regulatory matters of accelerated shelf-life testing (ASLT) drugs. **Union Minister of AYUSH: Shripad Naik**. Drugs Controller General of India: V G Somani.

### 11. Centre approves amendment to Essential Commodities Act

The Union Cabinet has approved amendment to the six-and-a-half-decade old Essential Commodities Act to deregulate food items, including cereals, pulses, potatoes, oilseeds and onion. This move will transform the farm sector and help raise farmers' income. It was a part of the ₹ 20 crore package announced recently.

In addition, the Cabinet approved '**The Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020**' to ensure barrier-free-trade in agriculture produce. This will help create an ecosystem where farmers and traders can enjoy the freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce.

It will also open more choices for the farmer, reduce market costs and help them in getting better prices. The ordinance also proposes electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically. The ordinance aims to pave way for 'One India, One Agricultural Market'.

The government also approved 'The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Online Ordinance 2020' to empower farmers to engage with processors, aggregators, wholesalers, large retailers and exporters. Essential Commodities Act: **The Essential Commodities Act was enacted in 1955**. It is an act of Parliament of India which was established to ensure the delivery of certain commodities or products, the supply of which if obstructed owing to hoarding or black-marketing would affect the normal life of the people.

The Centre can include new commodities as and when the need arises and take them off the list once the situation improves. Additionally, the government can also fix the maximum retail price (MRP) of any packaged product that it declares an "essential commodity". The list of items under the Act includes drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products.

### 12. Govt launches SWADES to conduct skill mapping of citizens returning under VBM

The Union Government has launched a new initiative **SWADES- Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support** to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission. It is a joint initiative of MOSDAE, MoCA, MEA. Union Minister of Skill Development: Mahendra Nath Pandey.

SWADES aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience to tap into and fulfil the demand of Indian and foreign companies. The collected information will be shared with the companies for suitable placement opportunities in the country. **The returning citizens are required to fill up an online SWADES Skills Card.**

### 13. Power minister R K Singh launches pan-India real-time market in electricity

Power and renewable energy minister R K Singh launched the pan-India real-time market (RTM) in electricity. RTM is an organized market platform to enable the buyers and sellers pan-India to meet their energy requirement closer to real-time of operation. It makes India amongst a few markets in the world having it.

RTM is aimed to bring required flexibility in the market to provide real-time balance while ensuring optimal utilisation of the available surplus capacity in the system and also to help manage demand pattern diversity in the country with an organized market. **RTM would be for every 30 minutes in a day** based on double-sided closed auction with a uniform price.



**India has set an ambitious target of 175 GW renewable energy capacity by 2022**, which is driving accelerated renewable penetration pan-India. According to the ministry, RTM would help to mitigate challenges to the grid management due to intermittent and variable nature of renewable energy generation and therefore, help to integrate higher quantum of renewable energy resources into the grid.

#### **14. Expert committees by MIB recommend creation of umbrella body with four cells**

Expert committees constituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on rationalisation of film media units and review of autonomous bodies have recommended the creation of an umbrella body with four cells that will be headed by professionals. **Chairman of the Committee – Bimal Julka.**

**The committees were appointed in 2018** under Julka for rationalisation and professionalisation of institutes related to film activities. In its report, it said that it has found overlapping activities undertaken by multiple institutes and has suggested an umbrella configuration with four broad verticals -- production, festival, heritage and knowledge -- under which institutes should work. The report recommended the creation of a film promotion fund to fund independent filmmakers for making commercial films.

#### **15. CSIR lab to organize nationwide summer research training programme**

An online programme (CSIR-SRTP-2020) is to be organised by faculties & mentors from 38 CSIR laboratories spread across the country. This was announced by the director of CSIR-NEIST Dr G Narahari Sastry. **NEIST– North East Institute for Science & Technology. CSIR NEIST is located in Jorhat, Assam.**

The online programme has been designed for students pursuing such programmes as BSc, MSc, BTech/B.E., MCA, M.Tech, and M. Pharma and with excellent academic record throughout. The programme is also open to faculties from various colleges affiliated to UGC/AICTE/State/Central/Private Universities.

#### **16. Weather disasters caused 50 lakh internal displacements in 2019**

India had one in five of all internal displacements caused by disasters across the world in 2019, mostly caused by floods, cyclones & drought, as per **State of the Environment report**. There were more than 50 lakh internal displacements in India last year. 19 major extreme weather events claimed 1,357 lives last year.

**The report was published by the Centre for Science and Environment.**

#### **17. National awareness campaign on Prevention of Human, Animal Mortality on Highways launched**

Union Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the **UNDP** national awareness campaign on 'Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways' via video conference on the occasion of World Environment Day. **UNDP HQ: New York, USA.**

According to the Ministry, India witnesses nearly five lakh road accidents every year, in which about 1.5 lakh lives are lost. **The Ministry has targeted to bring down these figures by 20 - 25% by March 2021.**

#### **18. WCD Ministry constitutes task force to examine issues related to lowering Maternal Mortality Rate**

**Task force is headed by Jaya Jaitly** & it will submit its report by 31st July. The task Force will examine the issues related to Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate, Total Fertility Rate, Sex Ratio at Birth, Child Sex Ratio (CSR). Union WCD Minister: Smriti Irani.

It is a **10-member task force** and it will submit its report by July 31.

#### **19. Railways registers best ever safety record during April 2019 to March 2020**

Railways has registered the best safety record during the period between April 2019 to March 2020. The remarkable feat has been achieved for the first time in the year 2019-20 since the introduction of the Railway System in the country 166 years ago. Union Minister of Railways- Piyush Goyal.

Record number of over one thousand 270 Manned Level Crossings have been eliminated in 2019-20 compared to 631 in the previous year. This is the highest ever elimination of level crossings; On 16 April 1853, the **country's first passenger train set off on a 34km journey between Bombay's Bori Bunder station and Thane**; In 1845, along with Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Hon. Jaganath Shunkerseth formed the Indian Railway Association. **Lord Dalhousie is known as the father of Indian Railways.** He was a British officer and "Governor General of India".

**The first Railway Workshop was established at Jamalpur**, near Munger, Bihar, in 1862; In 1864, the north got its first station - the Delhi Junction; The **Darjeeling Steam Tramway** (later the Darjeeling

Himalayan Railway) operated on Narrow Gauge, and was accorded World Heritage Status in 1999, the first Railway in Asia to get such a standing.

**The Nilgiri Mountain Railway** is among the first, and still outstanding, examples of a Hill Passenger Railway; Manufactured in 1855, EIR-22, better known as **Fairy Queen is one of the earliest designs of steam locomotives** - a simple, two cylinder, broad gauge, British design; In 1895 the first steam locomotive was manufactured completely in India at the Ajmer Workshop.

**Pamban Bridge is the railway bridge which connects Rameswaram on Pamban Island to mainland India.** Opened on 24 February 1914, it was India's first sea bridge; **National Rail Museum, the first rail museum in India**, was established in 1977 at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

## 20. India to launch first-ever Coal Trading Exchange

India is planning to open its first coal trading exchange on the basis of commodity or energy exchanges. The coal trading exchange will be an electronic system based that will provide an online platform to various traders in the market. **CIL has set a production target of 1-billion tons by 2024.**

**India has the third-largest deposit of coal;** Coal Exchange will be the first and the only trading platform for the organized sale of coal in India; The exchange will deal with proposed gas exchanges, power bourses, or commodity exchanges. This will probably lead to the end of Coal India's new **Fuel Supply Agreements (FSA)** regime; Government plans to bring in commercial mining activities in the coal sector on a revenue-sharing basis; **The government is planning to bring the country's coal imports to zero by 2023-24;** Coal Minister- Pralhad Joshi.

## 21. FDI in food processing rises 44 pc to \$904.7 mn in 2019-20

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the food processing sector rose 44 percent to USD 904.7 million in the financial year 2019-20. Currently, 100 percent FDI in the food processing sector is allowed through the automatic route.

### Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries.

The sector had received FDI worth USD 628.24 million in 2018-19 and USD 904.90 million in the financial year 2017-18.

## 22. Govt constitutes Empowered Group of Secretaries to facilitate investment in country

The Union Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Secretaries headed by Cabinet Secretary to facilitate investment in the country. The empowered group will assist investment in key sectors of the economy by identifying potential investors. **Cabinet Secretary of India- Rajiv Gauba.**

## 23. NHAI becomes 1st construction sector organisation to go fully digital

In view of the novel coronavirus outbreak, the NHAI has gone fully digital with cloud-based '**Data Lake Software**', becoming the first such construction sector organisation. Software will forecast the delays, likely disputes and give advance alerts. NHAI Chairman- Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.

National Highways Authority of India was set up by an act of the Parliament, NHAI Act, 1988; NHAI is mandated to implement National Highways Development Project (NHDP) which is India's largest ever Highways Project in a phased manner; **NHAI is headquarters at New Delhi;** Minister of Road Transport & Highways- Nitin Jairam Gadkari.

## 24. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches Indian Gas Exchange

Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the **Indian Gas Exchange**, which is the 1st nationwide online delivery-based gas trading platform. IGX has been incorporated as a **wholly owned subsidiary of the IEX**- India's energy market platform. IEX is regulated by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

**Indian Energy Exchange Limited is the first and largest energy exchange in India** providing a nationwide, automated trading platform for physical delivery of electricity, Renewable Energy Certificates and Energy Saving Certificates; The Exchange is a publicly listed company with NSE and BSE; With the launch of IGX, India has joined the club of progressive economies.

## 25. Trustees of PM CARES appoint 'SARC & Associates' as auditor of fund

Trustees of the **Prime Minister's Citizens Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund**, appointed 'SARC & Associates, Chartered Accountants, New Delhi' as the auditors for three years. Sunil Kumar Gupta heads the firm. Firm was the auditor of PM's National Relief Fund in 2019.

**Prime Minister, as chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the fund**, has the power to nominate three trustees to the board. They shall be eminent persons in the field of **research, health, science, social work, law, public administration or philanthropy**.

The fund is administered on an honorary basis by a joint secretary (administration) in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) who is secretary to the fund. He is assisted on honorary basis by an officer of the rank of director/deputy secretary (administration) in the PMO. The PMO provides administrative and secretarial support to the trustees for management and administration of the trust, as may be required by the trustees.

**The head office of the fund is the PMO**, South Block, New Delhi; So far, Rs 3,100 crore has been allocated from the fund — Rs 2,000 crore for supply of 50,000 'Made-in India' ventilators to government hospitals run by the Centre, or states and union territories, Rs 1,000 crore for the care of migrant labourers and Rs 100 crore for vaccine development.

## 26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch auction of 41 Coal Mines

PM Narendra Modi will launch auction of 41 Coal Mines for Commercial Mining. The commencement of this auction process of coal mines for sale of coal is part of the series of announcements made by the Government under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. **Coal Ministry along with FICCI is launching the process.**

A two-stage electronic auction process is being adopted for allocation of the coal mines; This will create employment generation for more than two lakh 80 thousand people. It is also expected to generate approximately 33 thousand crore rupees of capital investment in the country over next 5 to 7 years. These mines will contribute 20 thousand crore rupees revenues annually to the state governments: Union Minister of Coal & Mines Pralhad Joshi.

## 27. Harsh Vardhan launches India's first mobile laboratory for COVID-19 testing

Union min. Harsh Vardhan launched a mobile lab for coronavirus testing which can be deployed in rural areas and help in promoting last-mile testing. The mobile lab, also called **I-Lab or Infectious Diseases Diagnostic Lab** can run 50 RT-PCR tests in a day. It can also conduct up to 200 ELISA tests in a day.

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology along with the Andhra Pradesh Med-tech Zone (AMTZ) has initiated **DBT-AMTZ COMManD (COVID-19 Med-tech Manufacturing Development)** consortia to address the shortage of critical healthcare technologies in India and move progressively towards a stage of self-sufficiency. AMTZ is Asia's first medical equipment manufacturing ecosystem, uniquely dedicated to medical technology and supported by various ministries. The mobile testing is an outcome of this initiative.

The I-LAB has been created in a record eight days by the Andhra Pradesh Med-tech Zone Team with the support of DBT. Department of Biotechnology Secretary: Dr Renu Swarup. AMTZ: Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone Limited is an enterprise under the Government of Andhra Pradesh is dedicated for Medical Device Manufacturing. MD & CEO of AMTZ: Dr Jitendra Sharma.

## 28. Ministry of Tourism organises weeklong celebrations for International Day of Yoga

Ministry of Tourism's week-long celebrations of International Day of Yoga began on 15th June with a series of activities undertaken and launch of social media activities focussed on the subject of Yoga under the theme "**Yoga @ home & Yoga with family**". It is an attempt to represent India's rich heritage of Yoga.

## 29. SIDBI engaged as implementation agency to give special micro-credit facility to street vendors

An MoU was signed between Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to engage **SIDBI as the Implementation Agency for PM Street Vendor's Atma-Nirbhar Nidhi** -a Special Micro-Credit Facility for Street Vendors. SIDBI to implement the scheme under the guidance of MoHUA.

It will also manage the credit guarantee to the lending institutions through **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)**. It will develop and maintain a customized and integrated IT

Platform providing end-to-end solutions, including documentation of all the processes and workflows for an end-to-end solution, through a Portal and a Mobile App, to ensure engagement and information flow between Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Lending Institutions, Digital Payment Aggregators and other stakeholders.

With a view to ensure effective implementation, SIDBI shall also provide a Project Management Unit (PMU), comprising of domain experts in training/ capacity building, project and platform management, Information Education and Communication (IEC), banking, NBFC and MFI sectors etc., for the period of PM SVANidhi i.e. up to March 2022. PM SAVNidhi: It was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** to provide affordable Working Capital loan to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to lockdown.

This scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh Street Vendors. Under the Scheme, the **vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000**, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year. On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an **interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited** to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on a quarterly basis. There will be no penalty on early repayment of the loan. **The scheme promotes digital transactions through cashback incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.**

### **30. Atal Innovation Mission partners with Coal India Ltd to boost its Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives**

Coal India Limited partnered with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog to support the mission's innovation & entrepreneurship initiatives across the country. A Statement of Intent of a strategic partnership between AIM and Coal India Limited was also signed. **Chairman and MD, Coal India Limited: Mr Pramod Agarwal.**

### **31. Rs. 2,000 Cr allocated by PM CARES Fund for supply of 50,000 'Made-in-India' ventilators**

The PM-CARES Fund Trust has allocated Rs. 2,000 crores for supply of 50,000 'Made-in-India' ventilators to government run COVID hospitals in all States and UTs. In addition, **Rs. 1,000 crores have been allocated for the welfare of migrant labourers.** Larger portion of the fund was allocated to Maharashtra.

Bharat Electronics Limited manufactures 30,000 ventilators; **UP & TN received fund next to Maharashtra-** Rs. 181 crores were released to Maharashtra, Rs. 103 crores to Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 83 crores to Tamil Nadu. Grants were also realised to Gujarat, Delhi, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka; The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund was created on 28 March 2020, following the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

### **32. Cabinet approves setting up of Rs 15,000 crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund**

The Union Cabinet decided to set up Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund. The government will **provide 4% interest subvention to eligible beneficiaries from the Aspirational Districts and 3% for beneficiaries from other Districts.** UM of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Giriraj Singh.

The AHIDF approved in the Cabinet meeting would incentive infrastructure investments in dairy, meat processing and animal feed plants. The eligible beneficiaries under the scheme would be Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), MSMEs, Section 8 Companies, Private Companies and individual entrepreneur with **only 10% margin money contribution by them.** The balance 90% would be the loan component to be made available to them by scheduled banks.

### **33. Cabinet approves participation of private sector in space activities**

The Cabinet approved participation of the private sector in the entire range of space activities, including planetary exploration missions. These reforms will allow ISRO to focus more on research and development activities, new technologies, etc. The Department of Space comes under the PMO.

The newly created **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)** will provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure.

### 34. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to set up taskforce for 'Golden Hour' accident claims

MoRTH will set up a ten-member task force to work out the modalities of funding motor accident victims' treatment during the crucial 'Golden Hour'. The **NHA will be the nodal agency for coordinating payments** made to the hospitals that treat such patients. The golden hour is the first hour after an accident occurs.

The proposed task force will be assigned the responsibility of working out the modalities of claim settlement in such cases. Members of the insurance regulatory body, road ministry, insurance companies as well as NHA will be part of the task force.

### 35. Union Minister Tomar launches web portal of Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan

Union Minister for Rural Development NS Tomar launched the web portal of the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan through video conferencing in New Delhi. Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan is the massive employment generation-cum-rural infrastructure creation programme. **It is a Rs 50,000 Cr worth project to be seen in 116 districts.**

MGNREGA with an allocation of 1 lakh 1 thousand 500 crore rupees during the current financial year is the **greatest employment generator for unskilled persons.**

### 36. NITI Aayog launches behaviour change campaign 'navigating the new normal'

The campaign has two parts. 1st is a web portal containing resources informed by behavioural science & the use of nudge/social norms theory, related to behavioural norms during the pandemic & 2nd is a media campaign focused on the wearing of masks. **NITI Aayog CEO: Amitabh Kant.**

The campaign and website were launched in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Centre for Social and Behavioural Change (CSBC), Ashoka University, and the Ministries of Health and WCD.

### 37. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the annual Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2020.

In-State TB Index, **Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh & Himachal Pradesh were the top 3 best-performing states for TB control** under the category of states with 50 lakh population. **Tripura & Nagaland were best performing in category of less than 50 lakh population.** It also revealed that Tobacco consumption is rising among Indian

The salient feature of this year is that for the first time Central TB Division (CTD) introduced a quarterly ranking on TB elimination efforts by all the states and UTs. Treatment linkage of drug-resistant TB patients, HIV testing of tuberculosis patients, nutritional assistance to in the form of **NIKSHAY Poshan Yojana** (DBT), Universal Drug Susceptibility Testing (UDST) coverage among notified patients, TB Preventive Therapy (TPT) coverage and financial expenditure are included in the assessment criteria.

### 38. Arjun Munda launches tribes India products on GeM and new website of TRIFED

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched through a video conference the tribes India products on Government e-Marketplace - GeM and a new website of TRIFED. TRIBES India store on Govt eMarketplace will help in facilitating purchases by govt. **Govt e-Marketplace portal was launched in 2016.**

TRIFED's VanDhan Integrated Information Network facilitates the pooling of all information pertaining to forest dwellers engaged in Minimum Support Price Operations and its VanDhan Yojana linking them up to Village haats and Warehouses.

### 39. Government bans 59 mobile apps prejudicial to sovereignty & integrity of India

Electronics and IT Ministry said in a release that Government has banned 59 mobile apps which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order. The banned apps include TikTok, Helo and WeChat. **Electronics & IT Minister- Ravi Shankar Prasad.**

Chinese mobiles have an almost 65 per cent share in the local smartphone market; From toys, cosmetics, makeup and handbags to home appliances, pharma, auto components, and steel, China exports more than 3,000 products to India.

## International

### 1. IMF approves 732 million emergency assistance to Bangladesh for COVID-19

IMF Executive Board approved an emergency financial assistance worth **dollar 732 million for Bangladesh** to address the COVID-19 pandemic in the country and to meet its urgent Balance of payment and fiscal needs caused due to reduced exports and remittances. **Earlier ADB provided 500 million assistance to Bangladesh.**

The assistance is provided under the **Rapid Credit Facility and Rapid Financing Instrument provisions of the IMF**. The money will help Bangladesh to meet its health, social protection and macro-stabilization measures. This is the largest amount of loan assistance for Bangladesh to deal with the Covid-19 fallout. The Ready-Made Garments (RMG) sector contributes more than 80 per cent to the total export earning of Bangladesh employing more than 4 million people. **Foreign remittance is the second-highest Foreign Exchange earner for Bangladesh.**

### 2. WEF Davos summit to focus on 'The Great Reset' in 2021

World Economic Forum will adopt a new twin-summit format for its next annual Davos meeting in Jan 2021, bringing together leaders from across the globe for in-person as well as virtual dialogues with a theme of **'The Great Reset'**. **It will be the 51st meeting.** WEF Founder & Executive Chairman: Klaus Schwab.

'The Great Reset' is a commitment to jointly and urgently build the foundations of economic and social systems for a more fair, sustainable and resilient future. The gathering of the world's rich and powerful, held every year in the Swiss ski resort town, will also open its doors virtually for everyone across the world online and through a network of more than 400 hubs globally.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING: This **annual meeting in Davos** – Klosters engages the world's top leaders in collaborative activities to shape the global, regional and industry agendas at the beginning of each year. It will bring together 3,000 participants from around the world, and aim to give concrete meaning to "stakeholder capitalism", assist governments and international institutions in tracking progress towards the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, and facilitate discussions on technology and trade governance. **Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland.**

### 3. WHO Launches 'COVID-19 Technology Access Pool' For Equitable Access to Life-saving Tech

**World Health Organisation launched 'COVID-19 Technology Access Pool'** after at least 37 countries jointly appealed to the World Health Organisation for common ownership of vaccines, medicines and other diagnostic tools to combat the global health crisis. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

WHO has also issued a 'Solidarity Call to Action' urging other stakeholders of the UN health agency to join the cause.

### 4. India pledges USD 15 million to global vaccines alliance, Gavi

PM Modi pledged **USD 15 million as India's contribution to the vaccine's alliance GAVI at the Global Vaccine Summit hosted by the UK**. It was to urge nations around the world to pledge to fund for vaccinations to protect the world from outbreaks of diseases. **The UK is the largest contributor with 1.65 billion pounds.**

Modi was among around 35 heads of state and government participants, including US President Donald Trump, to virtually join the conference aimed at raising USD 7.4 billion to immunise further 300 million children in the world's poorest countries by 2025. About GAVI: Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunisation in poor countries. **Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.** CEO: Dr Seth Berkley.

### 5. 'Kesari' reaches Port Victoria in Seychelles to hand over COVID related essential medicines under 'Mission Sagar'

As part of Mission Sagar, Indian Naval Ship Kesari reached Port Victoria, Seychelles for handing over COVID related essential medicines. Under Mission Sagar, India is providing assistance to friendly foreign countries in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. **Seychelles Capital- Victoria, Currency- Seychellois rupee.**

Mission SAGAR resonates Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of **Security And Growth for All in the Region**; Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles along with La Reunion are part of Indian Ocean Commission. India has recently become an observer to the Commission.

This is the first time that a single assistance mission is covering all island countries of the western Indian Ocean in one go- except Sri Lanka, for which a second set of medicines have been airlifted; **SAGAR was launched in 2015**. It is India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

#### **6. To counter China, senior lawmakers from eight democracies unite to form new coalition**

Senior lawmakers from eight democracies including the US have united to counter Communist China. IPAC is 'an international cross-party group of legislators working towards reform on how democratic countries approach China'. **IPAC: Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China.**

Countries part of this coalition includes the **US, Germany, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Norway, as well as members of the European parliament**; IPAC is an international cross-party group of legislators working towards reform on how democratic countries approach China; It bats for a free, open, and rules-based international order that supports human dignity; IPAC's aim is to foster deeper collaboration between like-minded legislators.

#### **7. G20 pledge over \$21 billion to fight COVID-19**

Member countries of the Group of 20 pledged more than USD21 billion to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. G20 countries injected more than USD5 trillion into the global economy in late March to fight the virus and its economic impacts. **Saudi Arabia assumed the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2019.**

The Group of Twenty, or the G20, is the premier forum for international economic cooperation; Originated in 1999 at the level of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, the G20 gathered for high-level discussions on macro-financial issues; **The first G20 Leaders' Summit took place in Washington D.C. in November 2008.**

#### **8. Adani Green Energy Ltd bags world's largest solar contract worth \$6 billion**

Adani Green Energy Ltd has bagged the world's largest solar bid entailing building a photovoltaic (PV) power plant of 8,000 MW and setting up a domestic solar panel manufacturing capacity of 2,000 MW, envisaging a total investment of roughly \$6 billion. **Adani Green Energy Headquarters- Ahmedabad, Gujarat.**

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

**India was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for a two-year term** after winning 184 votes in the 193-member General Assembly. **Along with India, Ireland, Mexico, and Norway** also won the UN Security Council elections. **Council comprises 5 permanent & 10 non-permanent members.**

India was a candidate for a non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term; India's two year term will begin on January 1, 2021; **This is the eighth time that India will sit at the UN high-table**; India's Permanent Representative to the UN; India's overall objective during the fresh tenure in the UN Security Council will be the achievement of **N.O.R.M.S. which stands for New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System**; **Five permanent members of the council are China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.**

#### **10. Turkey's Volkan Bozkir elected president of 75th UN General Assembly**

**UNGA elected Turkish diplomat Volkan Bozkir to be its president** ahead of the **75th General Debate in September**. He is currently serving as a Justice and Development Party lawmaker from Istanbul and head of the Turkish Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. **Bozkir is the first Turkish national to head General Assembly.**

#### **11. World Bank approves dollar 1.05 billion to Bangladesh for jobs and economic recovery**

**The World Bank has approved dollar 1.05 billion for three projects in Bangladesh** to create quality jobs and accelerate economic recovery in the wake of the Corona pandemic. This is the second of the programme-based series of three projects for Bangladesh. **Bangladesh has one of the largest IDA programs over \$13 billion.**

The first project worth a dollar 500 million called **Private Investment and Digital Entrepreneurship (PRIDE) project** will strengthen social and environmental standards in selected economic zones and software technology parks in Bangladesh. It will create over 1.5 lakh jobs of which a percentage will be reserved for women.

The project will also establish Dhaka's first digital entrepreneurship hub in the Janata Software Technology Park. It will help Bangladesh to attract \$2 billion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The \$295 million **Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project** will establish an integrated, cloud-computing digital platform for all government agencies and improve cyber-security. It will enable the government to operate virtually and deliver critical public services to citizens and businesses in times of future crisis. This is likely to create 1 lakh jobs, train 1 lakh youth in digital technologies and establish a digital leadership academy.

The project will also help the small and medium enterprises and strategic industries to prepare for the fourth industrial revolution. The \$250 million **Second Programmatic Jobs Development Policy Credit** will create fiscal space to support the government's response to the COVID-19 crisis.

### **12. Bangladesh to get Zero Tariff facility on 97 percent goods exported to China under WTO rule**

Bangladesh will start receiving zero tariff facility on 97% of its goods exported to China under the **Duty-Free Quota Free (DFQF) scheme of WTO** for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Bangladesh will get this facility on 5161 additional items from July 1. Duty-free export facility is part of Duty-Free Quota Free scheme.

### **13. Exim Bank extends USD 20.1 mn credit line to Nicaragua govt**

**Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 20.10 million to the government of Nicaragua** for the reconstruction of Aldo Chavarria Hospital. Exim Bank so far has extended 4 LoCs to Nicaragua on behalf of Indian govt. Exim Bank has now in place 261 LOCs, covering 62 countries.

Projects covered under the LOCs include the supply of equipment for building two substations and reconstruction of transmission lines, building a new substation, expansion of the existing substations and reconstruction of a hospital. **NICARAGUA:** Nicaragua, set between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, is a Central American nation known for its dramatic terrain of lakes, volcanoes and beaches. **Capital: Managua. Currency: Nicaraguan Cordoba.**

### **14. FATF: Indian officials attend virtual EAG plenary meet**

Indian officials, including representatives from enforcement agencies, attended the virtual 32nd special Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) plenary meeting, under the aegis of the Financial Action Task Force. The FATF's virtual plenary meet will be held on June 24.

**The EAG is a regional body comprising nine countries: India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.** It is an associate member of the FATF. **FATF:** The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.

The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society. Since 2000, FATF has maintained the **FATF blacklist (formally called the "Call for action") and the FATF grey list (formally called the "Other monitored jurisdictions").**

Xiangmin Liu of the People's Republic of China assumed the position of President of the FATF on 1 July 2019. **Headquarters: Paris, France.**

### **15. Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurates Virtual India Pavilion at Cannes Film Market 2020**

Indian Participation at Cannes Film Festival 2020- held in France- began with the e-inauguration of the Virtual India Pavilion by Honourable Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar. The Festival will be held from 22 - 26 June 2020. **Cannes was called as the International Film Festival until 2003.**

Cannes Film Festival is an annual film festival held in Cannes, France, which previews new films of all genres, including documentaries, from all around the world. **Founded in 1946, the invitation-only festival is held annually.**



### 16. WHO launches 'PSA' using popular comedy cartoon star Mr Bean

**WHO in partnership with Project Everyone and Tiger Aspect Productions** launched a 'PSA' using popular comedy cartoon star, Mr Bean. Wash hands, keep your distance physical distancing and show kindness, reminds Mr Bean, voiced by actor Rowan Atkins. PSA: Public Service Announcement. **WHO HQ: Geneva, Switzerland.**

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus: Director-General of the WHO; The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health; **WHO was formed on 7 April 1948.**

### 17. India joins 'Alliance for Poverty Eradication' at UN as founding member

India has become a founding member of an Alliance for Poverty Eradication at the UN, launched by the President of the General Assembly, aimed at focussing on efforts to boost global economy in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. **President of UN General Assembly: Tijjani MD Bande.**

According to United Nations Development Programme, between 2006-2016 over 271 million people in India moved out of poverty, recording the fastest reductions in the multidimensional poverty index values during the period.

### 18. IMF approves an emergency financial assistance worth USD 356.5 million for Myanmar

The IMF Executive board has approved an emergency financial assistance worth 356.5 million dollars for Myanmar to address challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic. Assistance is approved under the Rapid Credit Facility and Rapid Financing Instrument. **Myanmar Capital- Naypyitaw, Currency- Kyat.**

Assistance will also support the government's plans to boost spending especially on health and social safety nets; **Myanmar President- U Win Myint.**

### 19. India - France Foreign Secretary level consultations held through video conference

India- France Foreign Secretary level consultations were held through video conference. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and Secretary General of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, Francois Delattre reviewed the cooperation. **France Capital- Paris, Currency- Euro.**

India welcomed France's joining of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and France welcomed India's participation in the UN Security Council in 2021-22; **French President- Emmanuel Macron.**

## State

### 1. Gujarat is the first state to complete the migration of workers to their home state through Shramik Special trains

Gujarat has run 1017 special trains, which ferried 15.18 lakh workers home. It is the first state to complete the sending back of migrant workers safely to their destinations. At least 77% of the total 15.18 Lakh total migrant workers sent to UP and Bihar. **Gujarat also topped states in running Shramik Special Trains.**

Union Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal.

### 2. UP becomes first state to prepare one lakh beds for COVID-19 patients

**Uttar Pradesh became first state to prepare 1 Lakh beds for COVID-19 patients**, with each of 75 districts having dedicated beds for patients in the respective facilities. The beds in the hospitals are classified into 3 categories-Level 1, level 2 & level 3. Uttar Pradesh shares borders with nine other states.

The hospitals catering to level one patients will have facilities for oxygen support, those catering to level two patients will have a few ventilators in addition to oxygen support. Level three hospitals will have ventilator support as well as ICU facilities for the patients, besides having provisions for dialysis.

### 3. Telangana 6th Formation Day

In 2014, the state of **Telangana was formed as the 29th state** after it was carved out of Andhra Pradesh. Since then, Telangana Formation day is celebrated annually on June 2. This year, the state celebrates the 6th anniversary of Telangana Formation day. **Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao was the first CM of the state.**

Telangana Capital: Hyderabad, Number of Districts: 33, Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan.

### 4. Telangana CM inaugurates Kondapochamma Reservoir in Siddipet

Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao inaugurated a pump house in Siddipet district to lift Godavari water to a reservoir which is at a height of 618 meters from the source -Godavari river. This is to facilitate areas which did not have irrigation facilities. The river and the reservoir are 200 kilometres away.

The water will flow from the reservoir through gravity to surrounding districts of Medak, Siddipet, Sangareddy, Yadadri-Bhongir and Medchal Malkajgiri. The Rs 3,500 pump house and **Kondapochamma Sagar Reservoir** is located 210 km away from the Godavari and is at a height of 618 metres.

### 5. Kerala govt to roll out K-FON free internet project by December 2020

Kerala CM, Pinarayi Vijayan has announced that **Kerala Fibre Optic Network Project (K-FON) project that will provide free internet access to the poor will roll out by December 2020.** This will bring internet connectivity to hospitals, schools and offices. **Kerala is the first state to India to implement the scheme.**

The project has been implemented by **Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited and Kerala State Electricity Board.** Optical fibre cables were laid across the state using KSEB posts. The consortium for the project comprises of public sector companies, RailTel and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and private companies such as LS Cables and SRIT.

### 6. Chhattisgarh govt launches 'Spandan Campaign' to check suicide and fratricide

Chhattisgarh Police have launched a special campaign to check mental stress and depression among their personnel by conducting interactive programmes and arranging counselling sessions, music and yoga therapies for them. **Chhattisgarh CM: Bhupesh Baghel;** Governor: Anusuiya Uikay.

### 7. Gairsain declared summer capital of Uttarakhand

**Gairsain in Chamoli district was declared as the summer capital of Uttarakhand.** It is expected that the declaration of a summer capital in the region will expedite development of the hilly areas. **Dehradun is the existing temporary capital of Uttarakhand.** Uttarakhand CM- Trivendra Singh Rawat, Governor- Baby Rani Maury

Even when **Uttarakhand was carved out as a separate state from Uttar Pradesh on November 9, 2000,** statehood activists had contended that Gairsain was best suited to be the capital of the mountainous state since it was between both Kumaon and Garhwal regions. But it was Dehradun in the plains that was named the temporary capital; Former CM Vijay Bahuguna had laid foundation stone of a Vidhan Sabha building in Gairsain in January 2013.

## 8. Madhya Pradesh tops wheat procurement in country with 1.27 crore tonnes

**Madhya Pradesh has emerged the top state in the country in wheat procurement on support prices.**

The state government has purchased over 1.27 crore tonnes from farmers. It is almost equal to the 33 per cent of total wheat procured in the country. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister- Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Out of the total wheat procured, 118 lakh metric tonnes have been safely stored, which is almost 95 per cent of the quantity purchased. This time, 81 per cent of farmers who were registered came to procurement centres to sell wheat, which is a record too; So far, an amount of Rs 20 thousand 253 crore has been deposited in the accounts of 14 lakh 19 thousand farmers; The amount of wheat procurement was directly transferred to the accounts of farmers by the state government in an average of 7 days.

## 9. Andhra Pradesh launches India's first online waste exchange

**AP CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launched India's 1st online waste exchange for safe disposal of toxic wastes & promoting recycling & reuse.** The platform, to be managed by the AP Environment Management Corporation facilitates 100% safe disposal of toxic wastes. APEMC was set up to handle industrial wastes.

The platform will track, scrutinise and audit the waste besides encouraging proper utilisation of waste and promoting **6R's- reduce, reuse, recycle, refurbish, redesign and re-manufacturing** of waste items; Andhra Pradesh Environment Management Corporation Limited is a Private incorporated on 13 January 2020. It is classified as State Govt company.

## 10. 'Bande Utkala Janani' gets state anthem status in Odisha

Odisha Cabinet approved a proposal to give state anthem status to '**Bande Utkala Janani**'. This **poem was written by Kantakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra** in 1912. It was the opening song of Utkal Sammilani during the fight for the formation of a separate province. Odisha CM- Naveen Patnaik, Governor- Ganeshi Lal.

The song will be sung at all government programmes, sessions of the legislative assembly and other specially organised government programs, schools, colleges, everyone who will be present will pay homage to this state music by standing, however elderly and disabled persons, children and pregnant women are exempted.

## 11. Uttar Pradesh govt amends 65 years old cow slaughter act of state

The **Uttar Pradesh government has amended the 65 years old cow slaughter act** of state and made stringent provisions in a new ordinance to stop cow slaughter in the state. The State Cabinet has approved Cow-Slaughter Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. **Punishments: Maximum 10-year jail term and Rs 5 lakh of fine.**

**The original act was created on 1955;** In case someone does such a crime again after conviction then he will be punished with double penalty provided for this offense. Section 5 of the ordinance suggests punishment for transportation of bovine animals; If someone puts the life of a cow in danger by not providing food and water with the intention of endangering their life, rigorous imprisonment may be awarded for at least 1 year, which may extend to 7 years; According to the proposed legislation, the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the captured cows will be recovered from the owner of the vehicle for a period of one year or until the cow or bovine is released; UP Chief Minister- Yogi Adityanath.

## 12. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 18th Bench of CAT for UTs of J&K, Ladakh

Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh today inaugurated the 18th Bench of **Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)** for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh through a Video Conference. **Abolition of Article 370 and 35A was done on 5th August 2019.**

Three important agencies of Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) are CAT, Central Information Commission and Central Vigilance Commission; The CAT was established **under Article 323 of the Constitution**. The tribunal will adjudicate complaints regarding conditions of service of public servants and also recruitment of posts associated with the affairs of the UTs; The CAT has been conferred with the powers to exercise itself as a High Court. This has been done under Section 17 of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985. The allowances and salaries of the employees and officers of the Tribunal are to be specified by the Central Government; Jammu and Kashmir lieutenant governor Girish Chandra Murmu; Ladakh Governor- RK Mathur.

### 13. UP govt to launch state level sample collection campaign

UP government is set to launch a state level sample collection campaign to find out the level of corona infection among the different sections of society. The campaign will run for one week in which various clusters of the society will be tested. **There are 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh.**

### 14. UP govt successfully installs Tru NAAT machines in all districts

UP Govt has successfully installed **Tru NAAT machines** in all 75 districts. It will help in getting early results of the tests & with the help of them ANC, Pre-surgical & severe acute respiratory infections SARI Cases may be tested for COVID at all districts. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh-Yogi Adityanath.

### 15. Hyderabad City Security Council along with Hyderabad City Police launches a programme 'STREE' for women

Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) along with Hyderabad City Police launched '**She Triumphs through Respect, Equality, and Empowerment (STREE)**', a programme to support and empower women victims of domestic violence and abuse. International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8th of March.

Telangana Chief Minister- Chandrashekar Rao; Governor- Tamilisai Soundararajan.

### 16. Ghar Ghar Nigrani app launched in Punjab for COVID-19 house-to-house surveillance

The Punjab government launched a mobile application aimed at undertaking house to house surveillance to contain the spread of COVID-19. The app, '**Ghar ghar nigrani**', was launched by Chief Minister **Amarinder Singh** through video conference. **People above 30 years** will be surveyed as part of the drive.

### 17. Delhi LG forms panel to help tackle spread of Covid-19

Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal appointed a **six-member advisory committee** to suggest effective measures to the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to tackle the Covid-19 outbreak in the city and to guide the augmentation of hospital beds. **Committee is constituted under the section 17 of DDMA Act.**

### 18. J&K: Govt launches J&K Poultry Policy 2020

J&K launched J&K Poultry Policy, 2020/Operational Guidelines to promote establishment of poultry units in the region & announced a dedicated UT allocation of **Rs. 50 Cr as subsidy per annum** for establishment of broiler/layer farms & other allied activities. Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor- Girish Chandra Murmu.

### 19. Odisha's unique festival Raja Parba begins

**Raja Parba, Odisha's 3-day unique festival** celebrating the onset of monsoon & the earth's womanhood begins. As a mark of respect towards the earth during her menstruation days, all agricultural works, like ploughing, sowing are suspended for the 3 days. Raja Sankranti is the first day of the Ashara month.

### 20. CM Uddhav Thackeray and Dr Harshvardhan e-launched 'I-FLOWS' a flood warning system in Mumbai

Maharashtra's CM Uddhav Thackeray & Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan launched an Integrated Flood Warning System called '**I-FLOWS-Mumbai**'. It is a **JV between the Ministry of Earth Sciences and BMC**. BMC- Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

The warning system will be able to relay alerts of possible flood-prone areas anywhere between **six to 72 hours in advance**. **Mumbai is only the second city in the country after Chennai to get this system.**

Similar systems are being developed for Bengaluru and Kolkata; The primary source for the system is the amount of rainfall, but with Mumbai being a coastal city, the system also factors in tidal waves and storm tides for its flood assessments.

**The system comprises seven modules-** Data Assimilation, Flood, Inundation, Vulnerability, Risk, Dissemination Module and Decision Support System; The system incorporates weather models from the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), India Meteorological Department (IMD), field data from the rain gauge network of 165 stations set up by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), BMC and IMD.

## 21. Kerala Start-ties up with SCTIMST to launch BIN-19 and UV SPOT

Kerala Start-up in association with Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST) has developed **BIN-19 & UV SPOT devices** to help in combating Covid-19. BIN is an IoT based device used for collecting & disinfecting used Facemask. **UV SPOT can disinfect a broad range of microorganisms.**

UV SPOT is a Ultra Violet (UV) light-based device that can disinfect a broad range of microorganisms using its internal reflective surfaces and UVC Lamp; It is mainly used for disposing of the contaminated or used face-mask and for reusing the UVC stable metallic products; IoT Features: Auto Sanitizer Dispenser (remotely alerts if it's empty), Mobile Application to navigate/find Bin-19, Web Portal for Status Alerts, Power ON/OFF alerts and Box open alerts.

## 22. Odisha becomes 1st state in India to receive ISO certification for tribal hostels

**Odisha has become the 1st state in India to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students.** ST&SC Welfare Department had earlier launched the **Mission Suvidya** to provide uniform standards of infrastructure, amenities & human resources. Odisha CM- Naveen Patnaik.

In the first phase, hostels of Keonjhar and Sambalpur districts were taken up for assessment; Odisha Governor- Ganeshi Lal.

## 23. Thaawarchand Gehlot to inaugurate Composite Regional Centre for persons with disabilities in Ranchi

Social Justice & Empowerment Minister, Thaawarchand Gehlot will inaugurate Composite Regional Centre in Ranchi through video conferencing amid COVID 19 pandemic. CRC will implement various schemes of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. **Centre shall operate as an extended arm of SVNIRTAR, Cuttack.**

Centre will contribute towards the vision of "Sabkaa Saath, Sabkaa Vikaas, Sabkaa Vishwaas" of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India; Chief Minister of Jharkhand- Hemant Soren; Governor- Droupadi Murmu.

## 24. Manipur CM inaugurates three projects undertaken by PHED

In Manipur, State Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated three projects undertaken by State **Public Health Engineering Department (PHED)** through video conferencing from the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Imphal. **NDB has sanctioned Rs. 3000 crores to provide potable water.**

Out of the three projects, one is **Sewage Treatment Plant Phase-I** located in Imphal West district and it is the only such plant in the whole North East India. It has a capacity of 27 MLD and constructed with a project cost of Rs. 345.43 crore; The remaining two projects are **Integrated Water Supply Projects at Imphal East and Imphal West respectively**; The New Development Bank, formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states; **NDB is headquartered at Shanghai, China**; New Development Bank has elected Marcos Troyjo from Brazil as its new president, as the term of KV Kamath comes to an end.

## 25. Grand Anicut Dam declared open by Tamil Nadu ministers

The **Grand Anicut Dam, on the Cauvery river** was formally declared open by Tamil Nadu state ministers. The move is expected to ensure adequate availability of water for mitigating close to three and a half lakh hectares of farmland in the Delta region. It is under the administrative jurisdiction of Thanjavoor dt.

**Thanjavoor is often described as the 'rice bowl of Tamil Nadu'**; Grand Anicut is locally known as the Kallanai. The sowing for the Kuruvai crops depends mainly upon the opening of Kallanai; Tamil Nadu CM- Edappadi K. Palaniswami; Governor- Banwarilal Purohit.

## 26. Uttar Pradesh govt decides to adopt scheme of Flatted Factory Model

UP decided to adopt the scheme of Flatted Factory Model to ensure easy availability of land for industries, & in turn, generate employment. Policy will allow the owner of an industrial land of at least 5 acres to develop 1/4th of it as flatted factory. **Criteria: Minimum structure of 4 stores, including ground floor.**

In a high level meeting, it was decided by **Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA)** that flatted factories that means multi-storeyed buildings in which multiple non-polluting units can operate will be allowed; The model can be adopted only for non-polluting manufacturing unit permitted by industrial development authority like manufacturing of readymade garments, handicrafts.

### 27. Uttar Pradesh to set up 'Invest UP' to boost investment in the state

After consultations with multinational companies, UP has set a nodal agency 'Invest UP' headed by the CM to streamline the state's investment approval & other procedures. This is the 1st time in UP that a special ministry has been set up for investment. **UP plans to clear investment related proposals within 15 days.**

Invest UP will be headed by the chief minister and the cabinet minister for MSME, Investment & Export, and cabinet minister for Industrial Development will be deputies. It will have an executive board which will be headed by the chief of Department of Infrastructure and Industrial Development.

### 28. Jammu & Kashmir govt abolishes recruitment rule that allowed just basic pay

Under the Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) 202, **also known as J&K Special Recruitment Rules 2015**, government appointees used to get only basic pay for the **first 5 years**. J&K government's decision to abolish the rule has been welcomed by various parties. J&K Lieutenant Governor- G C Murmu.

Fresh recruitments would not be made as per the SRO-202, while the probation period of old appointees was reduced from five to two years.

### 29. Delhi to get world's biggest Covid-19 facility, the size of 22 football fields

**Delhi is all set to get the world's largest Coronavirus care facility** to help in the treatment of Covid-19 disease patients. Government will convert the Radha Soami Spiritua Centre into a COVID-19 care holding more than 200 halls with 10,000 beds. Delhi Lieutenant Governor- Anil Bajjal.

The complex will be fully ready by June 30 for the treatment of the patients; The centre will also have provisions for accommodation of doctors.

### 30. Rajasthan government to start 'Smart Classroom' in 100 schools in collaboration with PGCIL

**Rajasthan government has collaborated with Power Grid Corporation of India Limited**, and Educational Consultants India Limited to start 'Smart Classrooms'. The state government has signed MoU, to set up classrooms in 100 government schools in Rajasthan. Classrooms will cost a total amount of Rs 1 crore 85 lakh.

Rajasthan Chief Minister- Ashok Gehlot; Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra.

### 31. UP becomes top state in country to provide employment to workers under MGNREGA

**Uttar Pradesh has become the top state in the country to provide employment to the workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)**. Uttar Pradesh provided employment to more than 57 lakh workers under MGNREGA. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath.

According to the data released by officials, as on 15 June, 57 lakh 12975 workers got employment in around 57 thousand village panchayats of the state which is 18% of the total work generated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country.

The state has generated 7.93 crore man-days and the government will provide jobs to 10 lakhs more workers in the coming days. The employment push from the state government under MGNREGA comes as a major positive development at a time when more than 30 lakh migrant labourers have returned from other states to UP. MNREGA is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Centrally sponsored schemes are jointly funded by the Centre and states.

### 32. Centre sanctions Rs 190 Cr for augmentation of healthcare facilities in North Eastern States

In the wake of COVID pandemic, Ministry of DoNER has decided to sanction 190 crore rupees for augmentation of healthcare facility in the eight North Eastern States, particularly for developing infrastructure for management of infectious diseases. Minister of Development of N-E Region: Jitendra Singh.

The **concept of Aspirational District was based on 49 key indicators**, of which the status of healthcare was an important component; Ministry of DoNER has given the North Eastern States the option to send proposals for health related projects to be funded up to over 500 crore rupees from North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme; Dr Singh also complemented the Aspirational Districts of Goalpara and Dhubri in Assam for having achieved Ayushman Bharat coverage of nearly 100 and 85 per cent.

### 33. KVIC starts reviving ancient glory of Pokhran potteries

Seeking to restore the lost glory of the once-most famous pottery of **Pokhran, a small town in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan** the KVIC distributed 80 electric potter wheels to 80 potter families in Pokhran which has a rich heritage in terracotta products. **KVIC Chairman- Vinai Kumar Saxena.**

Manually it takes 5 days to prepare 800 kg mud for pottery making; The potters brilliantly depicted the “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” and “International Yoga Day” – through their pottery art; The main objective of **Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana** is to bring back the potters’ community to the mainstream; Under the scheme, the KVIC also provides equipment like blunger and pug mills for mixing clay for making pottery products.

The machines have eliminated drudgery from the process of pottery making and resulted in higher income of potters by 7 to 8 times; **Pokhran is one of the aspirational districts identified by the Niti Ayog.**

### 34. J&K govt approves Rs 5,136 Cr district capex budget for FY’21

The J&K government has approved **Rs 5,136.40 crore district capex budget for FY 2020-21** with a huge 67 per cent hike. This is the first district capex budget of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir approved by Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu. Previous year allocation was 3,079.54 crore.

Murmu directed for formulation of initial preparation of documents as per the resource position including preparation of panchayat level and block level plans and further consolidation at district level by District Development Commissioners (DDCs).

### 35. MCL plans to invest Rs 60,000 crore in Odisha in five years

**Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited** will invest Rs 60,000 crore in Odisha by 2025-26. The company would invest in procurement of heavy machinery, besides setting-up of 1600 MW (2x800) super critical thermal power plant. Rs 31,000 Cr is for mining & social infrastructure development.

Out of 3 new MDO projects, one will be at Ib Valley Coalfield of Jharsuguda district. The other 2 projects will be at Talcher coalfield of Angul district. **At Sundergarh district, a supercritical power plant of 2X800 MW planned** by the company at an estimated cost of Rs 11,363 crore.

### 36. No Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya Temple for the first time in recorded history

For the first time in recorded history, the annual Ambubachi rituals at the sacred **Kamakhya temple in Guwahati** are wearing a deserted look. The biggest religious congregation of eastern India has been cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The temple as per history was built by King Narakasura. Located atop the Nilachal Hills, **Kamakhya temple is one of the 51 Shakti Peeths in the country.** The Ambubachi Mela is an annual fair which is held at the temple premises is the celebration of the annual mensuration course of the goddess Maa Kamakhya.

### 37. World famous Rath Yatra begins in Puri amid restrictions in wake of Coronavirus pandemic

The rituals for the most celebrated and the world-famous Rath Yatra have started. The Pahandi ritual has also begun. The chariots of the Lords Jagannath & Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra will be pulled only by the selective servitors and police officials. Jagannath Rath jatra at Puri is an Odia festival.

The rituals for the world-famous Rath Yatra have started with Mangal Aarati followed by Mailam, Tadaplagi, Rosha hom, Aabakasha and Surya puja. The Pahandi ritual has also begun; **It is a 10-day festival;** Odisha Chief Minister- Naveen Patnaik.

### 38. UP’s Kushinagar airport gets 'international' status

In a decision with an eye to boost tourism, the government decided to designate the **Kushinagar airport in Uttar Pradesh** as an international airport. Kushinagar is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana. Union I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar.

The Buddhist circuit is a key pilgrimage destination for 530 million practicing Buddhists across the globe. according to official figures, on any given day, around 200-300 devotees from Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, Burma, offer their prayers at Kushinagar.

### 39. PM Modi launches 'Atma Nirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Abhiyan' for migrant workers

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Atma Nirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Abhiyan. **It is launched in 31 districts of the state.** These districts have more than 25,000 returnee migrant workers, including 5 aspirational districts also. Loan amount of 5900 Cr will be distributed to 2.40 lakh units.

**Motto- 'ROZGAR KA NAYA ABHIYAN, HAR SHRAMIK-KAMGAR KO KAM'**; Around 5 thousand artists will get tool kits through Vishwakarma Shram Samman yojna under one district one product scheme of state; Uttar Pradesh CM- Yogi Adityanath.

### 40. Maharashtra: State gives nod for automatic, accelerated permission to FDI of Rs 50 crore & above

Maharashtra State Officials from the Industries department said state has decided to provide '**Maha Parwana**' - automatic or accelerated permissions to industries through a single-window system within 48 hours after receiving the complete application. Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari; CM: Uddhav Thackeray.

### 41. IKDRC, Ahmedabad commissions fully automated liquid oxygen tank

In Gujarat, the **Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre, Ahmedabad** has commissioned a fully automated liquid oxygen tank in its premises. The institute started releasing uninterrupted oxygen supply in hospital wards from a 10000 ltr capacity tank. Director of IKDRC- Dr. Vineet Mishra.

Earlier, the institute depended on cylinder deliveries for oxygen requirement, but installation of a tank would ensure a hassle-free supply.

### 42. MP govt to launch 'Kill Corona' campaign from July 1

**Madhya Pradesh government will launch a 'Kill Corona' campaign** from July 1 to control the spread of coronavirus in the state. Under the campaign, a door-to-door survey will be conducted, and tests would also be done on citizens for other diseases. MP Chief Minister- Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

**Campaign will be conducted for 15 days;** Madhya Pradesh Governor- Lalji Tandon; MP Capital- Bhopal.

### 43. Madhya Pradesh launches 'Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya' campaign

In order to maintain the academic regularity of students during the Corona crisis, the State Education Center has prepared a **Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya** means My Home-My school scheme, in which children will be taught at home in a school-like environment. Madhya Pradesh CM- Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Madhya Pradesh Capital-Bhopal; Governor- Lalji Tandon.

### 44. Mizoram celebrates 34th anniversary of Mizo peace accord on June 30

In Mizoram, the people are celebrating the 34th anniversary of the signing of the historic Mizo peace accord on 30 June. The peace accord was signed between the Union government and the erstwhile underground Mizo National Front (MNF) on **30th June in 1986**. Mizoram CM and MNF President- Zoramthanga.

Mizoram Governor- P S Sreedharan Pillai; Capital- Aizawl; Mizoram became the 23rd state of India on February 20, 1987; **Known as Remna Ni in local parlance**, the signatories of the accord were Laldenga, leader of MNF, R D Pradhan, Union Home Secretary, and Lalkhama, Mizoram Chief Secretary.

### 45. 'Project Platina': Maharashtra claims largest Plasma Therapy trial

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray launched world's largest plasma therapy trials for COVID-19 - **Project Platina** - aimed at creating robust data for treating the disease for which no specific line of treatment exists. Project will be free of cost. The trials will be conducted in 17 medical colleges.

Plasma therapy, or **Convalescent Plasma Therapy (CPT)** has proved to be useful in fighting other coronavirus diseases, such as SARS and MERS, and its use against COVID-19 has shown encouraging results on patients across the country and the world.

### 46. Kejriwal government to set up India's first plasma bank for covid-19 treatment

**In a 1st for India, the AAP- led Delhi government launched a plasma bank for treating covid-19 patients.** Delhi was one of the 1st states to give permission for plasma therapy in April. Facility is to be set up at the Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences. Kerala had announced plans to set up a plasma bank.

The Maharashtra government, too, kicked off a trial for plasma therapy with the launch of 'Project Platina', which will be conducted in 17 medical colleges in the state.



#### 47. Government approves additional Rs 1,691 crore for highway works in J&K, Uttarakhand for 2020-21

The government has approved an additional **Rs 1,691 crore for highway works by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand** for 2020-21. Of this, Rs 1,351.10 crore has been sanctioned to BRO for road works in Jammu & Kashmir. A total of Rs 340 Cr ceiling has been approved for Uttarakhand.

In addition, it has also given nod for additional sanction of Rs 71 crore for highway works by the state's Public Works Department in Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu; Besides, it has also enhanced the total ceiling to Rs 1,955 crore for highways work for Nagaland under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) from the existing Rs 1,081 crore.

NHIDCL, a fully-owned company of the Government of India, under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, is engaged in building, maintaining and upgrading national highways and strategic roads, including interconnecting roads in parts of the country which share international boundaries with neighbouring countries.

#### 48. Uttarakhand develops India's First Lichen Park to Conserve Jurassic Era Plant

With an aim to protect, conserve & cultivate lichen, **Uttarakhand Forest Department has developed India's first lichen park** in Munsiyari in Pithoragarh dt. The development of the park, which is spread across an area of 1.5 acres, began in the year 2019. **Lichen is formed by a symbiotic relationship b/w algae & fungus.**

The forest department has sent a proposal to the state government for securing permission to open the park for the public and researchers; Lichen is also a key ingredient of the famous Hyderabadi Biryani. Further, lichens are used to prepare indigenous perfumes in Kannauj.

## Sports

### 1. Virat Kohli only cricketer in Forbes' 2020 list of world's highest paid athletes

India Skipper Virat Kohli is the only cricketer to feature in Forbes' list of the top 100 highest paid athletes in the world for the year 2020. **Kohli is ranked at number 66** with estimated earnings of \$26 million. **Roger Federer is the top** paid athlete. Two women were in the top 100, both tennis players.

**Swiss great Roger Federer has become the first tennis player to top Forbes' list of highest-paid athletes.** With an estimated \$106.3 million earned over the past 12 months, Federer edged out Portuguese football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo from the top spot.

**The second, third and fourth positions are taken respectively by Ronaldo, Messi and Neymar.** Japanese tennis star **Naomi Osaka is the highest-paid female athlete** with \$37.4 million. She, however, comes only 29th in the overall rankings. US tennis great Serena Williams comes 33rd with \$36 million. **Basketball players led all sports with 35 players among the top 100.**

### 2. Long-distance runner Kiranjeet Kaur banned for 4 years by World Athletics' anti-doping body

**Long – Distance runner Kiranjeet Kaur**, who won the tata Steel Kolkata 25K among the Indians last year, has been handed a four-year ban by World Athletics' anti-doping body (WADA) for returning positive for a banned substance in a test conducted in Doha. **World Anti-Doping Agency Headquarters: Montreal, Canada.**

### 3. SAI to launch Khelo India e-Pathshala, an online coaching programme for grassroot level

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has launched the Khelo India e-Pathshala in association with National Sports Federations (NSF) with an aim to provide first-ever national-level open online coaching and education programme for grassroots-level athletes. The programme will cover 21 sporting disciplines.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Union Minister of Tribal Affairs and Archery Association of India president Arjun Munda inaugurated the programme through a webinar. The e-learning programme will feature eminent athletes demonstrating technical skills and interacting with young athletes about techniques to improve their overall game.

### 4. Kiren Rijiju launches Khelo India Community Coach Development Programme

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has launched the Khelo India Community Programme for 15,000 physical education teachers and coaches around the country. **Community Coach Development is a 25-day programme.** It aims to boost India to becoming a sporting nation. **Sports Ministry has collaborated with the Ministry of HRD.**

### 5. India named hosts of 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup

Asian Football Confederation has awarded the hosting rights of the **2022 Women's Asian Cup to India for the first time since 1979.** The decision was taken at the AFC Women's Football Committee meeting. It will likely be held in the second half of the year. **In the 1979 edition, India had finished as runners-up.**

The tournament will feature 12 teams, expanded from the previous slot of eight teams. India qualifies directly as hosts. **The event will also serve as the final qualification tournament for the 2023 Fifa Women's World Cup.** AIFF - All India Football Federation General Secretary: Kaushal Das.

### 6. 2020 World Archery Field Championships postponed to 2022

2020 World Archery Field Championships in Yankton, USA, have been postponed until 2022 which was due to take place in September this year at the NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Centre, the world's largest dedicated archery facility. **World Archery Federation HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland.**

### 7. Fit India to launch special films promoting 10 indigenous sports of India under Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat

Sports Ministry's flagship programme Fit India is joining hands with the Department of School Education and Literacy, to launch a series of special films promoting 10 indigenous sports of India under the Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat initiative. **Kiren Rijiju is the current Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports.**

The 10 sports to be covered in the series are Kho-kho, Gatka, Kalaripayttu, Mallakhamb, Thang-Ta, Sqay, Kabaddi, Roll Ball, Tug of War and Shooting Ball; The indigenous sports of India cover a mix of very old

sports, for example, Kalaripayattu, and some as recent as Roll Ball which has gained a lot of popularity and is now played in at least 50 countries spread over 5 continents.

**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat was announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel;** Fit India Movement was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 29 August, 2019; Fit India Movement is a nation-wide campaign that aims at encouraging people to include physical activities and sports in their everyday lives.

#### 8. India's 800m runner Gomathi handed four-year ban for doping

India's Gomathi Marimuthu will be stripped off her 2019 Asian Athletics Championships gold medal after she was handed a four-year ban by the Athletics Integrity Unit for testing positive for a banned substance. She is a 30-year-old runner from Tamil Nadu. **Athletics Integrity Unit Headquarters- Monaco.**

The titles, rankings, points and prizes won by Gomathi from 18th March 2019 to 17th May 2019 will be forfeited and her results will be annulled.

#### 9. Doping: Former European high jump champ Alexander Shustov of Russia banned

Former European **high jump champion Alexander Shustov** has been banned for 4 years for doping in the latest case from previous years to hit the Russian team, the Court of Arbitration for Sport said. He won the gold medal at the European championships- 2010. **CAS is based in Lausanne, Switzerland.**

Shustov's ban was dated from June 5, and his results were disqualified for a period from 2013 to 2017; The 35-year-old Shustov has not competed since 2016, according to World Athletics records; The Court of Arbitration for Sport is an international quasi-judicial body established to settle disputes related to sport through arbitration.

#### 10. Former world champion boxer Oleksandr Gvozdyk retires

The former **world light heavyweight boxing champion from Ukrain, Oleksandr Gvozdyk has retired.** Gvozdyk won the WBC title in December 2018 when he knocked out Adonis Stevenson, who had held the belt for five years. Gvozdyk also won a bronze medal in the 2012 Olympics.

#### 11. Belgium on top, India remain at 108 in latest FIFA rankings

**India has maintained their 108th spot in the latest FIFA world rankings** revealed for June. **Belgium remain at the summit** ahead of France and Brazil, who complete the podium, while England and Uruguay continue to occupy fourth and fifth, respectively. India has 1187 points and have not lost or gained any.

Lying in wait behind them are, in descending order, Croatia, Portugal, Spain, Argentina and Colombia; India, **coached by Croatian Igor Stimac**, is virtually out of the reckoning for a berth in the next round of the qualifiers as they have just three points from five matches and stay in the fourth position of Group E with just Bangladesh below them in the five-team group; **The next world FIFA ranking will be published on July 16.**

#### 12. Sports Ministry is to establish Khelo India State Centres of Excellence

The Sports Ministry is all set to establish Khelo India State Centres of Excellence **under the Khelo India Scheme.** One such centre will be identified in each State and Union Territory with an aim to create a robust sporting ecosystem in the entire country. Youth Affairs and Sports Minister- Kiren Rijiju.

The State and Union Territory will run the centre and build capacity to turn it into the world-class sporting facility. They will be responsible for all aspects of management of the centre including, boarding, lodging and maintenance, while funds for expert coaches, supporting staff, equipment's, infrastructure will be extended through the Khelo India Scheme.

#### 13. Aizawl's Rajiv Gandhi Stadium to be upgraded as KISCE under Khelo India Scheme

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju announced that **Aizawl's Rajiv Gandhi Stadium** to be upgraded as Khelo India State Centre of Excellence under Khelo India Scheme. Ministry plans to establish one KISCE in each state and UT to create a robust sporting ecosystem. It is a platform for multiplying existing talents in the region.

In the first leg, the state-owned facilities in **Karnataka, Odisha, Kerala, Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland** have been selected by the ministry. The centre will be given a grant based on a comprehensive gap analysis study that will finalise the amount as per the requirement.

#### 14. Sports Ministry to establish 1000 district-level Khelo India centres to engage past champions in training

Govt. decided to establish **1000 Khelo India Centres (KIC)** at district level across India to tap into the expertise of past sporting champions for grassroot-level training of athletes & to ensure a sustained source of income for them in the sports ecosystem Union Sports Minister: Kiren Rijiju.

These centres will either be run by a past champion or have them as coaches.

#### 15. National champion Niki Poonacha elected to ITF panel

Reigning national champion Niki Poonacha has been elected to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) men's player panel and will represent the Asia-Oceania zone along with Ti Chen of Chinese Taipei. **Men's panel is headed by Mark Woodforde. International Tennis Federation (ITF) Headquarters: London, UK.**

Aldin Setkic and Francesco Vilardo were elected from Europe, while Juan Pablo Paz and Jose Bendeck were elected to represent South America. **The ITF also has a women's player panel with Akgul Amanmuradova of Uzbekistan from Asia.**

#### 16. WWE announces The Undertaker's retirement

Veteran wrestler The Undertaker allegedly has announced his retirement from the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) and this time it seems legit. The Undertaker fought his last match against AJ Styles at WrestleMania 36. **The Undertaker's Real Name is Mark "William" Calaway.**

The Undertaker, who joined the WWE in 1990, made his first major appearance at the Survivor Series; World Wrestling Entertainment is an American integrated media and entertainment company that is primarily known for professional wrestling.

#### 17. Wasim Jaffer appointed head coach of Uttarakhand

Former India Test opener **Wasim Jaffer has been appointed as the head coach of Uttarakhand cricket team** for the forthcoming domestic season. In 2018, Uttarakhand played the Ranji Trophy for the first time with K. Bhaskar Pillai as its coach. Unmukt Chand captain of Uttarakhand cricket team.

#### 18. Australia New Zealand to co-host 2023 Women's World Cup

**Australia and New Zealand will co-host the 2023 Women's World Cup.** The island neighbours beat Colombia 22-13 in a vote by the FIFA Council. Launched in 1991, the Women's World Cup has never been hosted in South America. FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

The 2023 tournament will be the first time a World Cup for men or women will be shared across two continental bodies, and the **first co-hosted women's edition.**

#### 19. Liverpool wins 2019-20 English Premier League title

**Liverpool were crowned Premier League champions** without kicking a ball as Chelsea's 2-1 win over Manchester City ended the Reds' 30-year wait to win the English title. They sealed the 19th league title for the club. **Fenway Sports Group owns Liverpool.**

Liverpool, who are now one title behind Manchester United's English record haul of 20, are on course to beat Manchester City's record points total of 100 set in 2017/18.

#### 20. Cricketer Clare Connor to be first female MCC president in 233 years

Former England women's captain **Clare Connor is to become the first female president of Marylebone Cricket Club** in its 233-year history. Current incumbent Kumar Sangakkara, the first non-British MCC president, nominated Connor via video link. **MCC owns the famous Lord's Cricket Ground.**

Connor made her international debut for England at the young age of 19 before she took over the captaincy role and first led the national side during their clash against Australia in 2001.

#### 21. Argentina youth Luka Romero of Mallorca becomes youngest La Liga player in history

Luka Romero made La Liga history as he became the youngest player to play when he was substituted on for Mallorca. He became the youngest player ever at 15 years, 219 days to play in La Liga. **La Liga is a division of the Spanish football league system.**

Romero beat the record held for 81 years by **Francisco Bao Rodriguez, known as 'Sansón'**, who played on December 31, 1939 aged 15 and 255 days for Celta Vigo against Sevilla.

## Agreements

### 1. Ircan inks pact with NIIFL, Ayana Power to explore opportunities in solar energy

**Ircan International Ltd has inked a pact with NIIFL and Ayana Renewable Power** for exploring opportunities in the solar energy sector. NIIFL and Ircan will evaluate strategic partnerships across infrastructure projects and execute solar energy projects. NIIFL MD and CEO - Sujoy Bose.

Ircan International is a Miniratna (Category - I) Schedule A Public Sector Enterprise and a leading turnkey construction company in the public sector.

### 2. DBS Bank partners with TCIL for real time payments to truck drivers

Transport Corporation of India Ltd truck drivers to receive an instant credit into their bank account, which they can then swipe at terminals or withdraw using ATMs. The solution has been set up under the aegis of National Payments Corporation of India. **DBS Bank Headquarters: Singapore.**

**DBS RAPID (Real-time APIs by DBS)** and UPI payments, provides a seamless integration with the company's **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)** system.

### 3. Facebook signs a global licensing deal with music label Saregama

**Facebook has struck a global licensing deal with Saregama** to bolster the library of its music products across its flagship social networking platform and Instagram. Through this partnership, the users will be able to add songs to their Facebook profile. Saregama claims to offer songs in over 25 languages.

This partnership will allow users to add the label's music across various formats like videos, stories via music stickers, and other creative content on Facebook and Instagram. Facebook had earlier signed similar deals with three of India's top music labels including **T-Series, Zee Music Company, and Yash Raj Films.**

Saregama, which is among India's oldest music labels, had also signed a licensing deal with **Spotify**, enabling the music streaming service to offer the label's catalogue on its platform.

### 4. EESL, GAIL India sign MoU for "trigeneration" project

**GAIL India & Energy Efficiency Services** signed an MoU for development of "trigeneration" projects in India. Under the MOU, GAIL & EESL shall jointly undertake studies & if found viable, 50:50 joint venture will be incorporated for undertaking projects. It involves natural gas-fired generators to produce electricity.

### 5. Mastercard, Axis Bank and Worldline launch Soft POS to addresses the needs of SMEs

Mastercard, Axis Bank & Worldline launched Soft POS to become the **first financial payments service in India to transform smartphones into merchant Point of Sale terminals.** Soft POS provides a cost-effective card acceptance solution for micro-merchants. **Mastercard HQ: New York, USA.**

### 6. Tech Mahindra signs UN Global Compact Initiative to reduce emissions

Tech Mahindra, a provider of digital transformation, consulting and business reengineering services signed a joint declaration with UN Global Compact urging governments to align their COVID-19 recovery efforts with the latest climate. **Carbon Price of \$10/ton CO2 has also been implemented by company.**

**Tech Mahindra has also set targets to increase the renewable source of energy to 50% by 2025.** Tech Mahindra has joined 155 global companies in calling for policies that will build resilience against future shocks by supporting efforts to hold **global temperature rise to within 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels,** in line with reaching net-zero emissions well before 2050. CP Gurnani: MD & CEO, Tech Mahindra

### 7. CSIR and Atal Innovation Mission sign a Letter of Intent to foster Innovation in India

CSIR & Atal Innovation Mission sign a Letter of Intent to foster Innovation. This will support world class start-ups through CSIR Incubators under AIM initiatives and jointly work on new models of innovation, including setting up of CSIR Innovation Parks. **AIM is launched by the NITI Aayog.**

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country; **Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE)** – to promote research, innovation and competitiveness of Indian start-ups and small enterprises including Micro, Small, and Medium enterprises; **CSIR is headquartered in New Delhi.**

## 8. Jharkhand signs MoU with BRO

**Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren** has permitted the Border Roads Organization to employ more than 11,800 workers from the state for critical national projects, including projects near China border in Ladakh, after getting a written assurance about their welfare. **BRO Headquarters- New Delhi.**

Jharkhand is also set to sign a first-of-its-kind memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the BRO for ensuring the welfare of workers in all recruitments in the future; The 11, 815 workers that the BRO had requested for recruitment are needed for **Operation Vijayak in Ladakh (about 8,000 workers required), Project Shivalik in Uttarakhand, Project Deepak in Himachal Pradesh, Project Beacon in Jammu and Kashmir.**

The permission given is on the condition that the BRO has to register as an employer under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979, and do direct recruitment of all workers from Jharkhand instead of the system of 'Mates'; Tribal workers from the Santhal Pargana of the state have been at the forefront to build the nation's frontiers since the early 1970s; The chief minister is also contemplating creating a special medical insurance coverage of Rs 10-15 lakh for each worker, over and above what is being proposed by the BRO.

## 9. ISRO signs MoU with ARIES To tackle space debris

With the increasing concerns over space debris, the ISRO recently signed an MoU with the Nainital-based **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)** for cooperation in the field of astrophysics and **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)**. Kailasavadivoo Sivan is the ISRO Chairman.

This MoU will pave the way for future collaborations between ISRO and ARIES in establishing optical telescope observational facilities for space object tracking, R&D studies in space weather, astrophysics, and Near Earth Object (NEO); **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences is a leading research institute in Nainital, Uttarakhand** which specializes in Astronomy, Astrophysics and Atmospheric Sciences; It was formed on 20 April 1954; ISRO was formed in 1969 with a vision to develop and harness space technology in national development, while pursuing planetary exploration and space science research; ISRO replaced its predecessor, **INCOSPAR (Indian National Committee for Space Research)**, established in 1962 by India's first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and scientist Vikram Sarabhai, considered amongst the founding fathers of Indian space program.

## 10. Wipro and IBM collaborate to assist customers embark on a secure hybrid cloud journey

**Wipro announced a collaboration with IBM** to assist Wipro customers embark on a seamless and secure hybrid cloud journey. Customers will have remote access to IBM and Red Hat solutions, designed to help them scale their technology investments. **Wipro IBM Novus Lounge centre is in Bengaluru.**

Wipro IBM Novus Lounge is a dedicated innovation center. It will offer a comprehensive suite of solutions leveraging cloud, artificial intelligence, machine learning and Internet of Things capabilities to foster innovation for enterprises, developers and start-ups; Customers will have remote access to IBM and Red Hat solutions, designed to help them scale their technology investments for improved experience and business agility with connected insights; Thierry Delaporte is the CEO and MD of Wipro; **Wipro Headquarters- Bangalore;** IBM CEO Arvind Krishna; IBM Headquarters- New York, USA.

## 11. Recykal in pact with UNDP, HCCB for plastic waste management

**Recykal**, a digital technology company in the waste management space, has partnered with **United Nations Development Programme and HCCB** for Project Prithvi, a joint initiative for developing sustainable plastic waste management practices in the country. HCCB: Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages.

As part of this partnership, Recykal will leverage its cloud applications, mobile applications to raise consumer awareness on segregation and recycling; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) **was formed in 1965** to help countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable human development. UNDP is headed by an administrator who oversees a 36-member Executive Board representing both developing and developed countries. **It is headquartered in New York City; HCCB is headquartered at Bengaluru; Recykal is headquartered at Hyderabad.**

## 12. NFL has started tying up with ITI to train youth in various trade

To give thrust to the Skill India initiative, **NFL under the Department of Fertilizers** has started tying up with ITI located near to its plants to train youth in various trades so as to enhance the chances of their employability in heavy & process industry. ITI- Industrial Training Institutes.

The Nangal plant of the company in Punjab has signed an MoU with ITI, Nangal **to train youth in 12 trades**. The students will be skilled under Dual System of Training Scheme under which they will learn theoretical skills in the institute and on-the-job training in NFL Nangal plant; ITI, Nangal is one of the oldest institute in Punjab; National Fertilizers Limited has five gas based Ammonia-Urea plants viz. Nangal & Bathinda plants in Punjab, Panipat plant in Haryana and two plants at Vijapur at District Guna, in Madhya Pradesh.

### 13. CSIR-IHBT partners with Himachal Pradesh to boost saffron, hing production

To meet the demand of saffron and hing (asafoetida) in the country the Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology and the Department of Agriculture, Himachal Pradesh, have forged partnership based on their mutual strengths to increase the production. **CSIR-IHBT is located in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh.**

The Palampur-located CSIR-IHBT Institute has introduced six accessions of heeng from Iran through the **National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi**, and standardized its production protocols under Indian conditions; A state-of-the-art tissue-culture lab will be established for large-scale production of quality planting material of these crops.

### 14. Empays Payment Systems, Mastercard partner to enable contact-free ATM cash withdrawals

Empays Payment Systems India Pvt Ltd, has announced a partnership with Mastercard in a bid to launch Cardless ATM powered by Mastercard in India. As a part of this alliance, Empays will be upgrading the basic technology behind the **IMT Payment System**. Michael Miebach, President/CEO, MasterCard; HQ-New York.

**'Cardless ATM powered by Mastercard'** will enable users to digitally locate the nearest enabled ATM and initiate a withdrawal by simply scanning a QR code on the mobile phone, using their banking app. It will be allowing users to withdraw cash safely, especially during current times of COVID-19; Ravi Rajagopalan- Founder and CEO of Empays Payment Systems.

### 15. ePaisa joins hand with First Alliance Bank to promote POS solutions in Africa

ePaisa, a point of sale (POS) solution provider in India, has entered into a partnership with **First Alliance Bank Ltd in Zambia, Africa**, to provide mobile point of sale (mPOS) solution to small and medium enterprises and other businesses in the country. First Alliance Bank is licensed by Bank of Zambia.

ePaisa is a SaaS-based Point of Sale (POS) application which provides payment and inventory management solutions for merchants at low-cost; First Alliance Bank (Z) is a commercial bank commenced in 1994 with **head office in Lusaka, Zambia.**

### 16. TCS partners with NSDC to provide its training partners access to the TCS iON Digital Glass Room

TCS iON, a strategic unit of Tata Consultancy Services has partnered with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to provide its training partners access to digital skilling tools using TCS' iON Digital Glass Room. **NSDC Headquarters- New Delhi.**

TCS iON Digital Glass Room is a web-based digital education platform; TCS iON Global Head- Venguswamy Ramaswamy.

### 17. Wipro partners with CloudKnox Security to secure hybrid and multi-cloud infrastructure

Wipro announced a partnership with CloudKnox Security. The joint solution offering enables enterprises to proactively protect and manage their Hybrid & Multi-Cloud infrastructure by continuously detecting & remediating over-permissioned identities. **Wipro CEO: Abidali Neemuchwala.**

### 18. IFFCO signs MoU with ICAR for collaborative research, testing and validation of different products

Fertiliser major IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative) has signed an agreement with government's farm research institute ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) for joint research, testing and validation of different products. **IFFCO HQ-New Delhi, ICAR HQ-New Delhi.**

### 19. NCERT & Rotary India ink MoU for providing e-learning telecast content

The National Council of Educational Research and Training- NCERT and Rotary India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding - MoU for providing e-learning telecast content for class one to 12th overall NCERT TV channels. **Human Resource Development Minister- Ramesh Pokhariyal Nishank.**

## 20. Maharashtra govt signs MoUs worth Rs 16,000 Cr with companies

Desperate to restart the economy which has taken a hit by Coronavirus pandemic, the **Maharashtra has signed MoU worth Rs 16,000 Crore with companies** spanning various industries, including two Chinese units, under its Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0 initiative. Maharashtra Chief Minister- Uddhav Thackeray.

The companies are from diverse sectors like automobile, logistics, banking, engineering and mobile production; The business pacts were mostly signed by MIDC Chief Executive Officer P. Ambalgan on behalf of the State Government and representatives of 12 countries including the USA, China, Singapore and South Korea among others.

## 21. China's Great Wall Motor signs MoU with Maharashtra, reaffirms plan to invest USD 1 billion

Great Wall Motor, the latest Chinese automaker to enter the Indian market, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Maharashtra government agreeing to invest in modernising its Talegaon manufacturing plant and generate employment for 3,000 people. Parker Shi- Managing Director of GWM India.

**GWM's billion-dollar plan includes establishing two brands in India – Haval and GWM EV.** While the former will cater to all types of SUVs, the EV brand will house non-SUV electric vehicles; The company owns about 70 firms that make components for its vehicles and has also invested in a lithium mining company, ensuring a stake in the entire EV value-chain.

## 22. Hyundai ties up with HDFC Bank for retail financing

Hyundai Motor India (HMIL) announced its partnership with HDFC Bank, offering industry-first online auto retail financing solutions to the customers on its end-to-end online automotive retail platform '**Click to Buy**'. **HMIL Head Office: New Delhi.**

Under the ambit of this partnership, Hyundai India will offer its customers customised car financing solutions from HDFC Bank directly on the 'Click to Buy' online car buying platform. Through this partnership, customer can opt for loans and get the requisite funding to complete life goals of buying their favourite Hyundai car.

## 23. World Food Programme collaborates with IIT Delhi

The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, or IIT Delhi, has collaborated with the **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)**, India, to develop solutions for increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of food security programmes of Government of India. **Headquarters of UN WFP: Rome, Italy.**

The aim of this tie-up is to create "sustainable models" that can be used across the country and beyond. The tie-up will combine advanced analytics and operations research to develop solutions that support "long-term strategic planning of procurement, storage, and movement of food grains" by agencies like the Food Corporation of India (FCI). It will also create "cost-effective supply chain networks" for distribution under the public distribution system (PDS), or ration shops.

## 24. NI-MSME inks pact with Nitte to train MSMEs

The **Hyderabad-based National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NI-MSME)** has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mangaluru-based Nitte (deemed-to-be university) for the empowerment of the MSME sector. Director General of NI-MSME: Glory Swarupa.

The MoU was signed by Glory Swarupa, Director General of NI-MSME, and Satheesh Kumar Bhandary, Vice-Chancellor of Nitte; Kowdoor Sadananda Hegde is the founder of Nitte.

## 25. Biocon ties up with DKSH for distribution of seven products in Singapore, Thailand

Bio-technology major Biocon has inked a pact with market expansion services provider DKSH for distribution of seven generic products in Singapore and Thailand. Biocon Pharma Limited is a subsidiary of the bio-tech firm. **Biocon Founder: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.**

Under the terms of the pact, DKSH will gain an exclusive license to register and commercialise the seven generic formulations from various therapeutic areas like diabetology, cardiology, oncology and immunology, which will be sold under Biocon's brand in Singapore and Thailand; DKSH, also known as Diethelm Keller Siber Hegner, **is a Swiss Market Expansion Services Group.** Although its **headquarters is in Zurich**, DKSH is deeply rooted in communities all across the Asia Pacific region.



## 26. L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering signs MoU with KBR for refinery projects

L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering (LTHE), a wholly owned subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro (L&T), has signed an MoU with NYSE-listed KBR to build modular process plants for refinery and petrochemical projects. KBR, Inc. is an American company. **L&T is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

Under the terms of the agreement, KBR and LTHE will collaborate to develop business opportunities and LTHE will exclusively bid for **KBR's solid acid alkylation technology (K-SAAT)**, solvent de-asphalting technology (ROSE) and catalytic olefins technology (K-COT) for global projects with special emphasis on India, South East Asia, Middle East and Africa.

## 27. NITI Aayog, ITF to launch 'Decarbonising Transport in India' for reducing carbon emissions

NITI Aayog and International Transport Forum will collaborate to launch a new project called '**Decarbonising Transport in India**' on 24 June to chart out a path for a low-carbon transport system in the country. The ITF is an intergovernmental organisation. **India has been a member of ITF since 2008.**

The online public launch event will be opened by ITF Secretary-General Young Tae Kim and NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant; The 'Decarbonising Transport in India' project will include designing a transport emissions assessment framework for India, providing the government with a detailed understanding of transport activities and CO2 emissions as a basis for decision-making.

The India project is a part of the ITF's wider initiative of decarbonising transport and is a part of DTEE (Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies) series of projects that are aimed at lowering carbon emissions across different regions in the world; The current participants in the initiative are **India, Argentina, Azerbaijan, and Morocco.** The DTEE is a collaboration between the ITF and the Wuppertal Institute, which is supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

## 28. ABB Power Grids India signs MoU with National Institute of Technology, Warangal

ABB Power Grids India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Institute of Technology, Warangal (NITW), Telangana**, for cooperation to drive smart electric grid technology education, skills development and research activities. ABB Power Grids India, Managing Director-Venu Nuguri.

## 29. China, Pak sign deal over hydel power project under CPEC worth \$2.4 billion in Pakistan Administered Kashmir

A tripartite agreement was signed between a Chinese company & the government of Pakistan and China for construction of a **1,124-megawatt hydropower project at Kohala on the Jhelum river** at a cost of \$2.4-b. It is Pakistan's biggest-ever foreign investment. Pakistan PM- Imran Khan; Chinese President- Xi Jinping.

The accord represents the largest power sector investment by an independent power producer (IPP) under Beijing's multi-billion dollars' worth **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, including the Gwadar Master Plan; The project, a part of CPEC, has been awarded to Kohala Hydropower Company (KHCL), which is a subsidiary of China's Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC); The CPEC is a flagship infrastructure-related project conceived by Chinese President Xi Jinping as part of Beijing's expanded multi-billion dollar **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** that aims to create more efficient commercial links between the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe; Bajwa is also the chairman of the CPEC authority.

## Schemes

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

The Union Government has launched **PM SVANIDHI -Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi** - a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loan to street vendors. It is aimed at enabling the street vendors to resume their livelihood. The scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh street vendors.

The scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** and it **provides a loan of up to Rs 10,000 to street vendors who had their businesses operational on or before 24 March**. The scheme is valid until March 2022. The amount is repayable in monthly instalments within one year.

On timely/early repayment of the loan, **an interest subsidy of 7% per annum will be credited** to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on a six-months basis. There will be no penalty on early repayment of the loan. Beneficiaries: The scheme is applicable to vendors, hawkers, thelewalas, rehriwalas, theliphadwalas in different areas/contexts who supply goods and services. Street vendors belonging to the surrounding peri-urban/rural areas are also included. **Small Industries Development Bank of India is the technical partner** for the implementation of this scheme and will manage the credit guarantee to the lending institutions through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.

### 2. PMBJKs achieves sales of over Rs 100 crore in first two months of 2020-21

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushdhi Kendra's has achieved sales of Rs 100.40 Crore in first two months of 2020-21 as compared to Rs 44.60 Crore in the same period of 2019-20. Kendra's have sold approx. Rs 144 Crore worth of affordable & quality medicines. **DV Sadananda Gowda: Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers**.

PMBJP Scheme: **The Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana was launched in 2008** to make generic medicines available at affordable prices to all. It works under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and fertilizers. Under PMBJP, **Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadi Kendras (PMBJK)** are set up to reduce out of pocket expenses for health care.

### 3. Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) campaign launched for 1.5 crore dairy farmers

The Government will provide Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to 1.5 crore dairy farmers belonging to Milk Unions and Milk producing Companies within the next two months under a special drive. **It is a part of Prime Minister's Atma-Nirbhar Bharat package for farmers**. Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister: Giriraj Singh

KCC: The **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme is a credit scheme introduced in August 1998** by Indian banks. This model scheme was prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) **on the recommendations of R.V. Gupta committee** to provide term loans for agricultural needs. The KCC scheme enables farmers to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, and draw cash for their agricultural and consumption needs.

The scheme comes with an ATM-enabled RuPay debit card with facilities for one-time documentation, built-in cost escalation in the limit, and any number of withdrawals within the limit, among others. In order to provide short-term crop loans up to ₹3 lakh to farmers at an interest rate of 7 per cent per annum, lending institutions – PSBs and private sector commercial banks (in respect of loans given by their rural and semi-urban branches only) – are offered **interest subvention of 2 per cent by the government**. No interest subvention will be given if Aadhaar numbers are not seeded to KCC accounts.

The recent initiatives for KCC saturation include adding farmers engaged in animal husbandry and fisheries; removal of inspection ledger folio charges and processing fee of the loan under KCC; and **raising the limit of collateral-free agriculture loan from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.6 lakh**. **The interest subvention scheme is implemented by NABARD and RBI**.

### 4. Three more states included in One Nation One Ration Card scheme

**Odisha, Sikkim and Mizoram** are the three more states that have been included under the One Nation One Ration Card scheme. Consumer Affairs Minister announced the inclusion of these states in the scheme on

Integrated Management of Public Distribution System. **With this, the facility is enabled in 20 States and UTs so far.**

One nation; One Ration Card Scheme: Under the **National Food Security Act, 2013**, about 81 crore persons are entitled to buy subsidized food grain from their designated Fair Price Shops (FPS) of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). In the present system, a ration cardholder can buy food grains only from an FPS that has been assigned to her in the locality in which she lives. However, this will change once the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system becomes operational nationally.

The new system, based on a technological solution, will identify a beneficiary through biometric authentication on electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices installed at the FPSs, and enable that person to purchase the quantity of food grains to which she is entitled under the NFSA. **The Annavitran portal enables a migrant worker or his family to avail the benefits of PDS outside their district but within their state.**

### 5. Three Electronics Incentive Schemes launched

Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar launched three incentive schemes - **Production Linked Incentive, Component Manufacturing Scheme & Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters with a total outlay of about ₹48,000 crores** to boost manufacturing of electronics. Portals for three schemes released by IFCI, a public-sector NBFC

PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI): It is targeted at mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components, the government initially plans **to incentivise 10 firms- five global and five locals.**

SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF MANUFACTURING OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS & SEMICONDUCTORS (SPECS): This shall provide a financial **incentive of 25% on capital expenditure** for the identified list of electronic goods.

ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING CLUSTERING: The EMC 2.0 shall provide support for the creation of world-class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities. With the three new schemes, the government aims **to manufacture electronics worth ₹8 lakh crore**, while generating employment for about 10 lakh people in the next five years.

### 6. 4,42,000 tonnes of food grains given to States and UTs under Atma Nirbhar Bharat package

Government has said that States and UTs have lifted 4,42,000 tonnes of food grains under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package as on June 2020. Consumer Affairs Ministry said, under the package, Centre will provide eight lakh tonnes of food grains. **Union Minister of Consumer Affairs- Ramvilas Paswan.**

Under Atma Nirbhar Bharat package, Government of India has decided that **food grains will be provided free of cost at the rate of 5 Kg per month for two months** i.e. May and June 2020, to about 8 Crore migrant labour who are not covered under NFSA or State scheme PDS cards; The total estimated cost of about Rs. 3500 Crore for implementation of this scheme will be fully borne by Government of India.

All India Allocation of food grains under this scheme is 8 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT); **Food Corporation of India (FCI) is responsible for the delivery of food grains**; The Union Finance Ministry on 2020 May announced the fifth and the final tranche of the Rs 20 lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat stimulus package.

The final tranche mainly allocated an additional Rs 40,000 crore to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment (MGNREGA) budget estimate to ensure that migrants do not face unemployed amid the nationwide lockdown, and a viability gap funding of more than Rs 8,000 crore.

### 7. Govt modifies public procurement norms to give more preference to local suppliers

The government has modified public procurement norms to give maximum preference to companies whose goods and services have 50 per cent or more local content, a move aimed at promoting 'Make in India' and making the country self-reliant. **It has created a concept of Class-I, II & non-local suppliers.**

Class-I local suppliers will get the most preference in all government purchases because their domestic value addition is **50 per cent or more**. They will be followed by Class-II suppliers, whose value addition range is **more than 20 per cent but less than 50 per cent**; **Companies with less than 20 per cent of domestic content in their goods or services will not able to participate** in most of the government tenders and they are categorised as "non-local suppliers".

For purchases of goods/services with an estimated value of less than Rs 200 crore, global tender enquiry will not be issued except with the approval of the competent authority as designated by the Department of Expenditure; Earlier, only local suppliers were allowed to bid for procurement orders worth less than Rs 50 lakh; In global tender enquiries, non-local suppliers can also participate along with Class-I and II suppliers.

The earlier order had defined a local supplier as one whose goods/services offered for government procurement had a minimum local content of 50 per cent. There was no categorisation of local suppliers; In general, under the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, it was envisaged that all central government departments, their attached or subordinate offices and autonomous bodies controlled by the Government of India should ensure that purchase preference will be given to domestic suppliers.

#### **8. Centre allocates highest ever funds of Rs. 1,01,500 Cr under MGNREGS during 2020-2021**

A provision of one lakh one thousand 500 crore rupees has been made under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the current financial year 2020-2021. It is the highest ever provision of funds under the programme. **MGNREGS was made effective w.e.f. 2nd February 2006.**

Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar said that a total of 60.80 crore person days have been generated so far and work has been offered to 6.69 crore persons; In the first phase, the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (NREGS) was **introduced in District Chamba and Sirmour on 2nd February, 2006**; The job cards are issued within a fortnight of the application for registration. Photographs of adult members who are applicants are attached to the job cards.

**The job card is valid for a period of 5 years**; The applications for work must be for at least 14 days of continuous work; **The wage employment to the applicant is to be provided within 15 days of the date of receipt of application**; The ratio of wage costs to material costs should be no less than the minimum norm of 60:40 stipulated in the Act. This ratio should be applied preferably at the Gram Panchayat, Block and District levels. The wages of skilled and semi-skilled labourers should be included in the material costs.

#### **9. Madhya Pradesh launches Welfare programme for Street Vendors**

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched Street Vendor Registration Portal and Mukhyamantri Shabri Path Vyavsayi Utthan Yojana and transferred Rs 300 crore to urban local bodies. CM also interacted with street vendors through video conference. Madhya Pradesh Governor- Lalji Tandon.

**Pradhan Mantri Path Vikreta Aatmanirbhar Nidhi Karyakram along with Shehri Path Vyavsayi Utthan Yojana** will benefit the state's urban businessmen under which small businessmen or vendors will be given Rs 10,000 in the form of working capital.

#### **10. Himachal CM launches green belt development scheme for rural senior citizens**

**CM Jai Ram Thakur launched 'Panchvati Yojna'** under which parks and gardens would be developed for senior citizens of rural areas in the state. Close to 100 such parks would be developed in different parts of the state during the current financial year. **The rural development department is implementing the scheme.**

Green belts would be developed on minimum of one bigha land with convergence of MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and 14th finance commission to enhance the life expectancy keeping in view the health requirements of senior citizens.

#### **11. Govt approves Rs. 1,280 Cr for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in MP during 2020-21**

**Govt approved Rs 1,280 Cr for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in MP in 2020-21.** With an amount of Rs 244.95 Cr as unspent balance & this year's Central allocation & matching State share, Rs 3,093 Cr will be available with the State this year. **JJM was launched on 15 August 2019 (73rd Independence Day).**

JJM aims at providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in rural areas by 2024; **JJM is implemented by Ministry of Jal Shakti in partnership with States**; A budget of whopping ₹ 3.60 lakh Crore has been allocated for this transformational programme; **Madhya Pradesh has planned to have 100% FHTC by 2023-24.**

The State plans to provide tap connections to 26.27 lakh households in rural areas in 2020-21; Under Jal Jeevan Mission, emphasis is being given on water quality surveillance through active participation of frontline functionaries as well as involving the community i.e. in every village, **5 persons especially women are being trained**; In every Gram Panchayat, GP or their sub-committee i.e. Village Water & Sanitation

Committee or Paani Samitis have been constituted for planning at village level; Gajendra Singh Shekhawat-Minister of Jal Shakti; **Jal Shakti ministry had been formed on May 2019 by merging two other ministries: 1) water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation; & 2) drinking water and sanitation.**

### 12. Migrants to receive COVID care via Ayushman Bharat scheme

Government is preparing a list of migrant workers from across states to offer health insurance benefits under the flagship Ayushman Bharat PMJAY amid the COVID crisis. AB-PMJAY provides health cover of as much as Rs 5 lakh per family a year. **Chief Executive Officer of AB-PMJAY & NHA- Indu Bhushan.**

The **National Health Authority has also tied up with DigiLocker**, the flagship initiative of the ministry of electronics and IT (MeitY)'s Digital India Programme, to provide access to authentic digital documents to the citizenry; According to the national census, migrant workers comprised 48% of residents in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru in 2011. Most came from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

### 13. Govt comes out with methodology for rationalisation of coal linkages

Govt said that fuel linkages from coal companies have been rationalised to reduce the distance in transportation of coal from the mines to users. It is aimed at reducing the load on the transportation infrastructure & easing the evacuation constraints. Transfer of coal quantity is in terms of Gross Calorific Value.

Coal India shall be the nodal agency for conducting the process of linkage rationalisation; A committee shall oversee the implementation of the scheme and address key issues in the implementation; **The savings accrued in the process shall be transferred to Indian Railways/ DISCOMS**; The past rationalisation exercises were implemented only for the power sector and have resulted into rationalisation of coal movement of 63.12 million tonnes (MT) of coal with annual potential savings of around Rs 3,769 crore.

### 14. Annual allotment of Rs. 4000 Cr made to States under 'Per Drop More Crop' component of PMKSY for 2020-21

Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare is implementing Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. For the CY, annual allotment of Rs. 4000 Cr has already been allocated and conveyed to the State Governments. **Micro Irrigation Fund of Rs. 5000 Cr is created with NABARD.**

So far, Micro Irrigation Funds have been released to the states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for Rs. 616.14 crore and for Rs.478.79 crore, respectively through NABARD; During the last five years (2015-16 to 2019-20), an area of 46.96 lakh ha. has been covered under Micro Irrigation through PMKSY-PDMC; **PMKSY was launched on 1st July 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani'.**

### 15. 3rd phase of SAUNI scheme to be completed by 2021 to fill Saurashtra dams

Gujarat Chief Minister, Vijay Rupani announced that the phase 2 and phase 3 of the **Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) scheme** to fill Saurashtra's 115 dams with Narmada water will be completed by August 15 and March 2021 respectively. **Water from river Narmada is used to fill the dam reservoirs.**

### 16. CM YS Jagan launches 'Jagananna Chedodu' scheme, disburses Rs. 10,000 to beneficiaries

**Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the Jagananna Chedodu scheme.** A total of 2.47 lakh beneficiaries will be credited with this scheme and **Rs. 10,000 to Nayi Brahmins, Laundry men and Tailors as a financial aid.** Andhra Pradesh Governor- Biswabhusan Harichandan.

### 17. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches 'Shahakar Mitra Scheme'

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched **Shahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Programme, an initiative by NCDC.** The scheme promotes the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for Atmanirbhar Bharat. NCDC- National Cooperative Development Cooperation.

### 18. Rs 14,690 crore disbursed under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme

As of 11 June 2020, PSBs have sanctioned loans worth Rs 29,490.81 crore under the **100% Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**, out of which Rs 14,690.84 crore has already been disbursed, the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's office said. **Out of this, SBI sanctioned Rs 14,148 crore.**

### 19. CM Yogi inaugurates 'Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana' in Lucknow

**Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana** via video conferencing. It aims at educating orphans and children of workers or those working as labourers. It was launched in the presence of UP Labour Minister Swami Prasad Maurya. **June 12 is observed as the World Day Against Child Labour.**

This scheme provides financial assistance of **Rs 1000** per month to boys, **Rs 1200** pm to girls & children studying 8th, 9th and 10th will be given Rs 6000 per annum along with a monthly incentive; UP Capital-Lucknow; Governor- Anandiben Mafatbhai Patel.

### 20. Coverage of PM Van Dhan Yojana proposed to be expanded from the current 18,000 SHGs to 50,000

**Coverage of PM Van Dhan Yojana is proposed to be expanded from the current 18,000 SHGs to 50,000 Van Dhan SHGs** and to treble the coverage to 10 lakh tribal gatherers through the Covid19 relief plan of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under article 275(I). Union Minister for Tribal Affairs- Arjun Munda. **The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED. It was launched on 14th April, 2018** and seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products; The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level.

Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a major source of livelihood for tribals living in forest areas; **Under Van Dhan, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers is constituted.** The establishment of "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra" is for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility.

### 21. 1st ever distribution of assistive aids & devices to Divyangjan through virtual platform under ADIP Scheme

A virtual ADIP Camp for free distribution of assistive aids & devices at Block level for Divyangjans **under the ADIP scheme** was organized at Ferozpur, Punjab. This is the first camp being organized by the ALIMCO under Social Justice & Empowerment ministry. **ALIMCO: Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India.**

The main objective of the **Assistance to Disabled persons for purchasing / fitting of aids / appliances (ADIP) scheme** is to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential; Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is a Schedule 'C' Miniratna Category II Central Public Sector Enterprises, registered under Section 8 (Not for Profit motive) of the Companies Act 2013, (corresponding to Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956).

### 22. PM Modi to launch 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' to boost livelihood opportunities in Rural India

Government has decided to launch a massive rural public works scheme 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' to empower & provide livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers & rural citizens. Abhiyaan will be launched from Khagaria District of Bihar. **This is a coordinated effort of 12 different Ministries/Depts.**

The villages across 116 districts in the six States will join this programme through the Common Service Centres and Krishi Vigyan Kendras; A total of 116 Districts with more than 25,000 returnee migrant workers across six States, namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha have been chosen for the campaign which includes 27 Aspirational Districts; Focused campaign of 125 days in 6 states to work in mission mode to help migrant workers.

These districts are estimated to cover about 2/3 of such migrant workers; Campaign will create durable infrastructure along with boosting employment opportunities; Public works worth Rs 50,000 crore to be carried out under Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan.

### 23. MSP for MFP Scheme in 16 states hits record-breaking high with procurement touching Rs 79.42 Cr

The ongoing procurement of Minor Forest Produces under the Minimum Support Price for MFP Scheme in 16 states has hit a record-breaking high with the procurement touching Rs 79.42 Cr. Total procurement for the year has crossed more than Rs 2000 Crores. **Chhattisgarh has emerged as Champion in the procurement.**

On 26th May, the Tribal Affairs Ministry also recommended the addition of 23 new items under the MSP for MFP list. These items include agricultural and horticultural produce collected by tribal gatherers.

### 24. Jharkhand to launch job guarantee scheme for urban poor

Jharkhand is set to launch a 100-day employment scheme- **Mukhyamantri SHRAMIK Yojna**, for urban unskilled workers similar to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) amid the coronavirus pandemic and increasing unemployment. **SHRAMIK- Shahri Rozgar Manjuri For Kamgar.**

Jharkhand will be the second state in the country after Kerala to launch an employment guarantee scheme for the urban poor. **Kerala runs Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS)**; A worker will be entitled to one-fourth of the wages for the first 30 days of unemployment and it will be half in the second month. If the worker does not get a job for third, they will be entitled to equal to basic minimum wage.

The scheme will be conducted by the urban development and housing department through the state urban livelihood mission; The state rural development department has done a skill mapping of 2.5 lakh workers and it revealed that 30% of workers who returned from different states are unskilled labourers; Jharkhand Chief Minister- Hemant Soren.

### 25. Tripura Government to start 'Play Little, Study Little' Scheme

With uncertainty prevailing over reopening of schools due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Tripura government has decided to start a scheme called '**Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho**' which means 'Play little, Study little', from June 25. Jharkhand Chief Minister- Hemant Soren.

As per the scheme, the students would be getting audio and video contents on learning activities, projects along with fun and gaming activities via SMS or WhatsApp services.

### 26. Rajasthan govt to launch Indira Raso Yojna: CM Ashok Gehlot

**Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot announced that government will soon launch the Indira Raso Yojna** for the poor to ensure that 'no one sleeps hungry' in the state. Under this scheme, pure & nutritious food on concessional rates will be provided twice a day. **Government will spend Rs 100 crore every year.**

He also flagged-off five mobile vans loaded with publicity material and equipment for the awareness **campaign by the National Health Mission and UNFPA**. People from all over the state attended the virtual meet and listened to the chief minister's message.

### 27. Union Cabinet Approves 2 Per Cent Interest Subvention On 'Shishu' MUDRA Loans for A Period Of 12 Months

In a relief for small businesses, the Cabinet **approved a 2 per cent interest subvention for "Shishu" loan borrowers under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana for a period of 12 months**. The scheme will incentivize people who will make regular repayments of loans. **Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA).**

### 28. MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari launches CGSSD

MSME, Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Sub-ordinate Debt, CGSSD. Under the scheme, Promoters of the MSMEs will be given credit equal to 15 percent of their stake or 75 lakh rupees whichever is lower. **There will be a moratorium of 7 years on payment of principal.**

### 29. J&K Bank launches products to provide financial support to business communities

J&K Bank has launched two products titled ‘**J&K Bank Business Support Loan Scheme 2019-20**’ and ‘**J&K Bank Business Support Loan Scheme 2019-20 for Hotels and Guest Houses**’. It is meant to provide adequate financial support to different business communities. J&K Lt Governor- G C Murmu.

### 30. Tripura Government announces ‘Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar’

In an effort to combat infant and maternal mortality and malnutrition, Tripura government announced **Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar**, an ambitious scheme to provide nutrition kits to pregnant and lactating women. **The kit, costing Rs 500 will be given to women after 4 tests.**

Announcing the initiative, Santana Chakma, state Minister for Social Welfare and Social Education said at least 40,000 women would benefit from the 'Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar' scheme.

### 31. June 30- last date for payment of dues under Sabka Vishwas Scheme, 2019: CBIC

CBIC said that 30 June is the last date for payment of dues under **Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2019**. The main objective of the scheme is to free the large number of small taxpayers of their pending disputes with the tax administration. **CBIC is a part of the Department of Revenue.**

The Sabka Vishwas Scheme, 2019 is a scheme proposed in the Union Budget, 2019, and introduced to resolve all disputes relating to the erstwhile Service Tax and Central Excise Acts, which are now subsumed under GST, as well as 26 other Indirect Tax enactments. The scheme has been notified by the CBIC to come into force on the 1st of September 2019; **CBIC Chairman- M Ajit Kumar.**

### 32. PM FME scheme launched to generate total investment of Rs 35,000 crore

Government launched the **PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme as a part of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan’**. Scheme will generate total investment of Rs 35,000 crore and generate 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled employment. Minister for Food Processing Industries- Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

**Scheme is implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore; The expenditure under the scheme would be shared in 60:40 ratio between Central and State Governments, in 90:10 ratio with North Eastern and Himalayan States, 60:40 ratio with UTs with legislature and 100% by Centre for other UTs.**

The Scheme adopts One District One Product (ODODP) approach to reap benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products; Existing Individual micro food processing units desirous of upgradation of their unit can avail credit-linked capital subsidy of 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs.10 lakh per unit. Seed capital of Rs. 40,000 - per SHG member would be provided for working capital and purchase of small tools.

FPOs/ SHGs/ producer cooperatives would be provided credit linked grant of 35% for capital investment along the value chain, The Scheme places special focus on capacity building and research. **NIFTEM and IIFPT, two academic and research institutions under MOFPI** along with State Level Technical Institutions selected by the States would be provided support for training of units, product development, appropriate packaging and machinery for micro units.



## Appointments

### 1. Mohandas Pai to chair IBBI advisory committee on service providers

**IBBI reconstituted its advisory committee on service providers and is to be chaired by T V Mohandas Pai.** The **12-member panel** would advise and provide professional support on regulation and development of the service providers dealt with by the IBBI. IBBI –key in implementing the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code. Bharti Infratel Chairman Akhil Gupta, Raksha Shakti University Director General Bimal N Patel, CSB Bank MD and CEO Chinna Veerappan Rajendran, former Sebi ED J Ranganayakulu, former Deloitte India Chairman P R Ramesh and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs DG and CEO Sameer Sharma are among the members. The service providers include insolvency professionals, insolvency professionals agencies, insolvency professional entities and information utilities.

### 2. Arun Singhal appointed as CEO FSSAI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of **Arun Singhal as chief executive officer of the apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. He will succeed GSG Ayyangar** who was briefly appointed as the CEO. FSSAI comes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

FSSAI: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India. FSSAI is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety. **Headquarters: New Delhi.**

### 3. Lt Gen Manoj Pande to take over as Commander-in-Chief of Andaman and Nicobar Command

**Lieutenant General Manoj Pande, AVSM, VSM, will take over as the 15th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN).** During his 37 years of distinguished service, Pande has taken an active part in Operation Vijay and Operation Parakram. **He will replace LtGen Podali Shankar Rajeshwar, the 14th CINCAN.**

### 4. BBB selects SN Rajeswari as CMD of Oriental Insurance

S N Rajeswari, General Manager, New India Assurance has been selected by the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) as the Chairman and MD of the Delhi-based Oriental Insurance Company via video interview. It is the first time a CMD was selected through a video call. Banks Board Bureau Chairman: Bhanu Pratap Sharma. Oriental Insurance Company is headquartered in New Delhi.

### 5. Lakshmi Vilas Bank CEO gets extension

Reserve Bank of India has approved the **extension of tenure for Lakshmi Vilas Bank's MD and CEO, Subramanian Sundar by six months.** This is the second extension given to Mr Subramanian Sundar who was the MD & CEO (interim) from January 1, 2020, to April 30. **Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) is headquartered in Chennai.**

The tagline of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) is "The changing face of Prosperity".

### 6. Shri Pradip Kumar Tripathi Assumes Charge as Secretary in Ministry of Steel

1987 batch IAS officer of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre, Pradip Kumar Tripathi took over the charge as Secretary in the Ministry of Steel. He was a Special Secretary and Establishment Officer in the Department of Personal Training. He succeeds Binoy Kumar. Union Minister of Steel: Dharmendra Pradhan.

### 7. R K Chaturvedi Assumes Charge as Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

**R K Chaturvedi, IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, assumed charge as Secretary Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.** He was serving as an Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Culture. **R K Chaturvedi has replaced P Raghavendra Rao.**

### 8. Gaitri Kumar Appointed India's Next High Commissioner To UK

Seasoned diplomat **Gaitri I Kumar has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (UK).** Ms Kumar succeeds Ruchi Ghanashyam. At present, Ms Kumar is serving as Indian

Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union (EU). Union Minister of External Affairs: Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Ms Kumar served in multiple Indian missions including in Paris, Kathmandu, Lisbon and Geneva. She also served as Joint Secretary in the Americas division at the **ministry's headquarters in Delhi**.

### 9. Krishnendu Majumdar Succeeds Pippa Harris as BAFTA Chair

The British Academy has named Krishnendu Majumdar as its new chair, with the award-winning TV producer becoming the first person of colour to be appointed to the role in BAFTA's 73-year history and its youngest chair in 35 years. He succeeds Pippa Harris. **BAFTA - British Academy of Film and Television Arts.**

Majumdar co-founded the independent production company Me + You Productions in 2012, alongside Richard Yee. Majumdar entered the industry by being the first and only person ever to be trained on both the prestigious ITN News Trainee and BBC Production Trainee schemes, working across both ITN and the BBC at the outset of his career. BAFTA: The British Academy Film Awards or BAFTA Film Awards are presented in an annual award show hosted by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) to honour the best **British and international contributions to film**.

### 10. Uday Kotak takes over as CII President

**Uday Kotak, MD & CEO Kotak Mahindra Bank assumed office as president of the Confederation of Indian Industry** for the year 2020-21. Mr. Kotak takes over from Vikram Kirloskar, chairman and MD of Kirloskar Systems and vice-chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor. **Sanjiv Bajaj has taken over as the Vice – President of CII.**

Kotak has been associated with CII for over two decades and has served as Chairman of CII Economic Affairs Council, Financial Sector Development Council, Services Council, Corporate Governance Council, Banking Committee, Capital Markets Committee and Financial Services Committee. TV Narendran, CEO and Managing Director of TATA Steel Limited became the President Designated of CII. CII: The Confederation of Indian Industry is an industry – association in India. It is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization. **Headquarters: New Delhi.**

### 11. Twitter Names Ex-Google Exec Patrick Pichette Chairman

**Twitter Inc appointed Patrick Pichette** who had been Twitter's lead independent director since 2018 and a former CFO at Google, as the social network's board chairman, marking the first time in Twitter's history that an outsider will preside over the group. **Patrick Pichette will replace Omid Kordestani.**

Pichette is expected to bring greater scrutiny of management and a stronger focus on financial matters to the company.

### 12. Virendra Nath Datt given additional charge as NFL CMD

State-owned fertiliser firm National Fertilizers Limited has given **Virendra Nath Datt**, former executive director at GAIL additional charge as **chairman and managing director** of the company. Datt has been director (marketing) of the firm since October 2018. He was also a director on the Board of Mahanagar Gas Ltd, Mumbai

Datt also had a 10-year stint with ONGC before joining GAIL in 1995. As director (marketing), NFL, Datt is credited with sustained growth in fertiliser sales of the company from 43 lakh tonnes in 2017-18 to 57 lakh tonnes in 2019-20. National Fertilizers Limited (NFL): **It is a state-owned Miniratna company** and is the second-largest producer of fertilizers in India. **Headquarters: Noida.**

### 13. Rajiv Topno to be senior advisor at World Bank, Navnit India's ambassador to WTO

The Appointments Committee of the cabinet cleared appointments of senior IAS officers **Rajiv Topno and Brajendra Navnit**, both of whom have served at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), to the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO), respectively. **Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Appointments Committee.**

Rajiv Topno will be a senior advisor at the **Washington-based World Bank**. Brajendra Navnit will replace JS Deepak as the ambassador to the Permanent Mission for India (PMI) at the WTO in Geneva. Anwar Hussain Shaik has been appointed under Navnit as the counsellor in the PMI to the WTO. Other

Appointments: Ravi Kota - Minister (finance) at the Indian Embassy in Washington DC. Lekhan Thakkar - Counsellor (economic) at the Indian embassy in Beijing.

#### 14. Former MEA Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar Appointed as India's Next Ambassador to Finland

The current Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) **Raveesh Kumar** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Finland. He has served as the official spokesperson of the MEA. He replaces Vani Rao, who was the ambassador earlier. **Mr Raveesh was the youngest appointed official MEA spokesperson.**

Finland: It is a North European nation. **Capital: Helsinki.** Prime Minister: Sanna Marin. **Currency: Euro.**

#### 15. KP Singh retires as DLF Chairman; Rajiv Singh takes over

Realty major DLF has appointed vice-chairman **Rajiv Singh as the new chairman** of the company, replacing KP Singh. The latter will continue in a non-executive role as Chairman Emeritus, who was at the helm of the affairs for over five decades. **DLF HQ: New Delhi.**

#### 16. L&T board reappoints AM Naik as non-executive chairman for 3 years

Larsen & Toubro said its board has given nod for reappointment of **A M Naik as non-executive chairman** of the company for a period of three years from October 1, 2020. Also, the tenure of whole-time Director Dip Kishore Sen was extended for 3 yrs. Naik was chairman of National Skill Development Corp in 2018.

Naik is the Honorary Consul General for Denmark. He was conferred the Danish Knighthood by Queen Margrethe in 2008 and a further honour, the Order of the Dannebrog - Knight First Class in 2015.

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

**Diplomat Shambhu S Kumaran has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Philippines**, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. Kumaran is presently Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Morocco. **Philippines Capital- Manila, Currency- Peso.**

Morocco Capital- Rabat, Morocco Currency- Moroccan dirham.

#### 18. Indian-origin's Prabhakar Raghavan appointed as head of Google Search

American tech giant Google has appointed **Prabhakar Raghavan** as the head of Search and Assistant. **Raghavan will be succeeding Ben Gomes**, who will be given a new role and will report directly to Google CEO Sundar Pichai. Raghavan joined Google in 2012. Google Headquarters- California, United States.

Alphabet Inc. is the Parent organization of Google; **Google was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin.**

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

Diplomat **Monika Kapil Mohta has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland**, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced. Presently, Mohta, an Indian Foreign Service officer of 1985 batch, is India's Ambassador to Sweden. **Switzerland Capital- Bern, Currency- Swiss Franc.**

Sweden Capital- Stockholm, Currency- Swedish Krona.

#### 20. IDBI Bank's board approves appointment of Anshuman Sharma as govt nominee director

The Board of Directors has approved the appointment of Anshuman Sharma, Director, Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services, as government nominee **director on the board of IDBI Bank.** He is currently serving on the board of IDFC Ltd. **Rakesh Sharma, MD & CEO, IDBI Bank.**

IDBI Bank is now being categorised as a private sector lender after majority stake acquisition by LIC. In January 2019, the insurance behemoth had completed acquisition of 51 per cent controlling stake in the then public sector IDBI Bank, making it the lender's majority shareholder.

#### 21. UTI mutual funds appoint Imtaiyazur Rahman as CEO

2 years after appointing **Imtaiyazur Rahman** as the acting CEO, the board has confirmed him as **CEO of UTI Asset Management Committee.** Rehman was the internal candidate for the position which fell vacant after Leo Puri completed his 5-year term in 2018. **UTI Mutual Fund Headquarters- Mumbai.**

The appointment brings stability in the top management of the company, especially since it is planning to launch its IPO shortly, and addresses the concerns of SEBI on the CEO position which has been vacant for quite some time; The company has already filed DRHP (Red Herring Prospectus ) with SEBI in December 2019; A DRHP, or offer document, is the preliminary registration document prepared by merchant bankers for prospective IPO-making companies in the case of book building issues.

## 22. Devendra Kumar Singh appointed as the new Director of SIDBI

The Ministry of Finance notified the appointment of **Devendra Kumar Singh**, Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, as Government nominee Director on the Board of Directors of SIDBI. He will succeed Ram Mohan Mishra.

**Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) set up on 2nd April 1990** under an Act of Indian Parliament, acts as the Principal Financial Institution for Promotion, Financing and Development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector as well as for co-ordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities; SIDBI Headquarters- Lucknow; SIDBI Chairman & Managing Director- Mohammad Mustafa.

## 23. Javed Iqbal Wani sworn in as J&K High Court judge

**Javed Iqbal Wani sworn in as the J&K High Court judge.** He becomes the second Kashmir-based judge in the High Court of Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. J&K and Ladakh Chief Justice Gita Mittal administered the oath of office. **Javed Iqbal Wani is the 13th judge of the combined High Court.**

Justice Wani has become the second Kashmir-based judge in the High Court of Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, after Justice Magrey; The High Court has a sanctioned strength of **17 Judges — 13 permanent and four additional judges.**

## 24. Santosh Jha appointed as next Ambassador of India to Belgium

**Santosh Jha**, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Uzbekistan, appointed as the next **Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Belgium.** The 1993-batch IFS officer will also be accredited as Ambassador of India to the European Union. **Belgium Capital- Brussels, Currency- Euro.**

Between 2004-2007, serving in the Americas Division in the MEA, Jha was a member of the negotiating team for the India-US nuclear deal and was closely associated with the development of India-US relations in the field of space, defence and high technology.

## 25. Maya Nair appointed as Director & Chief Information Security Officer at CRISIL Limited

**Maya Nair has joined as Director & Chief Information Security Officer at CRISIL.** Prior to joining CRISIL, she was the Chief Information Security Officer & Head IT Infrastructure at Lenra AI. She is an industry acclaimed Information Security professional. **CRISIL Headquarters- Mumbai.**

CRISIL stands for Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited; CRISIL is an Indian analytical company providing ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services and is a subsidiary of American company S&P Global.

## 26. Ndayishimiye to be sworn in as Burundi's new president

**Evariste Ndayishimiye will be sworn in as Burundi's newly elected president** after the sudden death of the incumbent, **Pierre Nkurunziza.** Ndayishimiye, 52, is a former army general and Hutu rebel like his predecessor. **Burundi Capital- Gitega, Currency- Burundian franc.**

Burundi, officially the Republic of Burundi, is a landlocked country in the Great Rift Valley where the African Great Lakes region and East Africa converge.

## 27. RBI approves re-appointment of Prakash Chandra as non-exec Chairman of RBL Bank

Private Sector Lender RBL said that the RBI has approved the re-appointment of **Prakash Chandra, Independent Director, as Non-Executive (Part-Time) Chairman** of the bank till July 23, 2021, in terms of Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. **RBL Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.**

## 28. RBI approves re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Executive Director of HDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of **Kaizad Bharucha as Executive Director of HDFC Bank** for a period of three years with effect from June 13, 2020, the private sector lender said in a regulatory filing. **HDFC Bank CEO: Aditya Puri. HQ: Mumbai.**

He is reportedly one of the contenders for the top job at HDFC Bank after its long-serving managing director Aditya Puri.

### 29. **Urjit Patel, former RBI governor, appointed chairman of NIPFP**

Former governor of Reserve Bank of India, **Urjit Patel** who resigned from his post in Dec 2018 has been appointed as the chairman of the New Delhi Based economic think tank **National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP)** for a period of four years. He replaces Dr Vijay Laxman Kelkar.

The governing body of **NIPFP comprises of three representatives of the Ministry of Finance**, one representative of the NITI Aayog, one representative of the Reserve Bank of India, three representatives of sponsoring state governments, three distinguished economists, three heads of sister research institutions, and members of other sponsoring agencies and invitees.

### 30. **Axis Bank's Pralay Mondal to join CSB Bank**

Private sector lender CSB Bank announced that its board has appointed **Pralay Mondal** as the organization's President (Retail, SME, Operations and IT). He is expected to join the private sector lender in September 2020. He was previously working in Axis Bank CSB (The Catholic Syrian) **Bank HQ: Thrissur**. CEO:C.VR. Rajendran.

Before joining Axis Bank, Mr Mondal was the Senior Group President and Head of Retail and Business Banking at Yes Bank.

### 31. **BMW India appoints Vikram Pawah as President**

German luxury car maker BMW appointed **Vikram Pawah as the president of BMW Group India** effective August 1, 2020, in addition to his current role as chief executive officer of BMW Group Australia and New Zealand. **He will succeed Rudratej Singh**. Pawah has been with the BMW Group since 2017.

The group's business operations activities in India include a manufacturing plant in Chennai, a parts warehouse in Mumbai, a training centre in Gurgaon NCR and dealers across major metropolitan centres.

### 32. **Jaideep Nandi appointed as new MD of Bajaj Consumer Care**

**Bajaj Consumer Care Limited has appointed Jaideep Nandi as its new Managing Director**. Nandi is currently the company's Chief Executive Officer and will take over as the managing director effective 1 July. **He will succeed Sumit Malhotra**. Malhotra will continue as Director & Advisor to the Board.

Kushagra Bajaj- Chairman of the Board; Bajaj Consumer Care is part of the Bajaj Group, founded by Jammalal Bajaj; Bajaj Consumer Care is the second largest company in the Shishir Bajaj Group of companies.

### 33. **Colin Shah appointed new chairman of GJEPC**

**Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)**, under the aegis of the Commerce Ministry, announced the appointment of Colin Shah as Chairman of the apex trade body for the sector. Vipul Shah has been named Vice Chairman of GJEPC. The new management will have a tenure of two years till 2022.

The GJEPC is the apex body driving India's export-led growth in the gem and jewellery sector, since 1966; **Headquartered in Mumbai** with regional offices across the country, the Council has over 7,000 members in its fold.

### 34. **IFTAS announces the appointment of Shri T. Rabi Sankar as Chairman & Dr N Rajendran as CEO**

**Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India** announces the appointments of Shri. T Rabi Sankar as the Chairman and Dr N Rajendran as the CEO of the organization effective May 15 & May 27 respectively. **IFTAS manages the INFINET** (Indian Financial Network).

IFTAS (Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India, mandated to design, deploy & support IT-related services to the Reserve Bank of India, and all Banks and Financial Institutions in the country.

### 35. **Standard Chartered appoints Gaurav Maheshwari as CFO-India**

Standard Chartered Bank, India, has appointed **Gaurav Maheshwari as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** effective June 22, 2020. **Maheshwari has taken over from Subhradeep Mohanty**, who was promoted as the CFO for the Africa & Middle East (AME) region. Zarin Daruwala- Standard Chartered Bank CEO, India.

Standard Chartered PLC is a British multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in London, England.

### 36. US Senate confirms Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan as head of National Science Foundation

The US Senate has confirmed eminent Indian American scientist **Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan as the Director of the National Science Foundation**, a top American body supporting fundamental research in non-medical fields of science and engineering. **He will replace France Cordova**, whose term ended in March.

American science funding body has an annual budget of USD 7.4 billion; **Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan is the 15th director of the NSF**. He is expected to take office on July 6; He is the second Indian American ever to be nominated to the prestigious science position with the first being Dr Subra Suresh who served from October 2010 to March 2013.

### 37. Nikhil Rathi, Indian-origin chief of the London Stock Exchange, appointed as CEO to UK's financial regulator

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak appointed Indian-origin chief of the London Stock Exchange Nikhil Rathi as the new chief executive of the **UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)**. He will succeed FCA's interim CEO Christopher Woolard. FCA operates independently of the UK Government.

The FCA also has a purview as the prudential supervisor for nearly 49,000 firms not supervised by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA), setting specific standards for 19,000 firms of the country.

### 38. Vini Mahajan appointed first female chief secretary of Punjab

**Punjab has appointed Vini Mahajan**, a 1987-batch IAS officer, as the new chief secretary of Punjab. She replaces 1984-batch IAS officer Karan Avtar Singh, who recently had a face-off with Punjab ministers. Singh, who is due to retire on August 31. **Punjab CM: Amarinder Singh**; Governor: V. P. Singh Badnore.

### 39. Carrier Midea India appoints Sanjay Mahajan as MD

Carrier Midea India, a joint venture between Carrier and Midea, has appointed **Sanjay Mahajan as Managing Director**. Estd in February 2012, CMI has developed a strong industry position in the India residential air-conditioning segment. **1st modern air conditioner was invented in 1902 by Willis H Carrier**.

### 40. Malawi opposition leader Lazarus Chakwera wins historic poll rerun

**Malawi's opposition leader Lazarus Chakwera** has won the country's rerun presidential vote. **He defeated incumbent Peter Mutharika** with 58.57% of the vote. It is the 2nd African nation to annul a presidential election over irregularities after Kenya in 2017. **Malawi Capital- Lilongwe; Currency- kwacha**.

In February, Malawi's constitutional court annulled Mr Mutharika's victory in the May 2019 election, citing vote tampering.

### 41. Tushar Mehta re-named Solicitor General for three years, KK Venugopal Attorney General for a year

Appointments Committee has approved the re-appointment of senior advocate **Tushar Mehta as Solicitor General for a period of 3 years**. Senior advocate K.K. Venugopal has also been reappointed to the post of Attorney General for India for a period of 1 year. **New ASGs for SC for a period of 3 years are also appointed**.

Senior advocate, while the Centre has re-appointed Vikramjit Banerjee, Aman Lekhi, Madhavi Divan, K.M. Nataraj and Sanjay Jain- as **ASGs for the Supreme Court for three years**; The Appointments Committee has also appointed new ASGs for the Supreme Court for a period of 3 years. They are Balbir Singh, Suryaprakash V. Raju, A.N. Venkataraman, Jayant K. Sud, Aishwarya Bhati and Rupinder Singh Suri; **The committee also appointed as five ASGs for the High Courts for a period of three years**: Yezdezard Jehangir Dastoor for the Calcutta High Court, Chetan Sharma for the Delhi High Court, R. Sankaranarayanan for the Madras High Court, Dr. Krishna Nandan Singh for the Patna High Court and Devang Girish Vyas for the Gujarat High Court; Senior advocates Anil Singh and Satya Pal Jain have been re-appointed as ASGs of the High Courts of Bombay and Punjab & Haryana respectively.

#### 42. Micheal Martin elected as the new Prime Minister of Ireland

Micheál Martin is set to become Ireland's new head of government, ending months of political deadlock. The leader of Fianna Fail, the country's dominant centre-right Republican party, will formally succeed Leo Varadkar. **Ireland Capital- Dublin; Currency- Euro.**

Micheal Martin, will lead the government for the **first two and a half years** (until December 2022); the second half of the 5-year term will be led by Leo Varadkar, Indian Origin Leader of Fine Gael.

## Awards

### 1. Indian writer wins regional award for Asia in Commonwealth Short Story Prize

**Kritika Pandey has won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize for Asia 2020** which is awarded for the best unpublished short fiction. She won it for the book **‘The Great Indian Tee and Snakes’**. It talks about love in an age of hatred and prejudice. Pandey had been previously nominated for the Pushcart Prize.

Apart from her, other winners are Innocent Chizaram Ilo (Africa), Reyah Martin (Canada and Europe), Brian S Heap (Caribbean) and Andrea E Macleod (Pacific).

### 2. SA scientist Quarraisha Abdool Karim wins R10m French prize

Acclaimed HIV researcher Professor **Quarraisha Abdool Karim**, who found that a topical gel could stop many women catching the virus, has been awarded **Christophe Merieux Prize** for her work for the Durban-based Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in SA. **South Africa Currency: South African rand.**

Abdool Karim, 60, has previously won her homeland's highest honour, the Order of Mapungubwe, as well as a prestigious L'Oral-Unesco for Women in Science award.

### 3. Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar is EY world entrepreneur of the year 2020

**Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, Executive Chairperson of Biocon Limited, was named EY ‘World Entrepreneur of The Year 2020’ in a virtual award ceremony. She was picked from among 46 award winners from across 41 countries. **She became the 3rd Indian to get the honours.** Earlier Indian Winners: Uday Kotak (2014); Narayan Murthy (2005).

Uday Kotak of Kotak Mahindra Bank and Narayana Murthy of Infosys are the Indians to have previously won the award. **Kiran Mazumdar has also become the second woman to win the award after Olivia Lum of Singapore's Hyflux.**

### 4. Javed Akhtar becomes only Indian to win prestigious Richard Dawkins award

Lyricist **Javed Akhtar becomes only Indian to win prestigious Richard Dawkins award.** The Richard Dawkins Award is bestowed upon individuals who ‘publicly proclaim the values of secularism, rationalism, upholding scientific truth’, since 2003. He is an English ethologist, evolutionary biologist & author.

Every year, the award recognises a distinguished individual from the field of science, scholarship, education, or entertainment, who publicly proclaims the values of secularism and rationalism and upholding scientific truth; British actor-comedian Ricky Gervais received the honour last year; Centre for Inquiry (CFI) gives this annual award; CFI is a non-profit organization that advocates of strict church-state separation and opposes religion in government affairs; **CFI Headquarters- New York, USA.**

### 5. Indian Entrepreneur Renjith Kumar honoured with ‘NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal’

**Renjith Kumar** bagged the NASA’s highest form of recognition for a non-governmental individual **‘NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal’** for his service through executive leadership, engineering contribution, technical excellence, and customer satisfaction. First Indian to win DPSM award- RK Chetty Pandipati (in 2002).

**DPSM is NASA's highest form of recognition** that is awarded to any non-Government individual or to an individual who was not a Government employee during the period in which the service was performed, whose distinguished service, ability, or vision has personally contributed to NASA's advancement of United States' interests. The individual's achievement or contribution must demonstrate a level of excellence that has made a profound or indelible impact to NASA mission success, therefore, the contribution is so extraordinary that other forms of recognition by NASA would be inadequate.

### 6. Asia's version of Nobel Prize awards, Ramon Magsaysay, cancelled due to COVID-19 fears

A **Philippine** peace award has been cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, marking only the 3rd disruption in 6 decades for the annual prize regarded as an **Asian Nobel**. The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation gives the prize. **It is named after former Philippine President, Ramon Magsaysay.**

The awards were also cancelled due to a financial crisis in 1970 and a disastrous earthquake in 1990; **The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation gives the prize** to Asian individuals achieving excellence in their respective fields; The awards were traditionally given in five categories: government service; public service;



community leadership; journalism, literature, and creative communication arts; and peace and international understanding. 5 of these, however, were discontinued post 2009.

#### 7. Indian American soil scientist Rattan Lal gets 2020 World Food Prize

Indian American soil scientist Rattan Lal has been named this year's recipient of the **World Food Prize** for developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increasing food production that conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change. **The World Food Prize was Instituted in the year 1987.**

**He will receive the 2.5 lakh dollar award** that honours his contribution throughout his career spanning more than five decades and four continents to promote innovative soil-saving techniques that benefit the livelihoods of more than 500 million smallholder farmers, improve the food and nutritional security of more than two billion people and saves hundreds of millions of hectares of natural tropical ecosystems.

#### 8. Indian Musician Shobha Sekhar receives 'the Medal of the Order of Australia'

**Shobha Sekhar**, founder of Kalakruthi, The Montreal-based artiste and lecturer, University of Melbourne, figures in the Queen's Birthday 2020 Honours List and will be conferred the Medal of the Order of Australia later this year. Australia PM: Scott Morrison, **Currency: Dollar, Capital: Canberra.**

#### 9. Hyderabad NGO wins Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's Biodiversity Award

**Deccan Development Society, an NGO based in Hyderabad**, has won the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's Biodiversity Award. The society has won the award 'in recognition of the work of DDS women to rehabilitate degraded lands & promote biodiversity'. **The award carries a cash prize of Rs 35 lakh.**

Award was announced by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Vice President and CEO, Olivier Wenden; The Prince Monaco Award comes in a series of special awards for DDS announced by various groups in the last 12 months, on top of which was the **UNDP's prestigious Equator Award** followed by Shinning World Protection Award for "its noble, gracious and loving efforts to improve our world".

**The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation was created in 2006 by H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco;** The Foundation is dedicated to the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development on a global scale with an emphasis on climate change and energy, biodiversity, and water; The Foundation defines three broad geographical priorities: The Mediterranean Basin, The Polar Regions; and The Least-Developed Countries.

#### 10. Indian economist Amartya Sen wins Peace Prize of the German Book Trade

Harvard professor & Nobel prize winner Sen was granted the **2020 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade** for his "decades-long work on the question "as a question of global justice. "The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade has been awarded annually since 1950. **It comes with a cash prize of 25,000 euros (\$28,000).**

Its aim is to honour individuals "who have made an outstanding contribution to the realization of the idea of peace primarily through his activities in the fields of literature, science and art."

#### 11. 78th Golden Globe awards postponed to February 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic

**The Golden Globe Awards ceremony for film & television has been postponed to February 2021.** The Golden Globes ceremony, which kicks off Hollywood's awards season, will now take place on 28th February instead of its usual slot on the 1st Sunday in January. It is presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

Golden Globe Award, any of the awards presented annually by the **Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA)** in recognition of outstanding achievement in motion pictures and television during the previous year; It recognizes excellence in film, both American and International, and American television; As previously announced, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, are still set to host; The BAFTAS are traditionally held two weeks prior to the Academy Awards and are now slated for April 11, 2021.

## Ranks & Reports

### 1. India drops six places in the ranking for world's best start-up ecosystems

In the latest ranking of global start-up ecosystems by Startup Blink, India dropped six places to **23rd spot**. Bengaluru dropped three places to have the 14th rank in the top cities with the best start-up's ecosystems, while **Delhi climbed 3 spots to 15th rank**. This year only four Indian cities made it to top 100 cities list **Mumbai held the 22nd rank. Hyderabad lost 21 spots to be ranked 96th**. India's results were disappointing because last year the country had seven cities in the top 100. StartupBlink also called India's much-celebrated jump to the 17th spot in 2019 a "bit premature". India is home to over 50,000 start-ups with 31 unicorns. India has about 9,300 tech startups alone and 1,600 are deep tech start-ups. According to Nasscom – Zinnov report, Indian tech start-up Ecosystem, India will see 100 unicorns by 2025 and will create over 1.1 million direct jobs. **The ranking has been led by the US, the UK and Israel**. China improved its rank by 13 spots to 14th position and Japan stood at 21st.

### 2. 60 million could be pushed into extreme poverty in 2020: World Bank President

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have severe short- and long-term effects on economic growth, the **World Bank** said in its **Global Economic Prospects (GEP) June 2020 report**. According to the report 60 million people could be pushed into poverty this year. Emerging Market & Developing Economies are especially vulnerable

The report said EMDEs face health crises, restrictions and external shocks like falling trade, tourism and commodity prices, as well as capital outflows. These countries are **expected to have a 3-8% output loss in the short term**, based on studies of previous pandemics, as per the Bank's analysis. EDMs are also expected to witness the spill over effects of the U.S., the Euro Area and China, which represent almost half of global output, being unlikely to return to pre-pandemic levels of output before the end of 2021. If these three big economies simultaneously lose 1% in output, EDMs (excluding China) are expected to lose 1.3% in their output with the lag of a year, the Bank warned. The severity of the current recession has been unseen in eight decades. **World Bank President: David Malpass**.

### 3. THE Asia University Ranking: 8 Indian institutes in top 100

With **eight institutes in the top 100 India is the third most represented country in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Ranking**. Indian Institute of Science Bangalore retains its top position in the country by attaining the 36th spot globally. Eight IITs have also been featured in the top 100.

This is India's best performance since 2016, in terms of the number of institutes. Last time, India had eight institutes in the top 100 in 2016. Apart from IIT-Kharagpur and IIT-Delhi which have improved their performance since 2019, and IIT-Ropar which has debuted in the ranking this year, the rest of the IITs have a scored lower. Global Top Three Universities: **Rank 1: Tsinghua University, China Rank 2: Peking University, China Rank 3: National University of Singapore, Singapore** India's Ranking: Rank 36: IISc Bangalore Rank 47: IIT Ropar Rank 59: IIT Kharagpur.

Even as IISc has dropped seven places from its rank in 2019, it remains the top Indian institute for the fifth consecutive year. China not only got the global top rank with Tsinghua University but also dominated the table with 81 universities, however, the most represented country was Japan with 110 institutes. **THE Asia University Rankings based on 13 performance indicators**.

### 4. Periodic Labour Force Survey Report July 2018 – June 2019

India's unemployment rate improved from a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2017-18 to 5.8% in 2018-19 latest **Periodic Labour Force Survey released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**. The labour force participation rate improved to 37.5%. Last year, PLFS report showed the worst unemployment in 45 years.

Other Details of the report: The report shows the dip came across all categories, though women and rural workers showed the most improvement. **Women's unemployment fell from 5.7% to 5.2%**, while male unemployment only fell from 6.2% to 6%.

Urban unemployment was still at a high of 7.7% in 2018-19, a marginal drop from 7.8% in 2017-18, while rural unemployment fell from 5.3% to 5%. The unemployment rate among the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and

Scheduled Tribes (STs) has gone up during FY 2018 – 19. The unemployment rate for SCs went up to 6.4% while for STs it was 4.5 as against 4.3.

Youth in the age bracket of 15-29 years and educated persons have an unemployment rate in the double digits with 17.3% and 11% respectively. Religion wise, higher unemployment was observed among Christian and Sikh while Hindus were at last among four major groups. Joblessness among Christian came down to 7.2% from 8.7% while for Sikhs it went up to 7.2% from 6.9%. Joblessness among Hindus and Muslims came down to 5.6% and 6.8% respectively from 5.8% and 7.3% respectively.

Key employment and unemployment Indicators covered included **Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR)**, Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and Unemployment Rate (UR). Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population. Worker Population Ratio (WPR): WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population. Unemployment Rate (UR): UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

## 5. Gujarat, Goa, Chandigarh lead India's food safety index

**Gujarat has topped among larger States in terms of food safety index, while Chandigarh tops among UTs.** Goa leads smaller States so far as food safety is concerned, as per the details shared by FSSAI. Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra follow Gujarat. **Manipur and Meghalaya follow Goa.**

Among UTs, Chandigarh, Delhi and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have secured top ranks; Second edition of index was announced during a webinar conducted on the occasion of “**World Food Safety Day**” on **June 7, 2020** on the theme “Food Safety is everyone’s business”; FSSAI also released an e-handbook on 'Eat Right during COVID-19' for the citizens.

It highlights safe food practices to be followed diligently and tips on health and nutrition; An updated guidance note 'Food Hygiene and Safety Guidelines for Food Businesses during Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic' was also released on the occasion; The index ranks states on five parameters of food safety: human resources and institutional data, compliance, food testing facility, training and capacity building besides consumer empowerment.

**FSSAI Chairperson- Rita Teatia**; FSSAI CEO- Arun Singhal; The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards , 2006; **FSSAI is headquartered in New Delhi**; Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.

## 6. India sees a dip in number of self-employed households in FY19: Survey

The percentage of self-employed households in rural India dropped from 52.2% in FY18 to **51.7% in FY19**, while in urban India it declined from 32.4% to 31.8% during the same period, according to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey released by NSO**. Minister of Labour and Employment- Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

In rural India, the decline is because of a fall in households depending on agriculture, from 37.8% in FY18 to **36.6% in FY19**, while those self-employed in non-agricultural activities rose from 14.3% to 15.1% in the same period.

In rural areas, non-agricultural casual labourers grew from 12.9% in FY18 to 13.4% in FY19. In urban India, households dependent on casual labour fell from 11.8% to 11% in the same period. In the case of regular wage earners, it rose both in rural (13.1%) and urban India (42.8%) by 0.4 percentage points and 1.4 percentage points respectively in FY19, signalling more formalization of the economy; The use of MUDRA loans spiked in FY18.

In FY19, they had to pay that loan back; The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana was launched on 8 April 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the purpose of creating an ecosystem of growth for micro enterprises sector. In FY18, the sanctioned amount of MUDRA loans rose to ₹2.53 trillion from ₹1.8 trillion in the preceding year. **In FY19, it rose to ₹3.21 trillion exceeding the target of ₹3 trillion**; The NSO survey defines self-employed as those who run their own farm or non-farm enterprises or are engaged independently in a profession or trade on own-account or with one or a few partners.

## 7. Mumbai most expensive Indian city for expats, 19th most expensive in Asia: Survey

According to Mercer's '2020 Cost of Living Survey', **Mumbai is the 60th most expensive city for expatriates globally**, while it ranks 19th in Asia. Mumbai is followed by New Delhi (101st globally) and Chennai (143rd globally). Bengaluru (171) & Kolkata (185) are the least expensive cities.

Overall, all Indian cities surveyed showed a jump in rankings by a minimum of four places, **with New Delhi climbing the most by 17 positions** and narrowly escaping the top 100 list of most expensive cities for expatriates; The global list was **topped by Hong Kong, followed by Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) in second position**.

Japan's Tokyo and Switzerland's Zurich remain in the third and fourth positions, respectively, whereas Singapore is in fifth position, down two places from last year; Other cities figuring in the top ten in the global ranking are the United States' New York City at sixth place, China's Shanghai at seventh, Switzerland's Bern and Geneva at eighth and ninth place, respectively, and Beijing at the tenth slot.

**New York City is used as the base city for all comparisons and currency movements are measured against the US dollar**; This year's ranking includes 209 cities across five continents, and measures the comparative cost of more than 200 items in each location, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment.

## 8. Population of Asiatic lions increases by 28.87%: Report

In the recent exercise called **Poonam Avalokan**, which was carried out by the forest department, the population of Asiatic lions has shown a steady increase by 28.87%. The population of lions has gone up to 674 against the 523 which was reported in 2015. **The Gir forest in Gujarat is the last abode of Asiatic lions**.

**15th lion census** which was scheduled to take place this month was not carried out due to Coronavirus pandemic; The exercise shows that the lion distribution area has increased by 36 percent; "Poonam Avlokana" or full moon observation of lions is a routine monthly exercise; The distribution of lion habitat has also increased from 22,000 square km in 2015 to 30,000 square km in 2020; 14th Asiatic Lion Census was conducted on May 2015.

## 9. India ranks 56th among 200 countries on Covid-19 safety assessment

**India has been ranked 56th out of 200** countries in a comprehensive report on safety & risk assessment of nations tackling Covid-19. According to **the Deep Knowledge Group's report**, Switzerland is the safest country, followed by Germany & Israel. **South Sudan is the most dangerous country as per the report**.

Study used 130 qualitative and quantitative parameters with over 11,400 data points to create an index analysing "health, societal and economic status of each region in terms of their absolute and relative stability, safety and risk".

Deep Knowledge Group is a consortium of commercial and non-profits owned by Deep Knowledge Ventures. It is an investment firm in Hong Kong and was founded in 2014; **The study also created a subset of four distinct tiers**, ranking each nation under different parameters according to available data; Tier one included 20 countries which were analysed by 130 parameters. Each country in tier one scored "exceptionally well" in terms of regional safety. Some of the nations in tier one is Switzerland, Germany, Israel, Japan and Singapore.

Tier two also included 20 countries which were studied by 60 parameters. In this tier, the countries scored on the "higher end of average" for the quality of their health care systems, emergency preparedness and government management; Tier three included 60 countries which "should have scored well" given their crisis management resources and healthcare infrastructure, but these nations "ranked much lower than expected".

**India was included in tier three, along with Pakistan, Brazil and some others**; Tier four saw 100 countries which scored "least optimally" and saw the highest levels of "data unavailability and unreliability".

## 10. Indian diets are unhealthy: EAT-Lancet report

Indian diets -across states, income groups, and rural and urban sectors -are unhealthy, according to the **2019 EAT-Lancet Commission report**. The average daily calorie consumption in India is below the recommended 2,503 kcal/capita/day across all groups. **The EAT-Lancet diet comprises eight food groups**.

EAT-Lancet recommends about one-third (811 kcals) of the total daily calorie intake should come from whole grains. The average Indian household receives nearly half (47 per cent) of their total calories from whole grains. The calorie share of cereals is as high as 70 per cent for the poorest rural households. The EAT-Lancet diet comprises eight food groups: Whole grains, tubers and starchy vegetables, fruits, other vegetables, dairy foods, protein sources, added fats and added sugars.

### 11. QS World University Ranking 2021: 3 Indian Institutes Out of Top 200

Three educational institutes from India, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Indian Institute of Science and IIT Delhi feature in the top 200 list of the **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021**. MIT of US took the number one spot. Stanford & Harvard University are at the second and third ranks.

### 12. MHRD releases the National Institute Ranking Framework list

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) released the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking list. The **IIT Madras topped the list followed by IISc Bangalore**. The third place was secured by IIT Delhi. **The first NIRF ranking was released in 2016.**

### 13. 'COVID-19 and Child Labour: A Time of Crisis, A Time to Act' Report released

ILO and UNICEF have released report on Child Labour titled 'COVID-19 & Child Labour: A Time of Crisis, A Time to Act'. According to the report, COVID-19 will increase poverty that will eventually drive the increase in child labour. **1% poverty increase will lead to 0.7% increase in child labour.**

### 14. Global goods trade to fall 27% in Q2 after 5% decline in first quarter: UNCTAD

UNCTAD said that the value of international trade in goods declined around 5% in the Q1 of 2020 & is expected to **decline further by 27% in the ongoing quarter** with trade in many developing countries projected to nosedive due to the effects of the pandemic. **UNCTAD Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland.**

UNCTAD's estimates are in line with those of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which expects global merchandise trade to decline 13-32% in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic; In the first quarter of 2020, textiles and apparel declined almost 12%, while office machinery and automotive sectors fell around 8%.

On the other hand, the value of international trade in the agri-food sector increased 2%. Significant declines are also observed in chemicals, machineries and precision instruments with drops above 10%. Conversely, office machinery appears to have rebounded in April, largely because of the positive export performance of China; Trade in agri-food products has been so far the least volatile.

### 15. CAS Beijing topped the Nature Index 2020

**Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing topped the Nature Index 2020 Annual Tables list** as the most prolific producer of research published in the 82 selected journals tracked by the Index. CSIR is on 160th position globally & 1st among Indian institutions. **Indian Institute of Science Bangalore is at the 184th position.**

Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata is at 7th position. Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore is at 14th position and N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata is at the 30th position; **The database is compiled by Nature Research**, a division of the international scientific publishing company Springer Nature that publishes academic journals; Nature Research's flagship publication is Nature, a weekly multidisciplinary journal first published in 1869; The Nature Index provides a close to real-time proxy of high-quality research output and collaboration at the institutional, national and regional level.

The Nature Index is updated monthly and also releases annual tables of country; India is placed twelfth globally in science research output. **The top five positions have gone to the United States of America, China, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan;** Harvard University, USA & Max Planck Society, Germany ranked 2nd & 3rd respectively.

### 16. India, China increased nuclear weapons since last year: SIPRI

India & China have increased their nuclear arsenal over the last year, according to **SIPRI report**. The Swedish think-tank that researches on conflict, armaments and arms control also pointed out that China is significantly modernising its nuclear arsenal. **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute is in Sweden.**

China and Pakistan have more nuclear warheads as compared to India, according to the SIPRI Yearbook 2020. India has 150 nuclear warheads, while China and Pakistan have 320 and 160. The figures are until January. Last year, India had 130-140 warheads, while China had 290 and Pakistan 150-160; **China is developing a so-called nuclear triad for the first time**, made up of new land and sea-based missiles and nuclear-capable aircraft; **The nine nuclear-armed states—the US, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea**—together possessed an estimated 13,400 nuclear weapons at the start of 2020. This marked a decrease from the 13,865 nuclear weapons that SIPRI estimated these states possessed at the beginning of 2019. Around 3,720 of the nuclear weapons are currently deployed with operational forces and nearly 1,800 of these are kept in a state of high operational alert.

#### **17. India 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019: World Investment Report**

India received \$51 billion in foreign investment in 2019. **UN Conference on Trade and Development** in its report said, it was the world's ninth largest recipient of FDI. In the developing Asia region, India was among the top five host economies for FDI. **FDI to India increased 20% to 51 billion US dollar.**

As per the **World Investment Report 2020** by the UNCTAD; Most of the investments in India were in the information and communication technology and the construction industry; 42 billion dollars of FDI was received in 2018; The report said that global FDI flows are forecast to decrease by up to 40 per cent in 2020, from their 2019 value of USD 1.54 trillion; This would be for the first time since 2005 that global FDI falls below the USD 1 trillion mark; Foreign direct investment to developing economies in Asia, hit hard by the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic, are projected to decline by up to 45 per cent in 2020; **In South Asia, FDI is also expected to contract sharply in 2020.**

#### **18. Institute for Management Development releases World Competitive Index**

The Institute of Management Development recently released the World Competitive Index. **Singapore topped the list followed by Denmark and Switzerland.** India ranked 43rd in the Index. Out of the 63 countries, Venezuela is at the bottom. Among the BRICS countries, **China topped followed by India.**

According to the ranking, India has improved in long term employment growth, foreign currency reserves, overall productivity, education. On the other hand, India had declined in taxes, real GDP growth, competition legislation, exchange rate stability; 2019 marked the 30th anniversary of the IMD World Competitiveness Center; **Network of partner institutes in 57 countries** supplies data from national sources to the institute.

#### **19. Average temperature of India may rise by 4.4 degrees Celsius by end of 21st century: Report**

The average temperature over India is projected to rise by 4.4 degrees Celsius, while the intensity of heat waves is likely to increase by 3-4 times by the end of the century, as per the **'Assessment of Climate Change over Indian Region'** report. Centre for Climate Change Research, Pune prepared the report.

#### **20. Around 45 million pushed into global food insecurity: FAO report**

Almost 45 million people were pushed into acute food insecurity since February 2020 because of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as per the report titled **'Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition'** by the FAO. **FAO Headquarters is located in Rome, Italy.**

Almost 33 million of those who will be pushed into food insecurity reside in South and Southeast Asia, with the remainder in Sub-Saharan Africa; Even before the pandemic, more than 820 million were already identified as chronically food insecure in 2019; Food systems contributed up to 29 per cent of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while livestock contributed 14.5 per cent of all anthropogenic GHG emissions, of which 44 percent is in the form of methane, the report pointed out; The pandemic and measures to curb it may result in \$8.5 trillion being shaved off the global economy in the next two years, according to estimates cited by the report released in June.

#### **21. India remains 3rd largest economy in Purchasing Power Parity: World Bank**

India has retained its position as the **3rd-largest economy in the world in terms of purchasing power parity**, even as it is way behind the US & China. India accounts for 6.7% (\$ 8,051-b) out of the world's total of \$119,547 billion of GDP in terms of PPP. World Bank has released new PPPs for the reference year 2017. **The World Bank has released new PPPs for the reference year 2017**, under the International Comparison Program (ICP), that adjust for differences in the cost of living across economies of the world. Globally, 176 economies participated in 2017 cycle of ICP.

**The ICP is the largest worldwide data collection initiative**, under the guidance of UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), with the goal of producing PPPs, which are vital for converting measures of economic activities to be comparable across economies; Along with the PPPs, the ICP also produces PLI and other regionally comparable aggregates of GDP expenditure. India has participated in almost all ICP rounds since its inception in 1970.

As per the release, in 2017, India retained its regional position, as the second-largest economy, accounted for 20.83 per cent of the regional gross domestic product (GDP) in terms of PPPs where China was at 50.76 per cent (first) and Indonesia at 7.49 per cent (third); India is also the second-largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in regional actual individual consumption and regional gross capital formation, it added.

The next ICP comparison will be conducted for the reference year 2021; **Price Level Index (PLI)**, the ratio of a PPP to its corresponding market exchange rate, which is used to compare the price levels of economies, improved to 47.55 in 2017 from 42.99 in 2011; PPP of the rupee per dollar at the gross domestic product (GDP) level rose to 20.65 in 2017 from 15.55 in 2011, while the exchange rate of a dollar to a rupee rose to 65.12 from 46.67 during the period.

## **22. 26.9 crore people used drugs in 2018: UNODC World Drug Report**

About 26.9 crore people used drugs in 2018, which was 30% more than the 2009 figure, with adolescents and young adults accounting for the largest share of users, according to the latest United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drug Report. **UNODC Founded: 1997; HQ: Vienna, Austria.**

## **23. Bengaluru in world's top 30 start-up ecosystem list: GSER Report**

According to '**GSER 2020; the New Normal for the Global Start-up Economy and the Impact of COVID-19**' report released by Start-up Genome, Bengaluru has become the only city in the country to be included in the world's top-30 start up ecosystem ranking. Bengaluru - 26th rank, **First Rank- Silicon Valley in California.**

While **Delhi is in the runner-up category at the 36th spot**, Mumbai ranks first in the list of top 100 emerging ecosystem ranking. The list of emerging start-up hubs also includes Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune; Bengaluru, along with Paris and Singapore, stand out for high access as well as quality and activity of funding, the report said. Delhi ranked well for the volume and complexity of patent creation in the analysis, which found London and New York tied for second spot.

The report by Start-up Genome, a **California-headquartered innovation policy advisory and research firm**, analyses cities around the world where early stage start-ups have the best shot at building global success; Access to capital, investment and global talent has fuelled London's ascent to number two, up from number eight in 2012 when the first rankings were released.

## **24. FATF releases its first-ever report on illegal wildlife trade**

FATF released its first-ever report on illegal wildlife trade. FATF is an independent inter-governmental body that develops and promotes policies to protect the global financial system against money laundering & terrorist financing. **FATF Headquarters- Paris, France.**

**FATF Presidency- Xiangmin Liu of China**; Estimating the proceeds of IWT to be between \$7 and \$23 billion per year globally, the FATF has suggested to all member governments that the financial aspect of wildlife trade needs to be looked at more carefully, and that money laundering laws should be applied to wildlife trade since the proceeds enters the global market through money laundering.

## Important Days

### 1. Global Day for Parents: June 1

Global Day of Parents is an annual event celebrated on June 1 to honour all the parents around the world for being the anchor of their families and selflessly nurturing their children. The day was declared as the Global Day of Parents by the UNGA in 2012. **The theme for 2020: Appreciate all parents throughout the world.**

### 2. World Milk Day: June 1

World Milk Day was established by Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate dairy sector. Benefits of milk and dairy products have been actively promoted around the world. **The theme for the day: '20th Anniversary of World Milk Day.'**

### 3. World Bicycle Day: June 3

World Bicycle Day is observed on June 3. It is celebrated to lay emphasis on the benefits of cycling. Riding a bicycle is not only good for one's health but is also good for the environment. Various cycling events are organised in order to promote cycling. **The First Bicycle Day was celebrated on June 3, 2018.**

### 4. World Environment Day: June 5

World Environment Day, hosted by Colombia in 2020, is the most renowned day for environmental action. Since 1974, it is celebrated every year on 5 June: engaging governments, businesses and citizens to focus their efforts on a pressing environmental issue. **2020 theme - 'Biodiversity' -concern that is urgent & existential.**

What is Biodiversity? Biodiversity underpins life on Earth and refers to the variety found in biota from the genetic makeup of plants and animals to cultural diversity. The day will be hosted in Columbia in partnership with Germany. **The theme for the World Environment Day 2020 set by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is 'Time for Nature'** with a focus on its role in providing the essential infrastructure that supports life on Earth and human development

### 5. World Food Safety Day: 7 June

Under the theme "Food safety, everyone's business", the action-oriented campaign to promote global food safety awareness and call upon countries and decision makers, the private sector, civil society, UN organizations and the general public to take action. **FAO is a UN Specialised agency headquartered in Rome, Italy.**

The United Nations (UN) has assigned two of its agencies, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to lead efforts in promoting food safety around the world. **June 7, 2019, marked the first anniversary of World Food Safety Day.**

### 6. 8 June: World Ocean Day

In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly decided to designate 8 June as World Oceans Day. The day celebrates the role of the oceans in our everyday life and inspires action to protect the ocean and sustainably use marine resources. **2020 World Oceans Day Theme- Innovation for a sustainable ocean.**

Many countries have celebrated World Oceans Day following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; For 2020 World Oceans Day is growing the global movement to call on world leaders to protect **30% of our blue planet by 2030.** This critical need is called 30x30.

### 7. 8 June: World Brain Tumour Day

World Brain Tumour Day is observed annually on June 8. Brain tumour is the tenth leading cause of morbidity in India. Day which was initiated by the Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe in 2000 to pay respect to all the brain tumour patients and their families. **Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe is headquartered in Germany.**

The grey ribbon is the international symbol for the solidarity with brain tumor patients; As per the GLOBOCAN 2018 report, issued by the International Association of Cancer Registries (IARC) associated with the World Health Organization (WHO), in India over 28,000 cases of new brain tumour cases were reported annually.



### 8. 9 June: QCI Celebrates the World Accreditation Day 2020

WAD is celebrated on 9th June to highlight as well as promote the role of accreditation in trade & economy. The theme for WAD 2020 is ‘Accreditation: Improving Food Safety’, as decided by IAF and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation. **IAF- International Accreditation Forum.**

**National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) and National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), the two accreditation boards of the Quality Council of India (QCI),** organised a Webinar to commemorate the event; Chairperson FSSAI, Rita Teatota was the chief guest; Shyamsundar Bang- Chairman of NABCB; NABCB Headquarters-New Delhi; NABL Headquarters- Gurugram; Interim Chairperson of NABL- D.K. Aswal; CEO of NABL- Venkateswaran; QCI is governed by a Council comprising of 38 members including the Chairman and Secretary General; QCI Headquarters- New Delhi.

### 9. June 9: Coral Triangle Day

Every year the Coral Triangle Day is observed on June 9. The goal of the Day is to position the Coral Triangle as a globally significant eco-region- a modern day icon of the natural world so that millions of people learn more about its significance. **The Day is observed by the Coral Triangle Initiative.**

**Coral Triangle Initiative is a multilateral partnership of six countries namely Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste.** The Coral Triangle Initiative is also called the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF); Along with the Coral Triangle, the other two Mega Complexes of the earth includes Amazon rain forest and Congo Basin.

### 10. World Day Against Child Labour: 12 June

World Day Against Child Labour 2020 focuses on the impact of crisis on child labour. Almost one in ten of all children worldwide are in child labour. World Day against Child Labour 2020 theme- **COVID-19: Protect Children from Child Labour, now more than ever.** Child labour is concentrated primarily in agriculture (71%).

Target 8.7 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals calls for an end to child labour in all its forms by 2025. This year, the World Day is conducted as a virtual campaign and is being organized jointly with the Global March Against Child Labour and the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA).

### 11. 13 June: International Albinism Awareness Day

On 2014 December 18, the United Nations’ General Assembly adopted a resolution establishing June 13th as International Albinism Awareness Day. Albinism is an inherited genetic condition that reduces the amount of melanin pigment in the skin, hair and eyes. **2020 Theme of the day- ‘Made to Shine’.**

### 12. 14 June: World Blood Donor Day

Countries celebrate **14 June as World Blood Donor Day.** The event serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood. 2020 WBDD Theme- **‘Safe blood saves lives.’** Slogan- **‘Give blood & make the world a healthier place’.**

### 13. 15 June: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

**World Elder Abuse Day 2020 is observed on 15th of June.** World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations. **The 2020 theme – ‘Building Strong Supports for Elders’.**

According to the Statistics, more than ten percent of elderly people are prone to the abuse in various forms be it neglecting, physical abuse, exploitation and etc; The day was established after the United Nations General Assembly officially acknowledged it in its resolution in December 2011. This proposition came into the picture after the **International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)** requested to first establish the commemoration in June 2006.

### 14. 15 June: Global Wind Day

Global Wind Day is a worldwide event that occurs annually on 15 June. It is a day for discovering wind energy, its power and the possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems, decarbonise our economies and boost jobs and growth. **European Wind Energy Association established the day on 2007.**

In 2009, EWEA (European Wind Energy Association) and GWEC (Global Wind Energy Council) teamed up with aims to coordinate the events globally and the name was changed to Global Wind Day; **World Wind Energy Association Headquarters- Bonn, Germany; EWEA HQ- Brussels, Belgium;** Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) was established in 2005.

### 15. 16 June: International Day of Family Remittances

**IDFR observed on 16 June is a recognized observance adopted by UNGA.** IDFR recognizes the contribution of over 200 million migrant workers to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children. **2020 IDFR Theme: ‘Remittances are a lifeline’.**

The IDFR is fully recognized at global level, and included as one of the key initiatives to implement the newly-adopted Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Objective 20), also calling for the reduction of remittance transfer costs, and greater financial inclusion through remittances. The Day is also functional to the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); In 2019, there were approximately 200 million migrant workers providing essential services to important economic sectors in more than 40 high income countries, and sending needed financial resources to support an estimated 800 million relatives living back home in more than 125 countries. Almost half of those families live in rural areas, where remittances “count the most.”

### 16. 17 June: World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought

Desertification and Drought Day, a United Nations observance day held on 17 June each year, will in 2020 focus on changing public attitudes to the leading driver of desertification and land degradation: humanity’s relentless production and consumption. **2020 Theme- ‘Food. Feed. Fibre’.**

**The day was officially declared by the UN General Assembly in the year December 1994;** Over 70 per cent of natural ecosystems have been transformed. By 2050, this could hit 90 per cent; By 2030, food production will require an additional 300 million hectares of land; By 2030, the fashion industry is predicted to use 35 per cent more land – over 115 million hectares, equivalent to the size of Colombia; Clothing and footwear production causes 8 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions; Dietary change alone can free up between 80 and 240 million hectares of land; The theme for 2020 was based on a competition open to the public.

### 17. 18 June: International Picnic Day

International Picnic Day observed on 18th of June encourage people to go outdoors and enjoy a hearty meal in nature, with other people’s company. The true origin of Picnic day can be traced back to the end of the French Revolution and the Victorian Era. **Largest Picnic took place in Portugal as per Guinness Book data.**

The exact origin of International Picnic Day is not known but it is generally accepted as an informal food holiday that is an escape from formality.

### 18. 18 June: Autistic Pride Day

The aim of Autistic Pride Day which is celebrated globally on 18th of June is to raise awareness amongst those who are not on the autistic spectrum disorder so they do not see autistic people as requiring treatment, but as unique individuals. **Day is represented by the rainbow infinity symbol.**

Rainbow infinity symbol is intended to represent the diversity of autistic people and the infinite possibilities and variations within the autistic community; Event was first celebrated by Aspies for Freedom in 2005.

### 19. Karnataka to Observe 'Mask Day' on June 18 to Spread Awareness About Covid-19

The **Karnataka government to observe ‘Mask Day’ on June 18** to create awareness in the masses about the importance of wearing one amid the CoVID pandemic. The civic body is already raising awareness about the infection through announcements and pamphlets. Karnataka Chief Minister: B S Yediyurappa.

### 20. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict - 19 June

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) adopted **June 19 every year as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.** The main aim of this day is to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence. **It is the sixth edition of the event.**

### 21. 19 June: World Sickle Cell Awareness Day

**June 19th was officially designated as World Sickle Cell Awareness Day.** Day is observed annually with the goal to increase public knowledge & an understanding of sickle cell disease, & the challenges experienced by patients & their families and caregivers. **2020 is the 10th anniversary of World Sickle Cell Day.**

SiNERGe, in collaboration with Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. (SCDAA), is launching a 24-hour awareness campaign this year, called “Shine the Light on Sickle Cell.” This national awareness effort encourages community-based organizations, individuals, and anyone concerned about sickle cell disease.

### 22. 19 June: World Sauntering Day

**World Sauntering Day 2020 is marked yearly on June 19 to remind us to stop and smell the roses.** It is a holiday that began in 1979 to remind people to slow down & enjoy life & not rush through it. Sauntering here means to walk in a slow & relaxed manner. This holiday was formed by W.T. Rabe.

This holiday was formed by W.T. Rabe (fun fact: his son, John Rabe, is the local host for All Things Considered at KPCC in Pasadena) in 1979 as a response to the sworn enemy of the Saunter, jogging. It is thought to have started at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island in Michigan, USA. The hotel has the longest porch in the world, measuring a lengthy 660 feet, or 200 meters if you work in metrics. The whole thinking behind the day was to get people to slow down a little and take more note of the world around them.

### 23. World Refugee Day: 20 June

According to the United Nations, every minute, 20 people are forced to leave behind everything and escape conflict and war. UN World Refugee Day is observed every year on June 20. The theme of World Refugee Day this year is "**every action counts.**" It aims to spread awareness & honour the resilience of refugees.

Who is a refugee? According to the **United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention**, people who fled their homes and countries due to "a well-founded fear of persecution because of his/her race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion" is a refugee.

### 24. 6th International Yoga Day: June 21

The International Yoga day is observed on June 21 every year since 2015. June 21 also marks the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The proposal was first introduced by PM Modi during the opening of the 69th session of the General Assembly. **The theme for 2020 is ‘Yoga for Health - Yoga at Home’.**

The World Health Organization mentions yoga as a means to improve health in its Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018–2030: More active people for a healthier world. The first Yoga Day celebration was held at Rajpath in New Delhi, where PM Modi and other dignitaries also performed around 21 yoga asanas and created two Guinness World Records. The first record was for being the world’s largest yoga class with 35,985 people and the second one was for having the maximum number of participating nationalities, that is 84.

### 25. International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice: 21 June

**The Northern Hemisphere, including India to witness the longest day of the year on June 21.** The sun will be at its highest position in the sky & the shadows cast will disappear at noon in Ujjain and other places located along the Tropic of Cancer in India. The solstice will be observed around 3:13 AM in India.

The word Solstice is derived from the Latin word “Sol” meaning Sun and “Sistere” meaning stationary or stand still.

### 26. 21 June: World Music Day

**World Music Day is celebrated on June 21.** It is a day to cherish and gusto the Music on a global level and how music can bring harmony between nation. World Music Day is an annual celebration that was founded by Jack Lang and Maurice Fleuret in 1981. **The day is also popularly referred to as Fete de la Musique.**

In 1981 French Minister of Culture Jack Lang conceived the idea. Since then the day has been celebrated every year as the World Music Day. As per another theory, American musician Joel Cohen in France, in 1976, proposed an all-night music celebration to mark the beginning of the summer solstice and since then the entire world celebrates World Music Day on June 21.

### 27. 21 June: World Hydrography Day

World Hydrography Day is observed on 21st of June to raise awareness about IHO and hydrography science. In 1921, the International Hydrographic Bureau was established. In 1970 the name was changed to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). **2020 Theme: Hydrography enabling autonomous technologies.**

The IHO came up with the idea of a World Hydrography Day in 2005, and it was welcomed by the United Nations General. The date chosen to mark the day is the anniversary of the founding of the International Hydrographic Organization.

### 28. 22 June: World Rainforest Day

Every year, **June 22 is observed as World Rainforest Day.** The first-ever World Rainforest Day was observed on June 22, 2017. It was established by a collaboration of groups, called the Rainforest Partnership. The organisation is based in Austin, Texas. 20% of the oxygen is attributed to rainforests of the Amazon.

Rainforest Partnership is dedicated to protect and regenerate tropical rainforests through community-based projects in the Amazon; The concern of this annual day's organisers is that an area as large as the size of 40 football fields is lost every minute of every day, according to them. Therefore, World Rainforest Day is observed to celebrate the precious natural resource and to encourage action to preserve it; **According to the current rate of deforestation, it has been anticipated that 28,000 species will become extinct by 2050.**

### 29. 23 June: United Nations Public Service Day

**UN General Assembly designated 23 June as Public Service Day on 2002.** Day celebrates the value and virtue of public service to the community, highlights the contribution of public service in the development process & recognizes the work of public servants. **UN Public Service Awards programme was established in 2003.**

**UN Public Service Awards was reviewed in 2016 to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.** The UNPSA aims to promote and reward innovation and excellence in public services by recognizing the creative achievements and contributions of public institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide in support of sustainable development; Each year UN DESA organizes the Forum with a host country, using the event to host capacity-development workshops, the UN Public Service Awards ceremony and a Ministerial Roundtable.

### 30. 23 June: International Olympic Day

Olympic Day is observed on June 23 to draw people's focus on the significance of sports in regular life. World Health Organization recommends that adults age 18-64 do at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity throughout the week. **International Olympic Committee was founded in 1894.**

World Health Organization recommends children and adolescents aged 5-17years do at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily; On 23 June the Olympic Movement will celebrate Olympic Day by creating the world's largest 24 hour digital-first Olympic workout; **IOC is based in Lausanne, Switzerland.**

### 31. 23 June: International Widow's Day

The United Nations observes 23 June as International Widows Day since 2011, to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they need. **International Widows Day is an initiative of the Loomba Foundation.** Foundation was launched at the House of Lords in London on 2005.

Following the launch, the Loomba Foundation led a five-year global campaign for UN recognition, which resulted in a unanimous decision to adopt International Widows Day as an annual global day of action by the UN General Assembly in December 2010; Raj Loomba and Foundation President.

### 32. 25 June: Day of the Seafarer

This year, the annual Day of the Seafarer is celebrating its 10th anniversary on 25 June. The Day of the Seafarer is observed across the globe as an expression of thanks to the seafarers for their contribution to the economy and civil society of the world. **2020 campaign- Seafarers are Key Workers.**

The **Day of the Seafarer was designated by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in 2010;** The International Maritime Organization, known as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization

until 1982, is a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating shipping; IMO Headquarters- London, UK; IMO Secretary-General: Kitack Lim.

### 33. 26 June: International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

By the of 1987, the UN decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action & cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. **2020 Theme: 'Better Knowledge for Better Care'.**

**UNODC headquarters is in Vienna, Austria;** Ghada Fathi Waly is the Director-General/ Executive Director of the United Nations Office at Vienna; UNODC publishes World Drug Report, Crime and Drug Survey and Bulletin on Narcotics; UNODC was established in 1997 as a result of the merging of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

### 34. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture: 26 June

On 1997, the UN proclaimed 26 June the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, with a view to the total eradication of torture and the effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. **Human Rights Council is made up of 47 States.**

UN Human Rights Office in Geneva manages UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. It is a unique victim-focused mechanism that channels funding for the assistance to victims of torture and their families. The UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture accepts donations; The UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June marks the moment in 1987 when the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, one of the key instruments in fighting torture, came into effect. **Today, the Convention has been ratified by 162 countries.**

### 35. 27 June: Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day

June 27 is observed as World MSME Day. The day was established in 2017 by the United Nations to put Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the spotlight for their contribution to inclusive and sustainable development both locally and globally. **2020 Theme- MSMEs: First responders to societal needs.**

According to the data provided by the International Council for Small Business (ICSB), formal and informal Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) make up over 90% of all firms and account on average for 70% of total employment and 50% of GDP.

### 36. 29 June: National Statistics Day

National Statistics Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of PC Mahalanobis, often referred to as the 'father of Indian statistics', is celebrated on 29 June. **'Good Health & Well Being & Gender Equality'** is the theme for National Statistics Day 2020. **The first Statistics Day was observed on June 29, 2006.**

In 2019, the Ministry instituted a new award, namely, the Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics for recognizing outstanding achievement of official statisticians in Central Government, State Governments and Institutions; The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation recognises the outstanding contribution for high quality research work in the field of applied and theoretical statistics benefitting the official statistical system through the **Prof. C. R. Rao and Prof. P. V. Sukhatme awards, awarded in alternate years.**

### 37. 29 June: International Day of the Tropics

The International Day of the Tropics is observed on 29 June to celebrate the diversity of the tropics while highlighting unique challenges & opportunities nations of the Tropics face. The inaugural State of the Tropics Report was launched on 29 June 2014. **12 leading tropical research institutions launched the report.**

Marking the anniversary of the report's launch the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution in 2016, which declared that 29 June of each year is to be observed as the International Day of the Tropics.

### 38. 30 June: International Asteroid Day

In December 2016, UN declared 30 June as International Asteroid Day to observe yearly at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on June 1908, & to raise awareness about the asteroid impact hazard. **UN Office for Outer Space Affairs HQ- Vienna, Austria.**

The Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG) is an inter-space agency forum that identifies technologies needed for near-Earth Object deflection and aims to build consensus on recommendations for planetary defence measures; The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) works to promote international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of space, and in the utilisation of space science and technology for sustainable economic and social development; **International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN)** was established (2013) as a result of the UN-endorsed recommendations for an international response to a potential NEO impact threat, to create an international group of organizations involved in detecting, tracking, and characterizing NEOs.

### **39. 30 June: International Day of Parliamentarism**

International Day of Parliamentarism is observed globally on 30 June to celebrate parliaments and ways during which parliamentary systems of government improve the everyday lives of individuals throughout the world. IPU was established on 30 June 1889. **Inter-Parliamentary Union: Global organization of parliaments.**

Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

## Summit & Conferences

### 1. For the first time in 75 years, World leaders won't travel to New York for annual UN General Assembly session

For the first time in 75 years, world leaders will not travel to New York for the annual UN General Assembly session in September this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the President of the UN General Assembly, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande has announced. **The UN officially came into existence on 24 October 1945.**

The high-level General Assembly session had particular significance this year as it would have commemorated 75 years of the existence of the United Nations and would have seen high participation from leaders from 193 Member States to mark the anniversary; UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres; United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October each year; **The name "United Nations", was coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt.**

### 2. Ministry of Tourism brings out the 'Hidden Treasures of Chhattisgarh' through 30th webinar under Dekho Apna Desh series

Ministry of Tourism's celebrated 30th Dekho Apna Desh webinar series showcased the 'Hidden Treasures of Chhattisgarh'. Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme'. **Chhattisgarh came into being on 2000 & is 9th largest state.**

Being Central Eastern state of India, Chhattisgarh borders 7 states, 44% of land covered by forest, 34% of tribal population. With 3 National parks, 11 Wildlife sanctuaries, 1 Bio-sphere reserve it is one of India's greenest state and well connected with rest of the country by air, rail and road network; Chitrakote, Amritdhara, Pawai, Machli are the famous waterfalls in the state; Chhattisgarh is also blessed with three shaktipeeths- Champaranya, Rajim and Sheorinarayan; Wrought iron, bell metal and terracotta are famous handicrafts of Chhattisgarh; Bastar region has more than 15 waterfalls. **Kotumsar caves, which are largest series of caves after Meghalaya are in Chhattisgarh;** Bastar Dussehra world's longest festival which is celebrated for 75 days has a different story related to goddess Dhanteswari; Gond's, Madiya, Muriaya's are some of the tribes making Bastar as the land of indigenous tribes; Handicrafts history dates back to Harappan civilization the technique used is lost wax technique. Third largest lord Ganesha statue in the world which made of a single sandstone; Cave paintings with 12000 years of history are in Bastar region; Other places: Karkabhat- Studies conducted in the area have identified 3 types of menhirs- Conical, pointed obliquely and bifurcated like a fish tail. Dipadih- Excavated stone pillars have been erected along the path next to the entrance on which are exhibited the mythological creatures. Ghotul- It is both an ancient tribal system of education as well as the campus with its own system of hierarchs. Sonabai- Famous bas relief ornamentation works of Chhattisgarh got its roots when Sonabai made little toys for her son Daroga Ram to lull him to sleep. Tribal games- Cock fighting; The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) created by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has been playing a pivotal role in supporting the Ministry in conducting of the Dekho Apna Desh Webinars.

### 3. India-ASEAN Youth Dialogue 2020 held online

During the third India-ASEAN youth dialogue that was held from June 8 to 10, India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) pledged to enhance cooperation in ways to effectively and constructively channelizing youthful energy. **ASEAN Headquarters- Jakarta, Indonesia.**

### 4. Budgam DM inaugurates two-day Sensitization-cum-Awareness Workshop

In Jammu and Kashmir, the **Budgam District Magistrate inaugurated two-day Sensitization-cum-Awareness Workshop** for service providers affiliated with different types of business activities, particularly shopkeepers all across the district. District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) is the organizer.

The orientation workshop is being organized by District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), District Administration, Budgam in close coordination with District Health Authorities and other concerned and will run for two consecutive days.

### 5. India's one of the largest 1st Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020 inaugurated

Minister of State for Shipping (Independent charge) and Chemicals & Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated India's one the largest 1st Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020. The Expo has been organised by FICCI. **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).**

## 6. 36th ASEAN Summit chaired by Vietnam held via video conference

On June 26, 2020, the 36th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit was held via video conference on the theme Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN. The summit was chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc. **ASEAN Secretariat– Jakarta, Indonesia.**

Established in 1967, **ASEAN groups 10 nations viz. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam;** The 36th ASEAN Summit, which had been scheduled to be held in April, has been postponed until the end of June in the context of wide spread of the COVID-19 epidemic in the region and the world.



## Science & Technology

### 1. DRDO develops Ultra Swachh for disinfection of PPEs and other materials

**Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS), the Delhi** based laboratory of DRDO developed a disinfection unit, Ultra Swachh to disinfect a wide range of materials, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics, etc. **DRDO partnered with M/s Gel Craft Healthcare Private Ltd.**

The system uses an advanced oxidative process comprising of multiple barrier disruption approaches using Ozonated Space Technology for disinfection. The system is double layered with specialised Ozone sealant technology assuring trapping of ozone for the necessary disinfection cycle. It also has a catalytic converter to ensure environment-friendly exhaust i.e. only oxygen and water.

The system is in compliance with International Standards of Industrial, Occupational, Personal and Environmental Safety. The Ultra Swachh comes in two variants namely Ozonated Space and Trinetra Technology. Trinetra technology is a combination of Ozonated space and radical dispenser. Treatment is optimised with automation for quick disinfection cycle.

### 2. Scientists find second most common coronavirus type in India

Scientists at multiple CSIR laboratories have identified a coronavirus type that may be the second most prevalent in India and may comprise 3.5% of the genomes globally. The newly identified, that has been christened A3i, comprised 41% of those analysed. **The most dominant coronavirus clade in India is the A2a.**

With the new clade, there are 11 SARS-CoV-2 types identified globally with at least six of them identified in India. The coronavirus type, or clade, is a cluster of SARS-CoV-2 viruses that share evolutionary similarities and are grouped together based on characteristic mutations or similarities in parts of their genomes. Previous studies have shown that while type O was the first ancestral family of the virus identified from China, it's the A2a type — that has emerged dominant the world over because of a mutation in its genes that allow that coronavirus' spike to more efficiently infiltrate the lungs.

### 3. CeNS develops low-cost catalyst for hydrogen generation from water

Scientists from The Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), have found out a low cost & efficient way to generate hydrogen from water using Molybdenum dioxide as a catalyst. It seeks to replace the currently employed Platinum catalyst.

The scientists have shown that Molybdenum dioxide (MoO<sub>2</sub>) nanomaterials annealed in hydrogen atmosphere can act as efficient catalysts to reduce the energy input to bring about water splitting with great efficiency. Electrolytic splitting of water is a promising method to generate hydrogen but requires energy input that can be brought down in the presence of a catalyst.

### 4. ARCI develops a new environmentally friendly way to shape ceramics through 3D printing

Scientists at the International **Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI)**, in their recent study utilized an environmentally benign thermal gelation property of methylcellulose (MC) for shaping of ceramics through 3D printing. ARCI is an autonomous R&D centre under Dept of S&T.

### 5. 5000 IoT patents filed in India in 5 years: NASSCOM

As per a report titled, IoT: Driving the Patent Growth Story in India, by the National Association of Software and Services Companies, there have been about 6,000 IoT Patents filed in India from 2009-19 of which over 5,000 were filed in last 5 years. 70% of patents came from multinationals, 7% from start-ups.

40 per cent of the total IoT patents filed have been granted. Over 80 per cent of these patents filed were related to applications pertaining to Industry 4.0 with the healthcare and automobile industry. Also, 95 per cent of IoT patents were related to hardware components with a connectivity network and sensors being the leading sub-technologies. **Nasscom President: Debjani Ghosh**

## 6. IASST develops AI-based computer diagnosis framework for accurate oral cancer diagnosis

Scientists of Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati, have developed an artificial intelligence-based algorithm as an aid to rapid diagnosis and prediction of oral squamous cell carcinoma. The study was conducted using CNN. **CNN- Convolutional Neural Network.**

The framework was developed by the research group at the Central Computational and Numerical Sciences Division, IASST led by Dr Lipi B Mahanta; Four candidate pre-trained models, namely Alexnet, VGG-16, VGG-19, and Resnet-50, were chosen to find the most suitable model for the classification problem; Around 16.1 per cent of all cancers amongst men and 10.4 per cent amongst women are oral cancer.

## 7. NBRIC develops diagnostic kits for COVID-19

**National Biomedical Resources Indigenization Consortium**, NBRIC constituted by the Department of Biotechnology under Central Government as a collaborative Public Private Partnership has developed diagnostic kits for COVID-19. **NBRIC is led by Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms.**

NBRIC aims to be a nation-wide collaborative platform for convergence of research, product resources and services towards developing reagents, diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics across India; **NBRIC is a 'A Make in India' initiative** for Biomedical research and innovative products, towards promoting import substitution and exports; C-CAMP had launched the C-CAMP COVID-19 Innovations Deployment Accelerator, to identify and help accelerate near deployment ready solutions that can help fight the COVID 19 infections; **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw is the Chair of the NBRIC Governing Council.**

## 8. IIT, Hyderabad develops a unique COVID-19 test kit that can deliver results within 20 minutes

Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad** have developed a low cost and Artificial Intelligence-based test kit for COVID-19. These kits can give results in about 20 minutes. Prof Shiv Govind Singh is the Lead researcher. Kits are Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction free.

Cost of COVID testing with these **IIT-H BioChips will be around Rs 600** and can be almost halved in case of mass production of the chips; These kits can be transported to rural areas as they are very light.

## 9. ARCI develop a rare-earth-based material that can be effectively used for cancer treatment

Scientists at the **International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials, Hyderabad** have developed a rare-earth-based material that can be effectively used for cancer treatment and is being tested at SCTIMST, Trivandrum. The composition is said to be magnetocaloric in nature.

Compositions that are Magnetocaloric in nature can become warmer or cooler due to magnetic field; ARCI became operational in April 1995; ARCI is a state-of-the-art facility for research & development in advanced materials and associated processing technologies; It is located in Hyderabad; **Anil Kakodkar is the current ARCI Chairperson.**

## 10. Maharashtra boy- Pratik Tirodkar makes world's first 'Internet-controlled' robot

Designed and created by Pratik Tirodkar, founder of a start-up PNT Solutions, Dombivali, recently, the first Coro-bot is currently deployed successfully at the Holy Cross Hospital in Kalyan to address the needs of hospital in treating COVID-19 patients. The robot also gives advises to patients.

Company has created a special App to operate Coro-bot from any location in the world using Internet of Things (IoT) technology - a first anywhere in the world that this technique is being deployed in the medical field.

## 11. DIAT Pune develops Nanotechnology-based Disinfectant Spray to fight COVID-19

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, a Deemed to be University, Pune has developed a Nanotechnology based disinfectant spray to combat COVID-19 by disinfecting all types of surfaces. It has been named 'ANANYA'. This can be used by anyone. **This water-based spray will be effective for more than 24 hours.**

This nano-technology assisted formulation will not only stop the corona virus from entering human body, but it will also kill the virus when the virus comes in contact with this formulation layer on masks, PPE etc;

**Rajnath Singh is the current defence minister of India.**

## 12. 'Mirror Image' of the Earth and Sun discovered 3000 light-years away

Astronomers may have discovered an Earth-like exoplanet orbiting a Sun-like star, a little over 3,000 light-years away. **The planet named 'Planet KOI-456.04'**, the unconfirmed exoplanet is thought to be similar to Earth for several reasons. It receives 93% as much light as Earth gets from the Sun.

It is said to have a similar distance between its sun - Kepler-160 - with an orbit that takes it 378 days to complete; According to a research paper published in Astronomy and Astrophysics journal, Planet KOI-456.04 appears to be the fourth planet orbiting the Kepler-160 star; Planet KOI-456.04 was discovered after examining old data collected by NASA's exoplanet-finding Kepler mission with new algorithms to study the star's (Kepler-160) brightness, a study led by researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research (MPS), along with researchers from University of California Santa Cruz as well as NASA.

## 13. IIT-BHU develops Anti-microbial multilayer face mask to annihilate pathogenic microorganisms

Dr Marshal & his team at the School of Biomedical Engineering, IIT-BHU have developed an anti-microbial 5-layered face mask. It can annihilate pathogenic microorganisms that are stuck to its outer surface & thereby limit the spread of secondary infections. **IIT-BHU is situated in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.**

The first layer of the mask can degrade any type of RNA, the next layer is anti-microbial, the third one is for air filtration, and the fourth and fifth layers are 'comfortable layers', which will remain close to the nose and mouth. "Copper and silver are de-transition elements and as per our knowledge they can degrade this virus and all the other members of SARS virus; For degradation testing, the researchers took the RNA of lung cells as novel coronavirus propagates rapidly in the lungs.

## 14. Titan is drifting away from Saturn 100 times faster than scientist's expectation

Titan is zooming away from Saturn 100 times faster than scientists expected. Titan was close to the planet, but over the course of 4.5 billion years, it has migrated out to where it orbits currently, approximately 746,000 miles away from Saturn. Moons exert small gravitational pull on the planets they orbit.

Moons exert a small gravitational pull on the planets they orbit, tugging at the planet. This gravitational interaction is what causes tides in the oceans here on Earth. On our planet, friction inside of Earth from this tugging creates heat, which alters the planet's gravitational field. This gradually pushes the moon farther away from Earth, about 1.5 inches (3.8 cm) every year; Titan tugs on Saturn in a similar way, but the friction inside of Saturn is thought to be weaker than here on Earth because of the planet's gaseous composition; Previous research has suggested that the moon should be moving away from Saturn at just 0.04 inches (0.1 cm) per year. But this new work suggests that **Titan is actually moving away from its planet at a whopping 4.3 inches (11 cm) every year.**

## 15. Bangalore Airport deploys 'smart irrigation system' to manage its 100-acre landscape

A weather-based smart automatic irrigation system (SAIS) has been deployed at Bangalore International Airport (BIAL) to manage its sprawling 100-acre landscape. **BIAL is the first airport in India to deploy a tech-enabled smart irrigation system.** BLR Airport named after founder of the City-Hiriya Kempegowda.

Equipped with a Hydro-pneumatic pump station and automatic filtration unit, the irrigation system enables water saving of up to 30% over conventional modes of irrigation. This smart irrigation system applies precise amounts of water through drip irrigation, based on plant requirement and minimizes water wastage due to evaporation, saves manpower costs and protects the landscape from over watering.

## 16. High quality, cost-effective face mask developed at BARC

Union minister Jitendra Singh launched the High-quality Face mask developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai which is affiliated to Department of Atomic Energy. The mask was developed using HEPA filter and is expected to be cost-effective also. Jitendra Singh- Minister of Development of North Eastern Region.

## 17. India's first infectious disease diagnostic lab now ready

India's first infectious disease diagnostic lab is now ready. This rapid response mobile laboratory is part of government's Aatmnirbhar Bharat. This laboratory was built in a record time of eight days from the date of receipt of Automotive Chassis, from Bh It is built with the support of Department of Biotechnology.

The lab is a BSL-2 facility with onsite Elisa, real-time reverse tranion polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test and Biochemistry analysers. This lab can test Elisa about 200 per day and RTPCR about 50 per day.

## 18. IISc develops 'Workplace Readiness Indicator' for organizations to insulate workplaces from Corona pandemic

Researchers in IISc, Bengaluru have developed '**Workplace Readiness Indicator**' for organizations to insulate their workplaces from Corona pandemic. It is an online assessment tool developed along with the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority. **CISCO had given its CSR fund for the research.**

The Workplace Readiness Indicator developed by IISc will help plan and establish pandemic-specific policies, procedures and necessary management practices. An organization can enter relevant information about their workplace and the tool developed by IISc will calculate readiness using ten specific indices like infrastructure, precautions, outreach, employee's interaction level, transport among others; The readiness tool will help organisations to navigate operational difficulties arising out of the pandemic. The Government of Karnataka has recommended this advisory tool to various organizations in the state, as they begin in operation in accordance with the Unlock-1 guidelines; Cisco Systems is an American multinational technology conglomerate headquartered in California; CISCO CEO: Chuck Robbins.

## 19. Quantum 'fifth state of matter' observed in space for first time

NASA scientists have observed the 5th state of matter in space for the 1st time, offering unprecedented insight that could help solve some of the quantum universe's intractable conundrums. **Albert Einstein & Satyendra Nath Bose predicted Existence of BECs. BEC: Bose-Einstein Condensates.**

BECs are formed when atoms of certain elements are cooled to near absolute zero (0 Kelvin, minus 273.15 Celsius); At this point, the atoms become a single entity with quantum properties, wherein each particle also functions as a wave of matter; Scientists believe BECs contain vital clues to mysterious phenomena such as dark energy—the unknown energy thought to be behind the Universe's accelerating expansion; But BECs are extremely fragile. **The slightest interaction with the external world is enough to warm them past their condensation threshold;** This makes them nearly impossible for scientists to study on Earth, where gravity interferes with the magnetic fields required to hold them in place for observation; A team of NASA scientists unveiled the first results from BEC experiments aboard the International Space Station, where particles can be manipulated free from Earthly constraints.

## 20. NEHU doctors developed tunnel sanitizer based automatic temperature controller device

Doctors in the **Biomedical Engineering Department of North Eastern Hill University, Shillong** have developed a tunnel sanitizer based automatic temperature controller device. People entering the tunnel are sprayed with an eco-friendly disinfectant solution. It will disinfect bacterial spores, viruses, protozoa, & fungi.

The tunnel is designed with a view to reduce the time of sanitization in places where there are people entering in large numbers such as religious gatherings, educational institutions and hospitals; The disinfecting process can be completed in 3 to 4 seconds; The tunnel does not require human control and operates with the help of ultrasonic sensors and microcontrollers.

It has two chambers with three different levels of disinfection. In the second chamber, the person entering the tunnel experiences a hot air blast at 50-degree Centigrade. This is to make sure that any bacteria or viruses that could have survived during the disinfectant spray process would be killed through the heat in the second chamber; It is followed by exposure of far UVC light with a wavelength ranging from 207 to 222 nm that has the capability to kill the viruses and is considered to be safe for the human eyes and skin.

## 21. IIT Roorkee team develops a new algorithm for brain tumours

IIT- Roorkee team has developed a new machine-learning algorithm that brings better accuracy in classifying a common type of brain tumours into low or high-grade categories, arming medical oncologists with better tools to offer more effective treatment. Gliomas are brain tumours affecting glial cells.

Glial cells that provide support and insulation for neurons and account for nearly a quarter of all brain tumours; According to **GLOBOCAN 2018**, nearly 3 lakh new cases of brain and central nervous system cancers diagnosed worldwide with a high mortality rate of 81 per cent.

## 22. IIT Guwahati develops affordable diagnostic kits for COVID-19

Indian Institute of Technology (Guwahati) in association with RR Animal Healthcare Ltd and Guwahati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) has developed low-cost diagnostic kits. These are Viral Transport

Media (VTM) kits, RT-PCR kits, and RNA isolation kits. It consists of a comprehensive solution exclusive for SARS CoV-2

The VTM kits are the first-stop source used to collect nasal and oral swab specimens from an individual source to a laboratory safely for culture and testing. During this period, the virus, if present, in the sample specimens should remain intact until the testing procedure is completed. In addition to the sterile VTM kits, the Institute has also developed RNA isolation kits and RT-PCR kits jointly with RR Animal Healthcare Ltd. The isolated and purified RNA is then converted to DNA by an enzyme Reverse Transcriptase (RT), which is used to confirm the presence or absence of COVID-19.

### 23. CSIR gets nod for Phase III trial of antiviral drug Umifenovir

Council for Scientific & Industrial Research's constituent lab Central Drug Research Institute received permission for carrying out Phase III randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of efficacy, safety & tolerability of antiviral drug Umifenovir. **Umifenovir is mainly used for the treatment of influenza.**

It has recently come into prominence due to its potential use for COVID-19 patients.

### 24. IIT Mandi team develops infusion technology for herbs in mid-Himalayan region to help farmers

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi have developed a herbal infusion technology as a sustainable means of income for local marginal farmers in the mid-Himalayan region. The team analysed various herbs to develop value-added products. The products to have herbal infusions for health benefits.

According to the team, the technology is ready for licensing for potential industries who are keen to work with EWOK (a rural incubator at IIT Mandi) in the interest of uplifting the Kamand Valley farmers. The incubator has also received funding from NABARD to establish three farmer producer companies (FPCs). It is anticipated that this FPC will support about 200 farmers within the next few years.

### 25. ARIES to organize live telecast of upcoming solar eclipse on social media

An annular solar eclipse will be observed on June 21 from northern parts of India. **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital**, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology has organised a special lecture. The lecture is on "The Science of Solar Eclipses".

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon (at the new moon phase) blocks the solar disk partially or completely, leading to a partial, annular, and total solar eclipse, respectively. During the eclipse, the shadow of the moon falls on Earth and constitutes a darker region known as umbra and relatively less dark region, penumbra. Total solar eclipses are the rarest of the solar eclipses. Director of ARIES: Prof. Dipankar Banerjee

### 26. Glenmark launches Covid-19 drug at Rs 103 per tablet

Drug firm Glenmark Pharmaceuticals launched antiviral drug Favipiravir, under the brand name **FabiFlu**, for treatment of patients with mild to moderate Covid-19 at a price of about Rs 103/tablet. It is the first oral favipiravir-approved medication in India. It has shown improvement of up to 88% in mild to moderate cases.

### 27. After FabiFlu, Hetero's antiviral drug Covifor gets DCGI approval to treat Covid-19 patients

India-based pharma company Hetero announced it has received both manufacturing and marketing approval for the investigational antiviral drug Remdesivir, from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to treat Covid-19 patients. It will be sold under the brand name COVIFOR in India.

Another India-based pharma firm Glenmark Pharmaceuticals launched antiviral drug Favipiravir, to be sold under the brand name FabiFlu, for the treatment of patients with mild to moderate Covid-19 symptoms; The medicine will be launched in the country under a licensing agreement with Gilead Sciences Inc. to expand access to affordable Covid-19 treatment in low and middle-income countries.

### 28. ISRO Receives Patent for Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment for Astronauts

ISRO has received a patent for its Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment made of biocompatible fabrics and components to provide a comfortable temperature and removal of sweat for astronauts, for use in space for protection from hot and cold environments. **ISRO has initiated the Rs 10,000 crore project- Gaganyaan.**

LCHGs are used in space, military applications, firefighting and also for personal cooling and heating purposes for protection from hot and cold environments of industrial areas or in extreme temperature and humidity conditions that may exist in work environments; Isro's invention is designed to permit long term use of the garment without any impact on the wearer in terms of skin irritation or infection and is low in cost of

manufacture, according to the patent specification filed by the organisation with the Patent Office in February 2016.

### **29. China launches last BeiDou satellite, entering world powers of navigation system**

China launched the last satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System from the **Xichang Satellite Launch Center**. The satellite, carried by a Long March-3B carrier rocket, is the 30th BDS-3 satellite and the 55th of the whole BeiDou satellite family. Final BDS satellite is the largest of its kind in the family.

The launch marked the completion of the country's domestically developed BeiDou constellation, one of four global navigation networks alongside with the United States' GPS, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo; Based on the DFH-3B satellite platform, one of the largest platforms in service in China, the spacecraft it is designed to work in orbit for at least 12 years; The latest launch came 26 years after construction of the BeiDou-1 officially started in 1994.

The first generation of the BeiDou system made China the third country after the U.S. and Russia to have a satellite navigation system; By 2000, the construction of the BDS-1 was completed, which was mainly used to broadcast positioning and timing signals over China; 12 years later, the construction of BDS-2, designed to provide navigation services over the broader Asia-Pacific region, was completed; Now, the construction of BDS-3, with 24 satellites in medium-Earth orbits, three in inclined geosynchronous satellite orbits and three in geostationary orbits, is scheduled to provide services worldwide.

### **30. Indian Institute of Science develops Nanozymes**

A research team at the **IISc, Bengaluru** has developed nanozymes that destroy the cell membrane of bacteria by directly targeting its phospholipids. Nanozymes are nanomaterials that can disintegrate the cell membranes of a range of diseases causing bacteria. **Study was published in ACS Applied BioMaterials journal.**

The nanomaterial developed in IISc is tested on several potentially pathogenic bacteria causing typhoid, gastroenteritis, dysentery, cholera and pneumonia. It was found that the nanozyme stopped growth and killed the microbes.

## Defence

### 1. GRSE delivers fifth ship in Fast Patrol Vessels series to Indian Coast Guard

Premier warship builder **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd delivered ICGS Kanaklata Barua**, the 5th & final ship in the series of FPV for the ICG. This is the 105th vessel delivered by the Defence PSU shipyard based on the banks of river Hooghly. **Chairman & MD of GRSE- Vipin Kumar Saxena.**

GRSE had earlier made deliveries of FPVs ICGS Priyadarshini, ICGS Annie Besant and ICGS Amrit Kaur in this series to the Indian Coast Guard; The fourth ship in the series of FPVs is earmarked for export delivery to the Seychelles Coast Guard and is likely to be delivered shortly after completing the related formalities; The fast patrol vessels, which have been entirely designed by GRSEs Central Design Office, can achieve speeds exceeding 34 knots with an endurance of more than 1,500 nautical miles; These fuel-efficient and powerful platforms are well suited for operations like patrolling, anti-smuggling, anti-poaching and rescue.

### 2. Indian Navy inaugurates Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle Complex at Visakhapatnam

**DSRV Complex, Visakhapatnam** is designed to accommodate the newly inducted Submarine Rescue System with state-of-the-art facilities to store the DSRV assets in a Rescue-Ready state. Currently, there are about 40 nations that operate submarines in the world. DSRV system can be rapidly mobilised by air or road.

### 3. DRDO develops 'GermiKlean' to sanitise uniforms of security forces

**Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a sanitizing chamber named 'GermiKlean'** to sanitise uniforms of security forces. The sanitizing chamber has been set up at Parliament Street Police Station. Chamber sanitises 25 pairs of uniforms within 15 minutes. DRDO Chairman- G Satheesh Reddy, **DRDO Headquarters- New Delhi**, DRDO was founded on 1958.

### 4. DIAT develops Ayurvedic face mask 'Pavitrapati'

The Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) in Maharashtra has developed a biodegradable face mask based on Nanofibres of Ayurvedic products which acts as a virus neutralizer and resists the bacteria. **The mask has been named as 'Pavitrapati'**. Minister of Ayush- Shripad Yesso Naik.

The product was tested for air permeability and breathability as per ASTM D-737 standards. The product will be used as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) is the Premier Deemed University under the Department of Defence Research & Development, Ministry of Defence.

### 5. First Time India sends tri-services contingent to Russia's Victory Day Parade

India is to send its tri-services contingent of all 3 services namely army, navy & air force to Russia for the 1st time. Contingents will take part in Victory Day parade to be held in Moscow. Earlier, in 2015 the Indian Army alone took part in the parade. Parade is held to mark the surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945.

**The Russian parade is held every year on Victory Day (May 9)**; However, due to the COVID-19 crisis the parade was postponed; The military parade of Russia is held at the Red Square, Moscow with the President of Russia as the guest of honour; China will also send its soldiers to the parade.

### 6. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh leaves for 3-day visit to Russia

Rajnath Singh will hold talks on ways to further deepen the India-Russia defence and strategic partnership. He will attend the 75th Victory Day Parade in Moscow. Parade will be held commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the victory in the Second World War. **Russian President- Vladimir Putin, Currency- Rouble.**

The Russian parade is held every year on Victory Day (May 9), which marks the surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945, but has been delayed this year because of the novel coronavirus; In 2015, the only time Indian forces joined the military parade, the participation was restricted to the Indian army.

### 7. China to join UN Arms Trade Treaty to enhance 'peace & Stability'

China has decided to join a global pact on regulations of arms sales showing its willingness to address the poorly regulated international arms trade after the United States pulled out last year. Arms Trade Treaty entered into force on December 24, 2014. **ATT regulates the international trade in conventional arms.**

Conventional arms include small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships; China was one of the 23 countries back in 2013 when it abstained from the vote to adopt the treaty at the United Nations; As per a report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in March 2020, between 2015 to 2019: **By accounting 5.5 percent of the global market and exporting arms to 53 countries the fifth-largest arms-exporter in the world was China.**

#### **8. Indian Tri-Service Contingent marches in Moscow Victory-Day parade**

Marking the 75th anniversary of the Soviet victory against Nazi Germany in World War II, as a tri-services contingent from the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force participated in a parade on Moscow's Red Square. Defence Secretary of India- Dr Ajay Kumar.

In October 2018, India had signed a \$5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding warning from the Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions.

#### **9. Indian Navy inducts Advanced Torpedo Decoy System 'Maareech'**

Anti - Submarine Warfare capability of the Indian Navy has received a major boost with the conclusion of a contract for Advanced Torpedo Decoy System **Maareech** capable of being fired from all frontline warships. DRDO labs developed this system. BEL will undertake the production.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Headquarters- New Delhi; Chairman- Dr G. Satheesh Reddy; **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) Headquarters- Bengaluru**, Karnataka; Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)- Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava.



## Books & Authors

### 1. I&B Ministry releases e-booklet on Narendra Modi govt 2.0's 1st year in office

The 92-page booklet 'One Year of Modi 2.0 -Towards A Self-Reliant India' has been brought out by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**. The booklet has a separate section for the actions taken to fight the pandemic and deal with the economic fallout Minister of Information and Broadcasting: Prakash Javadekar.

Abrogation of Article 370, settlement of the Ram Temple issue, criminalisation of triple talaq, Bodo accord and the amendment to the Citizenship Act have been listed in the booklet among the key achievements during the second term of the Modi government. It also highlights the government's decisions for the welfare of farmers, the Howdy Modi event in the US, the Namaste Trump event in Gujarat and the Mamallapuram Modi-Xi Jinping summit.

### 2. HRD Minister launches booklet "Safe online learning in the times of COVID-19"

Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal digitally launched the information booklet titled "**Safe online learning in the times of COVID-19**" to raise awareness of students & teachers on staying safe online, developed by UNESCO India & NCERT. 2/3rd of internet users in India are in the age group of 12.

In India, an estimated 71 million children aged between 5-11 years access the Internet on devices of their family members, constituting about 14 per cent of the country's active Internet user base of over 500 million.

### 3. Indian Author Luke Coutinho's New Book To Promote Benefits Of 'dry Fasting' Diet

Luke Coutinho's new book "The Dry Fasting Miracle: From Deprive to Thrive". Co-authored by Sheikh Abdulaziz Bin Ali Bin Rashed Al Nuami, a member of the Ajman royal family in the UAE where they explain dry fasting diet is the most superior form of fasting. The book is being published by Penguin Random House.

According to Coutinho, dry fasting and intermittent fasting help the body to heal naturally and regenerate. The book is peppered with personal experiences and also features a simple, easy to follow a routine.

### 4. 'Legend of Suheldev': Amish Tripathi releases new book set in 11th century India

Amish Tripathi launched his new book - a story about the adventures of the warrior king Suheldev, titled, '**Legend of Suheldev: The King who Saved India**'. Book is set in 11th century India, when Mahmud of Ghazni destroyed the Somnath temple. Book brings awareness about ignored pages of Indian history.

Amish Tripathi is the 1st author in the Indian publishing history to hold his 6 fiction books in the top 10 of the HT-Nielsen Bookscan national bestseller list for 4 weeks in a row; His 1st book is 'The Immortals of Meluha', which is also the 1st book of Shiva Trilogy.

## Miscellaneous

### 1. India's most valuable brands 2020

According to the Brand Finance 100 2020 ranking, Tata Group retained the title of India's most valuable brand, breaking US\$20 billion brand value mark for the first time. LIC, the largest insurer stood second followed by Reliance Industries Limited. **RIL – the only company to have a value growth of more than 25%.**

### 2. Hyundai introduces upgraded online retail platform 'Click to Buy'

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) introduced its upgraded online end-to-end automotive retail platform '**Click to Buy**' with an investment of around \$ 1 million (around 7.5 crores) curated to provide future retail experience to customers in the wake pandemic. Mr. Seon Seob Kim is the MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India Ltd.

'Click to Buy' offers customer services from the booking of cars to test drive to financing and delivery at home. Through the platform, the company has now integrated all of its over 600 dealerships, providing them with another additional channel to draw customers and sell cars.

The platform provides full-spectrum car buying journey, transparency with on-road prices, dedicated sales consultants, online finance options from leading banks, special online promotions, estimated time of delivery for car purchase, online test drive booking of sanitised cars and home delivery of fully sanitised cars. The company believes that this will be the 'new normal' for buying a car by providing a one-stop solution for customers' car ownership requirement. Hyundai: It is a South Korean multinational automotive manufacturer headquartered in Seoul. **Chairman: Chung Mong – Koo.**

### 3. Largest & oldest Maya Monument ever found discovered under Mexico

A giant, sprawling structure almost a mile long has been discovered at the southern tip of Mexico, with researchers saying it may represent the oldest and largest monument of the ancient Maya civilisation ever found. Aguada Fenix site is at the base of the Gulf of Mexico.

Before now, the Maya site of Ceibal (aka Seibal) was thought to be the oldest ceremonial centre, dating back to around 950 BCE; Layout of Aguada Fenix marks it as an example of the Middle Formative Usumacinta (MFU) pattern, characterised by a rectangular shape defined by rows of low mounds; The only stone sculpture found so far at Aguada Fenix depicts an animal.

### 4. CBIC launches its flagship programme 'Turant Customs' at Bengaluru & Chennai

**CBIC launched its flagship programme 'Turant Customs'**, at Bengaluru and Chennai. Importers will now get their goods cleared from Customs after a faceless assessment is done remotely by the Customs officers located outside the port of import. CBIC is a part of Department of Revenue under Finance Ministry.

The start of Turant Customs at Bengaluru and Chennai will be the first phase of the All India roll out which would get completed by 31st December this year. The first phase will cover imports of Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics machineries at the ports, airports and ICDs of Bengaluru and Chennai; **CBIC Chairman- M Ajit Kumar**; CBIC was established on 1 January 1964.

### 5. IAF inducts indigenously developed pod ARPIT to evacuate critical patients from remote areas

IAF inducted an indigenously designed and manufactured pod called **ARPIT (Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation)** which will be used for evacuation of critical patients suffering from infectious diseases like COVID-19 from isolated & remote areas. This system has been developed at a cost of Rs 60,000.

The isolation system has a suitable number of air exchanges, integration of medical monitoring instruments, and ventilation for an incubated patient; Air Chief Marshal- RKS Bhadauria; India's Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat; The Indian Air Force currently operates seven Air Commands. Each Command is headed by an Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the rank of Air Marshal.

### 6. CIL's Western Coalfields opens three new mines

Western Coalfields Ltd opened three new coal mines in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh having combined annual production capacity of 2.9 million tonnes (MT). The company will spend Rs 849 crore on these projects and generate 647 direct employment. **Union Minister of Coal and Mines- Pralhad Joshi.**

The company also launched a surveillance system named WCL EYE for monitoring its mining operations and a mobile application named SAMVAAD to connect with its employees and stakeholders; The digital surveillance system WCL EYE will monitor operations of 15 major mines of the company that account for 70% of the company's coal production. It will also help monitor coal stocks and availability of coal at sidings, keep a tab on placement of rakes and loading at railway sidings and ensure accountability; **SAMVAAD will provide a virtual platform for suggestion /feedback /experience sharing by stakeholders.** Quick Response Teams will respond to the queries and feedbacks in 7 days mandated period; **WCL has launched "Mission 100 Days"** a roadmap to achieve targets for the current fiscal. The three mines WCL has opened are Adasa Mine, an underground to open cast mine, in Nagpur Area of Maharashtra, Sharda underground Mine in Kanhan Area and Dhankasa underground mine in Pench Area of Madhya Pradesh. The annual coal production capacity of Adasa mine is 1.5 MT whereas Sharda and Dhankasa mines have annual coal production capacities of 0.4 MT and 1 MT respectively; The company's coal production and offtake targets for the current fiscal is 62 MT; Madhya Pradesh CM- Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Maharashtra CM- Uddhav Thackeray.

### 7. India's first B2B virtual trade concludes, catalyses Rs 153-crore business

Amid various lockdown-related curbs, India's first virtual business-to-business trade fair concluded. It is organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts. The four-day fair that was conducted online focused on markets such as Europe and US. EPCH is located at New Delhi.

Usually the sellers had to spend around Rs 1.5 lakhs to Rs 2 lakhs to install a physical stall. This time, their expenses was just Rs 10,000 to showcase their products in a virtual stall; Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) was established under Companies Act in the year 1986-87 and is a non-profit organisation, with an object to promote, support, protect, maintain and increase the export of handicrafts; **EPCH Chairman- Ravinder Kumar Passi.**

### 8. Railways runs Double Stack Container Train in electric zone, creates record

Railways has created a new world benchmark by successfully running first Double Stack Container Train in high rise Over Head Equipment (OHE) electrified sections, said Piyush Goyal, the minister in charge of the national transporter. This will boost the ambitious mission of Green India.

With this development, Indian Railways has proudly become the **first Railway to run Double Stack Container train with high reach pantograph in high rise OHE territory**, the Operations of which successfully commenced on 10th June, 2020 from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat.

### 9. Indian Railways' 'Captain Arjun' to screen passengers for covid-19

Central Railway zone has launched an AI enabled robot '**Captain Arjun**' to intensify the screening and surveillance of railway passengers and railway staff. This innovation will help Indian Railways to modernise its security measures at the time of covid-19. **ARJUN: Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice.**

The robot is launched to screen passengers while they board trains and keep a watch on anti-social elements; Captain Arjun is equipped with a motion sensor, one PTZ camera (Pan, Tilt, Zoom Camera) and one Dome Camera. The Cameras use Artificial Intelligence algorithms to track suspicious activity and antisocial activity, have an inbuilt siren, motion activated spotlight H-264 Processor, there is also an in-built internal storage for recording in case there is a network failure. Captain Arjun does thermal screening and records the temperature in a digital display panel with a response time of 0.5 seconds and if temperature is higher than reference range, it sounds an abnormal automatic alarm with a counting capacity of 999; **Captain Arjun has adopted a two-way communication mode, voice and video** and also speaks in local language; Captain Arjun also has a sensor-based sanitizer and mask dispenser and can move.

### 10. 500-year-old temple, submerged in river Mahanadi, resurfaces in Odisha's Nayagarh

**A 500-year-old temple, which was submerged in river Mahanadi long ago, has been found in Odisha's Nayagarh district.** The ancient temple is believed to be dedicated to Lord Vishnu. A team of archaeologists of the INTACH claimed this. **INTACH: Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage.**

The lost ancient temple was located after several attempts by Project Assistant Deepak Kumar Nayak of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH); According to the archaeologists, the 60-foot-long temple, which belongs to Lord Gopinath, dates back to late 15th or early 16th century; The ancient temple was built using the Mastaka style of construction; The place where the temple was found was

regarded as ‘Satapatana’. **Padmabati village was part of Satapatana which is a combination of seven villages**; According to the researchers, the entire village was submerged as the river changed its course due to flooding some 150 years back; The ‘mastaka’ of the ancient temple was spotted nearly 11 years back.

### 11. Wheat procurement from farmers touches an all-time record of 382 lakh tonnes

Government said that the procurement of wheat from farmers has touched a record to 382 Lakh tonnes. The earlier record was 381.48 lakh tonnes, achieved during 2012-13. Number of purchases centres was increased from over 14,000 to around 22,000 this year. Madhya Pradesh is the largest contributor to Central pool.

**Madhya Pradesh became the largest contributor to Central pool with 129 lakh tonnes wheat, surpassing Punjab which procured 127 lakh tonnes.** Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan also made significant contributions to the national procurement of wheat; Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan.

### 12. KVIC rolls out unique project to produce Neera, Palm jaggery

**KVIC has rolled out a unique project to produce Neera and Palm jaggery which has huge potential to create employment.** The project that aims at promoting Neera as a substitute to soft drinks while was launched at Dahanu in Palghar district of Maharashtra. **KVIC Chairman- Vinai Kumar Saxena.**

A wide range of products like candies, milk chocolates, palm cola, ice-cream and traditional sweets can be produced from Neera. This initiative is expected to provide direct employment to 400 local traditional trappers; The broad objectives that the KVIC are: 1) The social objective of providing employment, 2) The economic objective of producing saleable articles, 3) The wider objective of creating self-reliance amongst the poor and building up of a strong rural community spirit.

### 13. Annular Solar Eclipse: Ring of fire to be visible in parts of North India

A rare celestial event, annular solar eclipse also called ring of fire eclipse will be visible on June 21. The first solar eclipse of this year takes place on the summer solstice. Welders glass 13 or 14 can be used to see the Sun directly with naked eyes. **Bhuj - first town in India to see the beginning of the eclipse.**

When Moon comes between the Sun and Earth, the shadow falls on the surface of the Earth. The Sun is entirely covered by the Moon for a brief period. Those places that are engulfed by the dark, dense umbral shadow of the Moon experience the total solar eclipse. In the regions that plunge into the soft diffused penumbral shadow of the Moon experience the partial eclipse. In all solar eclipse the Sun, Moon and Earth may not be perfectly aligned and then there is a partial eclipse. When the three celestial bodies happen to be in a straight line, there is a total solar eclipse.

Solar Eclipses: **Solar eclipses can be classified as total when the moon completely covers the sun, or annular.** Partial Solar Eclipse: Solar and lunar eclipses, both may occur as partial eclipses. In a partial solar eclipse, the moon passes in front of the sun’s centre, leaving behind a crescent-shaped section of the sun visible. It casts just the outer part of its shadow, known as the penumbra, on earth. Total Solar Eclipse: **In case of a total solar eclipse, the moon absolutely covers the entire circle of the sun.** It happens when the moon comes between the earth and the sun casting the darkest shadow, known as the umbra, on earth, sometimes it gets almost as dark as night. For a total solar eclipse, the three celestial bodies must be aligned in a straight line.

Annular Solar Eclipse: In an annular solar eclipse, the moon covers the sun from the centre leaving the outer rim of the sun perceptible. It gives an impression of a ring – popularly called the ‘ring of fire’. The word ‘annular’ comes from the Latin word ‘annulus’ meaning, ‘a ring.’ During this eclipse, the moon will cover up to 98.8% of the solar disc, making it the “deepest” annular solar eclipse of the century in India. It is also the first time since 2001 that the solstice coincides with a solar eclipse.

### 14. Reliance says it has become a net debt-free firm ahead of schedule

Mukesh Ambani’s Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) declared itself net debt-free after a fund-raising spree that saw it garner ₹1.75 trillion- most of it within a span of less than **two months**- from marquee investors and a sale of shares to existing stockholders. The company had a net debt of ₹1.61 trillion as on 31 March.

Reliance raised ₹1.15 trillion through a 24.71% stake sale in digital assets subsidiary Jio Platforms Ltd to nearly a dozen investors, including Facebook Inc. Reliance also raised ₹53,124 crores through a sale of shares to existing investors. In addition, it sold a 49% stake in its fuel retail business to BP Plc for ₹7,000 crores. **Apart from Facebook, the list of investors in Jio Platforms includes six private equity entities—**

**General Atlantic, TPG, KKR, Silver Lake, L Catterton, Vista Equity Partners—and three sovereign funds: Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Mubadala Investment Co. and Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund.**

#### **15. Online Yoga Quiz Competition launched to promote integration of Yoga in school curriculum**

Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has launched an Online Yoga Quiz Competition to promote integration of Yoga in school curriculum. The quiz will be open for one month and students can participate till 20th of July. **Quiz is for students of class 6th-12th across the country.**

Certificate of merit will be issued to 100 top scorers; The competition has been organised by National Council of Educational Research and Training; The competition will help children to develop healthy habits and lifestyle.

#### **16. Educational Initiatives launches AMP2020 for everyone**

**Educational Initiatives (EI)** is all set to launch a web-based mentorship programme- Asset Mentorship Programme (AMP) 2020- for varsity college students (in Grades 6-12) to allow them to develop a coherent instructional path. **The programme might be delivered on the ‘Edmodo’ platform.**

The 28 to 32-week programme is open to students of all boards; Educational Initiatives believes in making a difference in education through personalised learning and ensuring that students learn with understanding; EI was launched on 2001; **Mindspark is an adaptive-learning program (ITS)** built by Educational Initiatives.

#### **17. MSME comes out with consolidated notification for classification and registration**

MSME has come out with a consolidated notification in the form of guidelines for classification and registration of MSMEs. As per the notification, an MSME will be known as Udyam and the registration process will be known as **Udyam Registration. MSME Minister- Nitin Gadkari.**

The Ministry of MSME has established a strong facilitation mechanism for the MSMEs. This process is in the form of Single Window System at the district level and regional level; An enterprise can be registered just on the basis of Aadhaar number and other details can be given on self-declaration basis without any requirement of uploading or submitting any papers.

## Obituary

### 1. Three-time Olympic champion Bobby Joe Morrow dies aged 84

Bobby Joe Morrow has died due to natural causes aged 84. Nicknamed "**white lightning Texas**", Morrow had joined his fellow countryman Jesse Owens, the only man then to have won the gold for 100m, 200m and 4X100m in a single edition of the Olympic Games. He was named the sportsman of the Year in 1956.

### 2. Wajid Khan, of composer duo Sajid-Wajid, dies at 42

**Music director Wajid Khan**, who made his Bollywood debut in Salman's 1998 was known for his compositions for Salman Khan's popular movies such as 'Wanted', the 'Dabangg' franchise and 'Ek Tha Tiger', passed away at 42 due to kidney infection complications. He and Sajid, the composer duo scored the IPL 4 theme song.

### 3. International archer-turned-coach Nanoma dies in accident

A former **international archer-turned-coach Jayantilal Nanoma** died in a road mishap in Rajasthan. Nanoma has many gold and silver medals to his credit in national and international tournaments. Nanoma also won Arjun Award, Maharana Pratap Award, etc., A Guru Dhronacharya Awardee, he was a District Sports Officer.

He was also an Asia Cup and Asian Grand Prix medallist in compound individual and team events in 2010.

### 4. Former Union Minister, Congress Leader from Ladakh passes away

**Former Union Minister and three-time Congress MP from Ladakh, P Namgyal**, passed away in Ladakh. He was 83. Widely respected among Buddhists in Ladakh, Namgyal was also an agriculturist, and a social worker, and was interested in sports and music as well. Radha Krishna Mathur is the 1st Lieutenant-Governor of Ladakh.

The veteran leader was known for his commitment and conviction under whose leadership Ladakh witnessed the massive development in every respect.

### 5. Ex-Pakistan first-class cricketer Riaz Sheikh dies

**Former Pakistan first-class cricketer Riaz Sheikh** became the second professional player in the country to die because of suspected coronavirus. A leg-spinner who took 116 wickets in 43 first-class matches was at one time considered for national selection. Zafar Sarfraz-first professional cricketer to die due to COVID.

### 6. Management guru Pritam Singh dies at 78

**Acclaimed management guru and Padma Shri awardee, Pritam Singh passed away.** He has served as an independent director in several private companies. He was also a former director of IIM Lucknow and MDI. He was a former dean of IIM Bangalore. He is the author of seven books and over 50 research papers.

He was regarded as a pioneer of management education in India. Singh was awarded the Padma Shri in 2003 for his contributions in this field. He was a member of various government panels including the Banking Selection Board, the 10th Five Year Plan for Higher Education and search committee for selection of non-official directors on boards of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

### 7. Basu Chatterjee, film maker passes away

**Filmmaker-screenwriter Basu Chatterjee**, best known for directing films like Choti Si Baat, Rajnigandha, Baaton Baaton Mein, Ek Ruka Hua Faisla and Chameli Ki Shaadi among more, passed away in Mumbai, following age-related ailments. He was 93. He was one of the pioneers of the middle of the road cinema.

In 1992, he was awarded National Film Award for Best Film on Family Welfare for his film Durga.

### 8. Senior BJP leader Chandrakanta Goyal died in Mumbai

**Senior BJP leader Chandrakanta Goyal**, mother of Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, died at her residence in Mumbai due to old age. She was 88. She represented the BJP from the Matunga Assembly constituency in Mumbai for three terms. Piyush Goyal is also Union Minister of Commerce & Industry.

Her husband, late Ved Prakash Goyal, was a BJP national treasurer for a long time. He was Shipping Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

### 9. Former governor and Delhi ex-top cop Ved Marwah dies at 87

**Former Governor of Mizoram, Manipur, and Jharkhand, Ved Marwah**, who had also served as the Delhi Police Commissioner in the 1980s, died in Goa. He had also penned a book- 'Uncivil Wars: Pathology of Terrorism in India'. He was also the adviser to the governors in J&K and Bihar.

Current Governor of Mizoram- P. S. Sreedharan Pillai; Governor of Manipur- Najma Heptulla; Governor of Jharkhand- Droupadi Murmu.

### 10. Former India footballer Hamza Koya died of COVID-19 in Kerala

Former Indian footballer Hamza Koya has died of COVID-19 in Kerala. He was a **former football player who represented Maharashtra at the Santhosh Trophy & also an India team member in Nehru trophy**. He also played for Mohan Bagan & Mohammedan Sports Clubs. He was selected for Indian Soccer camp twice.

Mohun Bagan Athletic Club is an Indian multi-sport club based in Kolkata, founded in 1889; Mohammedan Sporting Club, founded in 1891 at Kolkata, is one of the oldest and one of the most popular football clubs in India.

### 11. Olympic gymnast Kurt Bilteaux Thomas, 1st American to bag gold in the Gymnastic World Championship passed away at 64

**Former Olympian Kurt Thomas**, the 1st American male to win the World Championship gold in gymnastics, died at the age of 64. In the 1978 worlds in Strasbourg, France he captured gold in the floor exercise for the US's first men's title. He won gold in the 1979 worlds in Fort Worth, Texas.

He earned a total of six medals at the 1979 worlds, an American record for medals at a single world that Simone Biles equalled in two years ago; He retired after the US boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

### 12. Kannada Actor Chiranjeevi Sarja dies at 39

**Kannada star Chiranjeevi Sarja** died due to cardiac arrest in Bengaluru at the age of 39. Chiranjeevi has starred in films such as Samhaara, Aadyaa, Khaki, Sinnga, Amma I Love You, Prema Baraha, Dandam Dashagunam, Varadhanayaka and Vayuputra among others. He was last seen in the Kannada action-drama Shivarjuna.

Chief Minister of Karnataka- BS Yediyurappa; Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala is the current Governor of Karnataka.

### 13. DMK MLA J. Anbazhagan dies of Coronavirus

**DMK MLA from Chepauk- Chepauk- Triplicane, J. Anbazhagan**, became the first VIP victim of coronavirus from Tamil Nadu when he died at the age of 62. A three-time MLA, Anbazhagan was elected to the assembly in 2001, 2011 and 2016. Anbazhagan was DMK Chennai West district secretary.

With the death of Anbazhagan, there are three vacancies in there are three vacancies in the assembly. All these are due to the deaths of DMK MLAs. The two others are K P P Samy (Tiruvottiyur) and S Kathavarayan (Gudiyatham). As many as nine MLAs have died since the 15th assembly was formed in 2016. They include former chief ministers M Karunanidhi and J Jayalalithaa; Current CM of Tamil Nadu- Edappadi K Palaniswami.

### 14. Former Union Water Resources minister Arjun Charan Sethi passed away at 79

**Former Union minister Arjun Charan Sethi passed away at the age of 79**. An eight-time MP from Bhadrak Lok Sabha constituency, Sethi was the Union Water Resources Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government from 2000 to 2004. Sethi was also elected to the Odisha Assembly twice.

Odisha Chief Minister- Naveen Patnaik.

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

**Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza**, aged 55, has died after suffering a cardiac arrest. After 15 years in power, Mr Nkurunziza was due to step down in August. In 2015, the announcement that he would run for a third term plunged the country into chaos. **Burundi Capital- Gitega, Currency- Burundian Franc.**

Burundi is a country in east-central Africa, south of the Equator.

### 16. Manchester United legend Tony Dunne dies aged 78

**Former Manchester United defender Tony Dunne**, who played in their 1st European Cup-winning side in 1968, has died at the age of 78. He made 535 appearances for Manchester United & scored only 2 goals. He won the Irish Footballer of the year award in 1969. He was a part of the winning side of the European Cup in 1968.

### 17. Urdu poet Gulzar Dehlvi dies days after recovering from COVID-19

**Veteran Urdu poet Anand Mohan Zutshi 'Gulzar' Dehlvi passed away** after he recovered from coronavirus. He was also the editor of 'Science ki Duniya', the first Urdu science magazine published by the Government of India in 1975. He was a freedom fighter and a premier inquilabi poet.

### 18. Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput passes away

**Noted Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput** committed suicide. The actor was 34 years old. Sushant made his film debut in the buddy drama Kai Po Che! in 2013, for which he received a nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Male Debut. He also received nomination for the Best Actor Filmfare Award. Sushant went on to star in the commercially successful films like Kedarnath in 2018 and Chhichhore in 2019.

### 19. Vasant Raiji, world's oldest first-class cricketer, passes away at age of 100

**India's oldest 1st-class cricketer Vasant Raiji**, a right-handed batsman passed away at 100 due to old age at his residence in Mumbai. Vasant Raiji is a former opening batsman who represented Bombay, Baroda, & CCI in first-class cricket between 1941 & 1950. Vasant Raiji made his 1st-class debut in 1939 for the CCI team.

By profession he is a chartered accountant; After his cricket career he became an author who wrote books about former Indian cricketers like Victor Trumper, CK Nayudu, LP Jai. His book gives a rare literature of cricketing history; He is a one of the founding members of the Jolly Cricket Club.

### 20. Former Member of Planning Commission, A.Vaidyanathan, passed away at 88

**Former Member of the Planning Commission Dr A Vaidyanathan died in Coimbatore.** He was 88. Vaidyanathan was a professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies and Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. He was related with planning in Kerala, Karnataka & TN.

He was a member of the K N Raj Committee on Taxation of Agricultural Income; Dr Vaidyanathan was a member of the central board of the Reserve Bank of India, during which period he was one of the survivors of the terrorist attack on Mumbai's Taj Mahal Hotel in November 2008.

### 21. Former New Zealand cricketer Matt Poore passed away at 90

**Former New Zealand Test cricketer Matt Poore**, who is remembered for catching a stray dog during a match in Bangalore in 1955 and subsequently taking 12 anti-rabies injection, has died at the age of 90. He had a 14-Test career between 1953 and 1956. His highest Test score was 45 against South Africa.

He has played in 61 Tests first-class games for Canterbury and scored 2,336 runs and 68 wickets with his highest score being 142.

### 22. Former Kerala volleyball captain Danikutty David passes away

**Former Kerala volleyball captain Danikutty David passed away** at the age of 60. Danikutty represented Kerala in 11 National Championships between 1981-1993. The Kerala team captained by him bagged the bronze medal in the National Championships in 1985-86. His team won gold medal in the 1985 Delhi National Games.

Danikutty played for Titanium for more than a decade and was a member of the team which emerged champions in the Federation Cup in 1993.

### 23. 1971 War Hero Lt General Raj Mohan Vohra Dies Of COVID-19

**Lieutenant General (retd) Raj Mohan Vohra, who was a 1971 war hero and a Maha Vir Chakra awardee**, has died due to COVID-19. He was 88. Vohra commanded the elite Hodson's Horse in the Shakargarh Sector during the Indo-Pak War of 1971. MVC is the country's second highest gallantry award. It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air. Lt Gen (retd) Vohra had received the coveted award in 1972.



#### 24. Former Lok Sabha MP, banker Madhavrao Patil dies in Nashik

**Former Lok Sabha MP and founder of Janalaxmi Cooperative Bank Madhavrao Patil** died in Maharashtra. He was a staunch supporter of Sharad Pawar and was among the first to join when the latter formed the Nationalist Congress Party in 1999. He won from Nashik Lok Sabha Constituency ticket in 1998.

#### 25. Malayalam director Sachy passes away

**Film director, script writer & producer K R Sachidanandan, popularly known as Sachy, died.** He passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest. He was on ventilator support. He gave a recent hit movie named Ayyappanum Koshiyum which starred Prithviraj-Biju Menon. His directorial debut was Anarkali in 2015. He had co-scripted many films with Sethu and later started writing solo scripts. Sachy was a practising lawyer at the Kerala High Court. He scripted hit films including Driving Licence, Ramleela, Seniors, and Run Baby Run.

#### 26. Veteran economist B.P.R. Vithal passes away at 93

**B.P.R. Vithal**, former IAS officer passed away. He was **Secretary, Finance and Planning, Government of Andhra Pradesh**, from 1972 to 1982, and had a brief stint at the International Monetary Fund as a fiscal adviser to the governments of Sudan and Malawi. He was also Chairman, Expenditure Commission, Govt of Kerala.

He established the Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad. Mr Vithal has many publications to his credit. His essay titled "The Telangana Surpluses: A Case Study" played an influential role in shaping the demand for a separate State of Telangana. In 1960, he was deputed to be Registrar of the Osmania University. He was the first Indian president of the MCC students' union to fly the Indian tricolour.

#### 27. Veteran journalist Dinu Ranadive passes away

**Veteran journalist and freedom fighter Dinu Ranadive passed away.** He was 95. Ranadive was widely respected throughout his career and even after for his investigative journalism, relentless coverage of social movements, and activism for the downtrodden. He started his career in Samyukta Maharashtra Patrika in 1950s.

Samyukta Maharashtra Patrika had a lasting impact on the movement for the unification of Maharashtra as a State based on language. He then did exemplary reporting on the Goa Freedom Struggle in 1961. As a reporter for Maharashtra Times, he came to be known for his frontline war reporting during the Bangladesh war in 1970-71, during which he trekked on foot to the rural areas around Chittagong. Once again, in 1982, when Maharashtra went through the throes of the 'cement scandal', Ranadive excelled with a series of breaking stories that exposed then chief minister A.R. Antulay and kept the State on the boil. He retired from service as chief reporter of the Maharashtra Times in the late 1980s. He was recently conferred with Mumbai Press Club's Red Ink Award for Lifetime Achievement.

#### 28. Playback singer A.L. Raghavan no more

**Noted playback singer A.L. Raghavan passed away.** Born in Thanjavur to Lakshmana Bhagavathar, Raghavan entered the film world as a child artiste in the film Krishna Vijayam. His song 'Engirunthalam Vaazhga' has found a lasting place in many hearts. Thanjavur, where he was born is located in Tamil Nadu.

#### 29. Padma Shri awardee Vidyaben passes away

**Social worker and National Award winner Vidyaben Shah passed away** at her residence in the national capital. Vidyaben was the first non-official to head the New Delhi Municipal Council in the 1970s. She established the first Bal Bhavan. She was awarded the Padma Shri in 1992.

A pioneer in the field of child welfare, she established the first Bal Bhavan in Rajkot in the 1940s and as a university student, she participated in the Quit India Movement. She received the National Award for outstanding services in the field of child welfare in 1986. She also pioneered the setting up of the Mahatma Gandhi Sanskritik Kendra in the 1970s for facilitating cultural exchange among city residents.

#### 30. Domestic cricket stalwart Rajinder Goel passes away

**Rajinder Goel, one of the finest left-arm spinners never to play for the country, passed away.** A left-handed opener, Nitin represented Haryana for many seasons and later became a BCCI match-referee. He played last Ranji Trophy match for Haryana in 1985-86. Goel took 750 first-class wickets during his career.

Goel was destined to remain the most prolific, wicket-taking left-arm spinner in domestic cricket in a career spread over 28 seasons; In 2012, Goel was bestowed the Life-time Achievement Award by the BCCI. In fact, former captain Sunil Gavaskar devoted a chapter on Goel in his second book titled Idols.

### 31. Iraqi football legend Ahmad Radhi dies after battling COVID-19

**Iraqi football legend Ahmed Radhi** has died because of complications after he was diagnosed with COVID-19, the highly infectious respiratory disease. The footballer scored what remains Iraq's only World Cup finals goal in 1986 against Belgium. Radhi led Iraq to victory in the Gulf Cups of 1984 and 1988.

He was voted as Asian footballer of the year; Iraq Capital- Baghdad; Currency- Iraqi dinar.

### 32. Veteran Kerala singer and actor Pappukutty Bhagavathar dies at 107

**Veteran Kerala theatre artist, actor and singer Pappukutty Bhagavathar** passed away in Kochi at the age of 107. The veteran artist had acted in over 25 Malayalam movies. He is popularly known among peers as the 'Kerala Saigal'. He had performed in more than 10,000 plays.

He got the name 'Kerala Saigal' by singing the popular song 'So Ja Rajkumari Soja' sung by KL Saigal in the 1940's film Zindagi.

### 33. Veteran Kannada Novelist Geetha Nagabhushan passes away at 78

**Veteran Kannada Novelist Geetha Nagabhushan** passed away at the age of 78 due to cardiac arrest. She had chaired the 76th Akhil Bharat Kannada Sahitya Sammelan held in Gadag in 2010. She was the first woman writer to get Nadoja award of Kannada University H She also won Sahitya Akademi award.

She got an honorary doctorate from the Gulbarga University. Most of her works challenged the patriarchal approach and discrimination against woman.

## Person in news

### 1. Adidas India appoints former Miss World Manushi Chhillar as brand ambassador

**Adidas has announced the appointment of former Miss World Manushi Chhillar as its new brand ambassador.** Chhillar will lead Adidas's mission to inspire more women to embrace fitness, while creating a positive social impact through the power of sports. Adidas is a German sports brand company.

### 2. First American woman to walk in space reaches deepest spot in the Ocean

**Kathy Sullivan, America's first female spacewalker**, also became the first woman to reach the deepest known point of the ocean. Sullivan dove to the bottom of the Challenger Deep in the Pacific Ocean and safely returned in her submersible vessel. She is now the eighth person to reach the depth.

### The lowest point in the Marianas Trench is about 35,853 feet under the Western Pacific Ocean surface;

Kathy Sullivan became the first American woman to walk in space in 1984; The first two people to reach the Challenger Deep were Don Walsh and Jacques Picard in 1960; "Avatar" and "Titanic" filmmaker James Cameron broke the record for deepest solo dive in 2012 when he became the first person to reach the Challenger Deep alone; Alexei Leonov is the first person to walk in space.

### 3. MoS Home G Kishan Reddy & 9 others named on new panel for freedom fighters

The Ministry of Home Affairs has reconstituted a committee to look into the welfare of freedom fighters, with the minister of state for home affairs **G Kishan Reddy** as the chairman and 9 'eminent freedom fighters' from across the country as its members. Union Home Minister- Amit Shah.

Besides Reddy, former Congress MLA from Gujarat Dinakar Bhai Desai, who took part in the 1942 Quit India movement, is among those part of the panel; According to the MHA, the central government incurred Rs 730.73 crore on pension and other benefits to freedom fighters in 2019-20.

### 4. RR Swain appointed Intelligence Chief of Jammu & Kashmir

**Jammu and Kashmir Government appointed R.R Swain (IPS) as the new intelligence chief of J&K police**, replacing Dr. B Srinivas who has been posted as Commandant General, HG/CD/SDRF. RR Swain was recently repatriated from the centre deputation. Deepak Kumar- MD of Police Housing Corporation.

Dr. B. Srinivas, besides being transferred and posted as Commandant General, HG/CD/SDRF has been also asked to hold the charge of the post of Director Fire & Emergency Service, J&K, in addition to his own duties, till further orders, relieving V.K Singh (IPS) of the additional charge of these posts.

### 5. G Kishan Reddy launches 'GermiBAN' device to kill viruses

Union Minister of State for Home affairs G. Kishan Reddy launched '**GermiBAN**', a device developed by Atal Incubation Centre & Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India- Women Entrepreneurs HUB. The device can kill 99.9% of surface and air microbes. NEO Inventronix, Hyderabad developed the GermiBAN.

ALEAP WE-HUB has been set up with the support of Central Government Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI AAYOG at its ALEAP industrial estate, Pragthi Nagar, Gajularamaram to nurture women start-ups.

### 6. Kyrgyz PM Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev resigns over corruption probe

Kyrgyz Prime Minister Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev has resigned, citing an ongoing criminal investigation into the assignment of national radio frequencies. He was appointed as prime minister by President Sooronbai Jeenbekov in April 2018. **Kyrgyzstan Capital- Bishkek, Currency- Kyrgyzstani Som.**

Currently, First Deputy Prime Minister Kubatbek Boronov coordinates the work of the Government.

### 7. Kathy Lueders to become first female head of human spaceflight

**Kathy Lueders, the first NASA official, who led the inaugural private crewed flight into space last month, has ascended to the position of the first female head of human spaceflight.** NASA prepares to return people to the moon in 2024. NASA was established in 1958.

Just 10 days after the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) opened for business on October 1, 1958, the NASA launched its first satellite, Pioneer 1.

### 8. JSW Cement ropes in Sourav Ganguly and Sunil Chhetri as brand ambassadors

Cement brand, JSW Cement has roped in former cricketer and current president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), **Sourav Ganguly** as well as captain of the Indian national football team and

Bengaluru FC, Sunil Chhetri as brand ambassadors. JSW Cement Ltd is part of the JSW Group Indian conglomerate.

The company is also rolling out its new multi-media marketing campaign 'Leader's Choice' featuring both these sports icons on June 20th across West Bengal, Bihar and Odisha. The Leader's Choice campaign is based on the philosophy of building a solid foundation for a better tomorrow. MD of JSW Cement: Parth Jindal.

#### 9. Mukesh Ambani is now among world's top-10 richest as net worth rises to \$64.6 bn

**Mukesh Ambani, Chairman & MD of RIL entered into the list of world's top 10 richest**, according to the Forbes Real-Time Billionaire list. Ambani's net worth rose to \$64.6 bn on the back of RIL's stock price hitting an all-time high of ₹1,738.95 a share. RIL has become 1st Indian company to be valued at \$150 billion.

With this, RIL also joins the club of most valued energy companies in the world and has surpassed its strategic partner British oil major BP Plc in terms of market capitalization. Other companies which RIL has left behind in the market capitalization race include Total SA, Royal Dutch Shell. Globally, in the listed universe, Exxon Mobil Corp. is the biggest oil and gas firm. However, the world's largest energy entity is Saudi Aramco, which pumps out about 10% of the world's crude. Forbes' Real-Time Billionaires rankings track the daily ups and downs of the world's richest people. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos tops the list with a net worth of \$160.4 billion followed by Bill Gates with \$109.9 billion.

#### 10. Nestle India CMD Suresh Narayanan gets another 5-yr term

**Nestle India has received shareholders 'approval to extend the tenure of its Chairman and Managing Director Suresh Narayanan by another five years'**. Narayanan had joined Nestle India as MD on August 1, 2015, when the company was facing the Maggi crisis. Nestle India is a subsidiary of NESTLE S.A. of Switzerland.

Suresh Narayanan was designated as the chairman and managing director with effect from October 29, 2015. Narayanan had joined Nestle in 1999 as executive vice president for sales in India.

#### 11. NPCI's UPI head Anubhav Sharma set to join Paytm Payments Bank

**Paytm Payments Bank has roped in Anubhav Sharma** who was heading Unified Payments Interface and Immediate Payment Service at the National Payments Corporations of India for a top role. This would be one of the most senior hiring for the Noida-based bank. Paytm was founded in August 2010.

While Paytm's monthly UPI transactions volume stood at 124 million against Google Pay's 541 million and PhonePe's 444 million in May, the SoftBank-backed firm also recorded a fall in the number of users transacting on the platform to 30 million. In comparison, Google Pay and PhonePe's respective transacting users were recorded at 75 million and 60 million; Paytm was founded with an initial investment of \$2 million; Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the founder.

#### 12. Centre Re-nominates Tata Sons' Chandrasekaran to RBI Central Board for 2 years

Government nominated **Natarajan Chandrasekaran as a part-time non-official director on the RBI's central board**. Chandrasekaran, who was the COO of the TCS earlier & now the Chairman, has been appointed as the official director for the period of two years. **The RBI's central board currently has 15 directors.**

The government had first nominated Chandrasekaran, Chairman of the Board of Tata Sons since January 2017, as Director on the central board of directors of the RBI for a period of four years with effect from March 4, 2016, or until further orders; The RBI's central board currently has 15 directors, including the Governor and three Deputy Governors. India's apex bank's board comprises of official and non-official directors. **The official directors include the Governor and up to four Deputy Governors, while the non-official directors can comprise of up to ten directors from various fields and two government officials and one director from each of four local boards of the RBI;** Along with N Chandrasekaran, the Central Board Directors include Dr Ashok Gulati, Manish Sabharwal, Dilip Shanghvi, Prasanna Mohanty, Satish Kashinath Marathe, Sachin Chaturvedi, Revathy Iyer, Swaminathan Gurumurthy, Debasish Panda and Tarun Bajaj.

### 13. Serbia election: President Vucic declares landslide win in controversial parliamentary vote

Serbia's president **Aleksandar Vucic** declared a landslide victory for his right-wing party, in a controversial parliamentary election held amid concerns over a boycott by much of the opposition. His party won 190 seats in a total of 250. **Serbia Capital- Belgrade, Currency- Serbian dinar.**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in March 2020, Serbia became the first country to conduct National Elections in Europe.

### 14. Kerala Health Minister Joins UN Panel Talk on Covid On Public Service Day

KK Shailaja, the Health Minister of Kerala, was invited by the United Nations to participate in a panel discussion on **World Public Service Day 2020**, for her efforts to fight coronavirus in her state. 1st COVID-19 case was detected in Kerala on January 31. Pinarayi Vijayan, current Chief Minister of Kerala.

### 15. Sanjita Chanu to receive Arjuna award after IWF drops doping charges

2-time Commonwealth Games gold medal winning weightlifter K. **Sanjita Chanu**, who was recently exonerated from doping charges, will get the Arjuna award for 2018 as per Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF). **World Anti-Doping Agency HQ: Montreal, Canada.**

The 26-year-old had won back-to-back gold medals in the 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games in the 48kg and 53kg categories respectively.

### 16. Vince Carter 'officially done' after 22 years in NBA

Vince Carter made his retirement official, announcing on his podcast that his 22-year NBA career, the longest in league history, has come to an end. Carter won the NBA Rookie of the Year Award in 1999. He started his career with Toronto in 1998. **NBA Commissioner -Adam Silver.**

### 17. NASA renames Washington HQ after Mary Jackson

Nasa is to name its **headquarters in Washington DC** after its first black female engineer, Mary Jackson. Nasa administrator **Jim Bridenstine** said Jackson had helped to break down barriers for African Americans and women in engineering and technology. She was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mary Jackson was recruited in 1951 by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics which was succeeded by Nasa in 1958.

## Insurance

### 1. Tata AIG launches telematics-based motor insurance to save premiums

Tata AIG General Insurance launched usage-based insurance (UBI) private car policy for car owners under the IRDAI's Regulatory Sandbox. It will be available on all policies offering personal accidental cover to the tune of Rs 15 lakhs for owner and driver. **The company also bought 'Auto-Safe', a GPS enabled device.** This policy includes other value-added propositions like depreciation reimbursement, daily allowance, no claim bonus protection covers etc. The policy also offers a kilometre-based package that enables savings on premiums compared to conventional policies.

### 2. Universal Sampo General Insurance Company appoints Sharad Mathur as MD & CEO

**Universal Sampo, a joint venture between Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Karnataka Bank, Dabur Investments Corporation & Sampo Japan Insurance** has appointed Sharad Mathur as Managing Director & CEO. Sharad was associated with SBI General Insurance. Universal Sampo Headquarters- Mumbai.

Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Limited is the first Public - Private Partnership in General Insurance Industry in India; Universal Sampo started operations in India on 2007; Allahabad Bank holds 30%, Indian Overseas Bank holds 19% and Karnataka Bank 15% of the share in this general insurance venture. **While Dabur India Limited holds 10% and the rest 26% of the share of the company is held by Sampo Japan Nipponkoa.**

### 3. IRDAI withdraws long-term third-party insurance covers for new cars and 2-wheeler

IRDAI has withdrawn long term-third party insurance cover which is issued for three/five years for new vehicles and two-wheelers. This will be effective from August 1, 2020 and make insurance cover affordable for vehicle owners. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

The regulator has withdrawn the scheme as concerns were expressed over the implementation for the scheme introduced in September 2018 and the matter was taken in the Supreme Court.

### 4. HDFC Ergo launches country's first drone cover

In an industry-1st initiative, the **3rd largest private sector general insurer HDFC Ergo** tied up with tech firm Tropogo to offer commercial drone owners & operators 3rd-party liability cover for property damages & physical injuries from the flying drones. Policy will be offered to customers on a pay as you fly concept.

Third-party insurance liability claim is mandatory for drone operations in the country; Ritesh Kumar- Managing Director of HDFC Ergo General Insurance; **Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

### 5. Insurance Scheme under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package for health workers extended

The Insurance Scheme announced under PMGKY Package for health workers who are fighting to contain COVID-19 has been extended for another three months till September. Scheme is funded through the NDRF, operated by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. **The scheme provides an insurance cover of 50 lakh rupees.**

Earlier the scheme was slated to end on 30th June; The scheme also includes accidental loss of life on account of contracting COVID-19. The insurance provided under this scheme will be over and above any other insurance cover being availed by the beneficiary.

### 6. UCO Bank partners with four insurers to sell their products

State-run Bank UCO Bank teamed up with SBI Life Insurance Company, the Oriental Insurance Company and Religare Health Insurance Company, Star Health and Allied Insurance Company for selling their products. **UCO Bank Headquarters- Kolkata, UCO Bank MD & CEO- Atul Kumar.**

UCO Bank, formerly United Commercial Bank, established in 1943 in Kolkata, is a major government-owned commercial bank of India.

### 7. IRDAI sets-up panel for drone insurance

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has set-up a working group to study the insurance coverage around the rising usage of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RAPS) or commonly termed as Drones. Anjan Dey is Chairman of the committee. **The group has been asked to submit a report within six weeks.**

## India & World

### 1. India, Bhutan sign MoU on environment cooperation

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a memorandum of understanding between India and Bhutan for environment protection and cooperation in the areas concerning air quality, waste, chemical management and climate change. **The MoU will remain in force for a period of 10 years.**

An MoU was signed between the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the National Environment Commission (NEC) of the Royal Government of **Bhutan**. **BHUTAN: Capital: Thimpu. Prime Minister: Lotay Tshering. Currency: Bhutanese Ngultrum.**

### 2. India's bilateral virtual summit with Australia

It is the first virtual summit between PM Modi and a foreign leader. Through this summit, India and Australia raised their relationship to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" (CSP) and concluded nine pacts including Mutual Logistics Support Agreement. Australian Prime Minister: Scott Morrison.

The Mutual Logistics Support Agreement can strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and help build military interoperability. India and Australia also issued a joint declaration on a 'Shared Vision for Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.' The two countries also agreed to increase the frequency of meetings between the two Prime Ministers and took the "2+2" format of bilateral meetings to the level of Foreign and Defence Ministers, who will meet to "discuss strategic issues" at least every two years. Other Documents Signed: • Framework arrangement on cyber and cyber-enabled critical technology cooperation • An MoU on cooperation in mining and processing of critical and strategic minerals • An implementing arrangement on cooperation in defence science and technology to the existing MoU on defence cooperation. • An MoU on Co-operation in the field of Public Administration and Governance Reforms • An MoU on Co-operation in Vocational Education and Training • An MoU on Water Resources Management. India has signed CSPs with the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Vietnam, and the United Arab Emirates thus far, while Australia has CSPs with China, Indonesia and Singapore. **India's Bilateral Exercises with Australia: Naval Exercise: AUSINDEX Army Exercise: AUSTRAHIND Air Force Exercise: PITCH BLACK (Multilateral Exercise)**

### 3. India, Denmark sign MoU for developing cooperation in power sector

India and Denmark have signed an MoU for developing cooperation in the power sector. The MoU signed between the Ministry of Power and the Ministry for Energy, Utilities and Climate of Denmark. Under the MoU, a Joint Working Group will also be established. **Denmark Capital- Copenhagen, Currency- Danish krone.**

Joint Working Group will be co-chaired by Joint Secretary level officials; Prime Minister of Denmark- Mette Frederiksen; Union Minister of Power- RK Singh.

### 4. India to rebuild 56 schools destroyed in Nepal's 2015 earthquake

The Indian Embassy in Nepal will rebuild 56 higher secondary which were destroyed in the powerful earthquake that hit the country in 2015. It is part of the government's post-earthquake reconstruction works in Nepal with a grant of around Rs 184 crore. **Nepal Capital- Kathmandu, Currency- Nepalese Rupee.**

Seven Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the Indian embassy and the Nepal Ministry of Education's Central Level Project Implementation Unit (CLPIU) to build the 56 higher secondary schools; India's **Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee**, will provide technical expertise in the reconstruction work; Nepal Prime Minister- KP Sharma Oli.

### 5. Exim Bank extends \$215 million line of credit to Malawi

India based finance lender Export-Import Bank of India announced to extend \$215.68 million Line of Credit (LOC) to the Malawi government for drinking water supply schemes and other development projects. So far EXIM Bank has extended five LOCs to Malawi. **Malawi Capital- Lilongwe, Currency- Malawian kwacha.**

Projects covered under the LOCs extended to Malawi include supply of irrigation network, tobacco threshing plant, cotton processing facilities, green belt initiative, sugar processing equipment, fuel storage facility, and

construction of a new water supply system from Likhubula river in Mulanje to Blantyre; The total value of LOCs on behalf of the Indian government have been extended to \$395.68 million.

#### 6. India becomes founding member of Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence

India joined the league of leading economies including USA, UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France & others to launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI). India will actively participate in the global development of Artificial Intelligence. **GPAI Secretariat in Paris will be supported by OECD.**

Realizing the full potential of artificial intelligence (AI) that benefits all citizens requires international collaboration, Canada and France are launching with Australia, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Union the **Global Partnership on Artificial (GPAI)** to support and guide the responsible development of artificial intelligence; GPAI will bring together leading experts from industry, civil society, governments, and academia to collaborate across four **Working Group themes: 1) Responsible AI; 2) Data Governance; 3) The Future of Work; and 4) Innovation & Commercialization;** GPAI will be supported by a Secretariat, to be hosted by the OECD in Paris, as well as by two Centres of Expertise – one each in Montréal and Paris; This launch crowns two years of work by the French digital diplomacy and Canadian partners in order to implement the appeal made in the Canada-France Statement on AI of June 2018.

#### 7. HIL India supplies 25 MT Malathion 95% ULV Insecticides to Iran for Locust Control Programme

HIL (India) Limited, a PSU under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and one of the leading manufacturers of insecticides in the country has supplied 25MT Malathion 95% ULV to Iran under Government-to-Government initiative for Locust Control Programme. **Iran Capital- Tehran, Currency- Iranian Rial.**

India had recently approached Iran and Pakistan for coordinated response to counter desert locust menace in the region. Iran has expressed its willingness to the proposal and accordingly Ministry of External Affairs placed an order with HIL (India) Limited, to manufacture and supply 25 MT of Malathion 95% ULV to Iran. The consignment is expected to reach Iran by 16th June 2020; As per the reports of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the hopper stage population of locust is building up in Sistan-Baluchistan Region of Iran, which shall migrate to India in coming months leading to further crop devastation; Hindustan Insecticides Limited is a Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. It was incorporated in March 1954 in order to start production of DDT for the National Malaria Eradication Programme.

#### 8. India & 12 other nations promise to counter misinformation on COVID-19

India, along with 12 other countries, has led an initiative here aimed at spreading fact-based content to counter misinformation on the coronavirus, with over 130 nations endorsing the global call to fight the 'infodemic' relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Initiative is named as "Verified".**

132 member nations support the cross regional statement on infodemic of the initiative by Australia, Chile, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Latvia, Lebanon, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Senegal and South Africa; The initiative recruits information volunteers – “Digital first responders” who will receive daily feeds on verified facts and will spread the information to counter the misinformation; This collaboration of the world's leading social mobilization organisation and supported by IKEA foundation and Luminate; The initiative is led by the United Nations Department of Global Communication (DGC) with an aim to provide facts about COVID-19 in the digital space; This will provide information on three **theme: 1) Science – to Save lives, 2) Solidarity – to promote local and global cooperation, 3) Solution – to advocate for support to impacted population.**

#### 9. India pledges to construct sanitation facility at Nepal's iconic Pashupatinath Temple

India has pledged to construct a Rs 2.3 Crores sanitation facility at the iconic Pashupatinath Temple complex to improve the infrastructure in the holy shrine. The project would be constructed under the Nepal-Bharat Maitri: Development Partnership. **Pashupatinath Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage site.**

Pashupatinath Temple is the largest temple complex in Nepal and stretches on both sides of the Bagmati River and sees thousands of worshippers from Nepal and India every day; Nepal's lower house recently voted unanimously on a bill to amend the Constitution to incorporate Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura in India's Uttarakhand to a new political map, a move described by New Delhi as "untenable."



## 10. Serum Institute, Pune & UNICEF flexibly consent to give pneumonia immunization to low-income countries

**Serum along with UNICEF & GAVI alliance** have signed an MoU to supply pneumonia vaccine to low income countries. Serum is one of the leading manufacturers of vaccines & immunobiological drugs. It will provide 10 million Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine. **They will supply the vaccine at 2 USD per dose.**

The new cost speaks to a 43 percent decrease from the Gavi cost of USD 3.50 toward the beginning of the Advance Market Commitment (AMC); Under Advance Market Commitment, the GAVI alliance provided incentives to the pharmaceutical companies to develop and produce suitable vaccines. This was done to provide sustainable prices to the vaccines. **The AMC was launched in 2009;** The pneumococcus bacterium is the main source of extreme pneumonia and is a significant reason for horribleness and mortality around the world; The AMC, which is set to end this year, was propelled by Gavi with the help of contributors Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, Russia, Norway and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; The PCV immunization has now been presented in 60 lower-pay nations, where inclusion rates, at 48 percent, are currently higher than the worldwide normal of 47 percent; **UNICEF headquarters is in New York.**

## 11. France commits 200 Million Euros to Support India's COVID Response

France and India signed an agreement with Paris committing 200 million euros to support Delhi's Covid response. It was signed by Dr C.S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary - DEA, and Bruno Bosle, Director - AFD (French Development Agency) in India. **France Capital- Paris, Currency- Euro.**

The programme design, developed by the World Bank in collaboration with the Indian authorities, seeks to optimize and scale up the Indian Government's existing social protection measures. Focusing on boosting the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna**, the programme will provide further benefits to low-income families to ensure that the health, social and economic shocks arising from Covid-19 do not endanger people's well-being or their contribution to the country's economic growth in the long run; **AFD – French Development Agency Group** is a public financial institution that finances, supports and accelerates transitions towards a more just and sustainable world.

## 12. India pledges USD 10 million to UNRWA over next two years

**India has announced contributing 10 million US dollar to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)** over the coming two years. India provides 250 annual scholarships to Palestinian youth and officials. **UNRWA was established on December 1949.**

Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan addressed an Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference for UNRWA; India had stepped up its annual pledge from 1.25 million US dollar to 5 million US dollar in 2018. He said, for this year, India has already disbursed two million dollar and will soon be remitting the balance three million dollar; UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States.

## 13. Swedish company Crunchfish to offer Bluetooth payments in India

Crunchfish, a Swedish company, is in conversation with MobiKwik, PhonePe, Google Pay and many leading FinTechs and Mobile Payment companies in India to offer Bluetooth payment solutions. In Sweden, Crunchfish has integrated with Swish, a top mobile payment. Joachim Samuelson, CEO, Crunchfish.

## 14. World's first yoga university outside India launched in Los Angeles

Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU) was jointly launched on by MoS for External Affairs V Muraleedharan & Chairperson of the Standing Committee on External Affairs P P Chaudhary during a virtual event held at the Consulate General of India in New York. UN has declared June 21 as International Day of Yoga.

Eminent Indian yoga guru Dr H R Nagendra, Chancellor of **Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (SVYASA)**, is the first Chairman of VaYU.

## 15. Agreement for first Indo-Bhutan joint venture hydroelectric project signed

A concession agreement for the first Indo-Bhutan joint venture hydroelectric project was signed, paving the way for the commencement of its construction and other related works. The 600 MW run-of-the-river project is located in the Kholongchhu river. **The project is expected to be completed in 2025.**

The concession agreement for the **600 MW Kholongchhu project** between the Bhutanese government and the Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited was signed in the virtual presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Bhutanese counterpart Tandi Dorji; The project envisages an underground powerhouse of four 150 MW turbines with water impounded by a concrete gravity dam of 95 metres height.

#### **16. India among Switzerland's top-3 partners for info exchange on tax matters: Global Forum**

India figures among the top-three countries getting detailed information from Switzerland about bank accounts and beneficiary ownership of entities established by their residents in the Alpine nation, according to the latest study by OECD. The other two countries were France and Germany.

**Study is done by OECD's Global Forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes.** In its latest peer review report on exchange of information on request, the Global Forum, which is tasked to assess the standard of exchange of information on request by various jurisdictions worldwide and their compliance, said Switzerland is rated 'largely compliant'.

## Environment

### 1. Urban Forest scheme to develop 200 'Nagar Van' across the country in the next 5 years

Govt announced implementation of the Nagar van scheme to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in next 5 years with a renewed focus on people's participation & collaboration between Forest Department, Municipal bodies, NGOs, Corporates. **Union Minister of EFC&C: Prakash Javadekar.**

The urban forests will be developed by involving local communities; corporates; local bodies; NGOs, etc. Once established, they will be maintained by the state government and an entry fee can be charged from visitors for maintenance.

### 2. Plantation drive named 'Thank Mom' started in Madhya Pradesh

In Madhya Pradesh, a plantation drive named 'Thank Mom' has been started on the premises of Social Justice and Disabled Welfare Directorate on World Environment Day. Plants are fitted with a plaque in the name of the mother of each employee. **Programs on the theme of 'Time for Nature' were organized.**

Madhya Pradesh Governor- Lal Ji Tandon; Chief Minister- Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Capital- Bhopal.

### 3. India secured 168th rank in the 12th edition of EPI Index

**India secured 168 rank in the 12th edition of the biennial Environment Performance Index (EPI Index 2020)-** that measured the environmental performance of 180 countries- and was released by the Yale University on June 4, 2020. India scored 27.6 out of 100. **Index considered 32 indicators of environmental performance.**

Index considers 10-year trends in environmental performance at the national and global levels; The 11 countries lagging behind India were- Burundi, Haiti, Chad, Solomon Islands, Madagascar, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Liberia; All South Asian countries, except Afghanistan, were ahead of India in the ranking; India's rank on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among the South Asian countries was low; India's rank was 177 (with a score of 30.57 out of 100) in 2018; India ranked 106 in terms of climate change and second in South Asian region; The performance of a country in climate change was assessed on greenhouse gas emission per capita, Greenhouse gas intensity growth rate, growth rate; According to the report, India needs to double its sustainability efforts. Also, India needs to focus widely on sustainability issues with utmost priority.

### 4. Road Transport ministry issues distinct colour band for number plate sticker for BS-VI vehicles

Road Transport ministry has mandated a strip of green colour of 1 cm width on top of the existing sticker carrying details of registration for BS-VI vehicles of any fuel type. Petrol/ CNG have light blue colour sticker & diesel vehicle have orange colour. **BS-VI emission standards have been mandated w.e.f. 1 April 2020.**

Minister of Road Transport and Highways- Nitin Gadkari; The volume of PM 2.5 in BS VI fuel ranges between 20 and 40 micro grams per cubic metres. On the other hand, it is 120 micrograms per cubic metres in BS IV fuel. The BS VI fuel is to bring down the Sulphur content by 5 times. **The BS VI fuel vehicles will emit 80% less particulate matter for every kilo metre.**

### 5. Uttarakhand opens biodiversity park in Haldwani to encourage conservation

The Uttarakhand forest department opened a biodiversity park in Haldwani to encourage conservation of flora, especially medicinal plants. The park has 40 thematic sections. Food products from India's hills and mountains are labelled as Super Foods. **Nanda Devi National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site.**

Park was opened on World Environment Day; National Parks in Uttarakhand are Jim Corbett National Park, Rajaji National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Gangotri National Park and Govind Pashu Vihar National Park & Sanctuary.

### 6. India continues to lose forest land to non-forestry projects: Report

A total 11,467.83 hectares forest lands were diverted in 22 states between January 1 & November 6, 2019 according to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Annual Report 2019-20. Diversion was for 932 non-forestry projects under FCA, 1980. **FCA- Forest Conservation Act.**

The greatest number of projects (251) were in Haryana; Madhya Pradesh diverted 795.36 ha for 220 projects; The largest area of forest land was diverted for irrigation and mining projects. Twenty-four irrigation projects led to the diversion of 4,287.50 ha, while 22 mining projects led to the diversion of 3,846.09 ha of forest

land. Other than this, 227 road construction projects also led to the diversion of 1,487.82; There was no conversion of forest villages to revenue villages in 2019, as stipulated under the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. Forest villages were villages set up by the British Indian government to settle workers inside forests and procure resources like timber more efficiently. There are around 2,500 forest villages across the country.

### 7. Maharashtra renames its environment ministry as 'Environment & Climate Change Ministry'

Days after being hit by cyclone Nisarga, Maharashtra has renamed its Environment Ministry as Environment and Climate Change Ministry. Maharashtra is among a few states in the country which have a dedicated department to address climate change. **Shiv Sena MLA Aaditya Thackeray handle the department.**

### 8. New fish species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

A new species of fish from genus Schizothorax has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh by Dr. Keshav Kumar Jha of Nehru College, Pasighat. The name of this fish species has been derived from the name of the rivers where it was found. The fish species is named as Schizothorax sikusirumensis.

This fish was collected from the junction of River Siku and Sirum near Gakang area under Mebo circle of East Siang District. The fish inhabits the waterlogged area of torrential river drainage.

### 9. WWF conducts estimation exercise of Indian Gaur in the Nilgris

Recently, the first population estimation exercise of the Indian Gaur was carried out in the Nilgiris Forest Division, Tamil Nadu. WWF for Nature India assisted the exercise and highlighted that there are estimated 2,000 Indian gaurs across the division. **Indian Gaur: Largest & tallest animal in the wild cattle family.**

Nowadays, Indian Gaur is kept well and protected in some of the famous national parks of India like Nagarhole, Bandipur, Kabini and Mudumalai; World Wide Fund for Nature India was established as a charitable trust on 27th November, 1969 and today it is one of the leading conservation organizations in the country. In 1987, it changed its name from the World Wildlife Fund to World Wide Fund for Nature India.

### 10. Infosys joins Amazon, signs Climate Pledge to become net-zero carbon

Infosys said that it will make its business net zero carbon by 2040, 10 years ahead of the deadline set out by the Paris Agreement. It signed 'The Climate Pledge'- an initiative by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos & former UN Climate chief Christiana Figueres. **The Climate Pledge was launched in September 2019.**

Infosys pledged to become carbon neutral and source 100 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable sources ahead of 2040; US telecommunication conglomerate Verizon and British consumer goods company Reckitt Benckiser signed the pledge along with Infosys; **Verizon committed to become carbon neutral by 2035 and to powering its operations with 50 per cent renewable energy by 2025.** Reckitt Benckiser set the goal of reducing carbon emissions from its sites by 65 per cent and to power its operations with 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2030, with the ambition of net zero carbon emissions by 2040; The Bangalore-based software company is the second major signatory and first Indian company to The Climate Pledge; Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh.

### 11. Avaada Energy to set up 350 MW solar plant in Maharashtra

**Solar projects developer Avaada Energy will set up a 350 megawatt (MW) solar plant in Maharashtra.** The project has been awarded by Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd (MSEDCL). The project is expected to be commissioned by January 2022. Aseemkumar Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director MSEDCL.

### 12. Culture Ministry to celebrate Sankalp Parva from June 28-July 12

The Union Ministry of Culture has announced that on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry has decided to celebrate a 2-week long tree plantation campaign called 'Sankalp Parva' from 28th June to 12th July 2020. **Minister of State for Tourism and Culture- Prahlad Singh Patel.**

Under the Sankalp Parva, the Ministry of Culture has recommended planting 5 trees: Bargad, Awla, Pepal, Ashok and Bel. These 5 trees represent the herbal heritage of the country.

## Apps & Portals

### 1. Govt of India bans WeTransfer file sharing website

WeTransfer is currently banned in India in the interest of national security. The Government of India has ordered internet service providers (ISP) to ban three "specific" website URLs in the country, all belonging to WeTransfer. **WeTransfer is a Netherlands based company founded in 2009.**

WeTransfer allows users to upload and share file of up to 2GB for free at one time. Paying users can share files of up to 20 GB per transfer.

### 2. PM Modi launches CHAMPIONS portal to empower MSMEs

PM launched the tech platform ‘**Champions**’ to help the smaller MSMEs by solving their grievances, encouraging and supporting them. ‘Champions’ stands for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output & National Strength. **It is a one-stop place for the MSME Sector.**

### 3. Delhi CM launches app to help track hospital beds, ventilators for COVID-19 patients

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched a Delhi Corona App for people to give accurate information about beds and ventilators availability in city's hospitals. He urged the people to download the App. This app will be updated two times a day. **A helpline number 1031 was also announced.**

A web page, [www.delhifightscorona.in](http://www.delhifightscorona.in) has also been created to provide the latest status of the vacant beds in hospitals.

### 4. Centre launches TULIP portal to provide benefit to all stakeholders

Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank & Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched a joint initiative, **TULIP- ‘The Urban Learning Internship Programme’** aimed at providing internships to engineering students in the country. It has been conceived under Budget’s theme ‘Aspirational India’.

TULIP is a program for providing fresh graduates experiential learning opportunities in the urban sector. MHRD and AICTE aim to provide 1 crore successful internships by the year 2025. **It is likely to benefit around 25 thousand students in the first year of its launch.**

### 5. J&K LG launches 'Mera Vetan' app

Lieutenant Governor G.C. Murmu launched JK Employees Salary Tracker Mobile App- "Mera Vetan". With this, employees especially posted in remote & rural areas, who do not have access to the DDOs will easily access their salary & other details anytime. Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: R.K Mathur.

The mobile app also provides information on pay scale, GPF/NPS subscription, allowances, deductions, GPF/NPS statement, income-tax statement, SLI statement and so on. The details of the employees’ salaries will be updated every month following payment from the treasury.

### 6. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches COVID BEEP app

Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh launched **COVID BEEP (Continuous Oxygenation & Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod) app**, which is the India’s 1st physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients. ESIC Medical College & IIT Hyderabad developed the app.

The latest version of COVID BEEP has also been incorporated in the ECG monitoring. COVID BEEP will greatly reduce the transmission risk as well as help save resources like PPEs; ESIC Medical College is located in Hyderabad; ESIC also collaborated with eminent institutes like ECIL (Electronics Corporation of India Limited), Hyderabad and TIFR (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research), Hyderabad.

### 7. Karnataka launches app for real time info on rains, flooding in Bengaluru

The Karnataka government launched “**Meghasandesha**” App that would provide real-time information as well as forecast on rains, flooding and thunderstorm alerts in Bengaluru. A dedicated portal, Varunamitra, was also launched. **Central govt has set aside Rs 200 crore for disaster mitigation.**

Meghasandesha has been developed by Karnataka state natural disaster monitoring centre along with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Department of science and technology among others; Varunamitra aims to leverage technology driven solutions to manage and mitigate the Urban Floods; Karnataka CM-Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa.

### 8. Rajasthan CM launches Raj Kaushal Portal

**Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot launched the Raj Kaushal Portal and Online Shramik Employment Exchange.** It is a major initiative for the workers to get employment and to make the labour available to the industries facing labour shortage. IT department and RSLDC developed the portal.

This portal contains data of over 12 lakh migrant workers as well as registered workers of planning offices and building and other construction boards and more than 53 lakh workers and manpower trained in **Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC)** and ITI.

### 9. IIT Guwahati students' start-up Flyzy develops mobile application for contactless travel

**Students of IIT Guwahati** have developed a mobile application, called 'Flyzy', to provide a seamless air travelling experience to passengers during the pandemic. The application has been developed by Deepak Meena, Hansraj Patel, and Arjit Singh. They plan to install this in the airports.

This a hybrid software which will support face-biometric recognition in the future, without changing the complete software system of the airport; The application also has a Smart UI Assistant which helps the elderly to use the app easily. Other features of the application include real-time flight notifications, universal Web Check-in portal, check-in baggage status and map of the airport.

### 10. 'Rozgar Setu Portal' inaugurated in MP to provide work to migrant labourers

**MP is the 1st Indian state that has completed the survey of all migrant labourers & started to provide jobs according to their skill.** Employers can select labourers as per their requirements & labourers can get their appointment letter through the portal. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister- Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Madhya Pradesh Governor- Lalji Tandon; Capital- Bhopal; Madhya Pradesh came into being on 1 November 1956. It was reorganised on 1 November 2000 to create a new Chhattisgarh state. MP is bounded in north by Uttar Pradesh, east by Chhattisgarh, south by Maharashtra and west by Gujarat and Rajasthan.

### 11. Govt launches AarogyaPath portal for healthcare supply chain

**AarogyaPath, a web-based solution for the healthcare supply chain was launched** to serve manufacturers, suppliers and customers to effectively deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. This portal will remove supply chain bottlenecks during the Covid-19 pandemic. **CSIR launched the AarogyaPath portal.**

### 12. Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs launches e-Office application

CBIC launched the e-Office application in over 500 CGST and Customs offices pan India. Over 50,000 officers and staff will use this application, making CBIC one of the largest Government departments to automate its internal office procedures. **CBIC Chairman M Ajit Kumar launched the application.**

The e-Office application is developed by the NIC and is supported by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG); Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (erstwhile Central Board of Excise & Customs) is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It deals with the tasks of formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of Customs, Central Excise duties, Central Goods & Services Tax and IGST, prevention of smuggling and administration of matters relating to Customs, Central Excise, Central Goods & Services Tax, IGST and Narcotics to the extent under CBIC's purview.

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

In Maharashtra, the **Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM)** has launched a mobile app "Air-Venti" to help residents in the city to know about the availability of the ICU beds and Ventilators in both government and private hospitals around them. The app can help contact hospitals through call and e-mail.

Octaware Technologies Limited, in partnership with Probity Soft Pvt Ltd, has developed this mobile application for MCGM and the data regarding the ICU beds and Ventilators vacant status is updated continuously.

### 14. Shri Pralhad Joshi launches R&D Portal for Atma-Nirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement

Shri Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs launched **SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Atma-Nirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement) Portal** for Science and Technology Programme Scheme of Ministry of Mines. The constituency of Pralhad Joshi: Dharwad, Karnataka.

The portal has been designed, developed and implemented by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, Mines Informatics Division. The portal will aid in promoting the role of Digital Technologies in promoting research and development in the mining and mineral sector in the country. In contrast to the present system where research proposals are submitted physically by the Scientists / Researchers, SATYABHAMA Portal allows online submission of project proposals along with monitoring of the projects and utilization of funds/grants. The researchers can also submit progress reports and Final Technical Reports of the projects in the electronic format in the portal. **The Portal is integrated with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog.**

#### **15. NTA launches Hindi Tests feature on National Test Abhyas mobile app**

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has announced that National Testing Agency has launched Hindi Tests feature on National Test Abhyas app. Competitive exam students preferring Hindi can now practice on their mobile devices with Hindi mock tests. **NTA Chairperson- M.S. Ananth.**

NTA had launched its Artificial Intelligence -powered smartphone app to empower engineering and medical aspirants to prepare safely from their homes, for entrance exams including JEE Main, and NEET; The app can be downloaded free of cost from the Google play store; National Testing Agency (NTA) has been established as a premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in higher educational institutions.

#### **16. Union HRD Minister virtually launches 'YUKTI 2.0' platform for Higher Education Institutes in New Delhi**

Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', launched '**YUKTI 2.0**' initiative to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential & information related to incubated start-ups in our higher education institutions. Minister had launched the YUKTI web portal on April 2020.

**YUKTI stand for 'Young India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology & Innovation'.**

YUKTI 2.0 is logical extension of earlier version of 'YUKTI', an initiative of MHRD, to identify ideas relevant in COVID pandemic.

#### **17. YES Bank launches digital wallet 'Yuva Pay'**

YES Bank in association with UDMA Technologies has announced the launch of a unique digital wallet '**Yuva Pay**' for smart phone and feature phone users. App ensures contactless payment where the data securely will be sent to the banks on a real time basis. Anita Pai, Chief Operating Officer, YES Bank.

The first live programme of the solution will be executed by State Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, Karnataka where the initial phase will cover 158-gram panchayats with 238 villages. Thereby in the second phase the solution will be spread out to 6200-gram panchayats covering 12 million households across 29,000 villages.

#### **18. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launches 'eBloodServices' mobile App**

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched the '**eBloodServices**' mobile App- under the Digital India scheme- developed by the Indian Red Cross Society through a video conference. The Health Minister is also the Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society. PM Narendra Modi launched Digital India scheme in 2015.

**This application is developed by the E-Raktkosh team of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing;** Through this App, four units of blood can be requisitioned at a time and the blood bank will wait for as long as 12 hours for the person to collect it; Once the request is placed through the app, the requisite units become visible to IRCS, NHQ blood bank in its E-Raktkosh dashboard and this allows assured delivery within the specified time.

#### **19. Google Photos gets new logo, map view, improved Memories with new overhaul for Android, iOS**

**Google Photos has received a major overhaul as part of the new update, version 5.0**, which has led to the introduction of a new design, a new logo, and new features. The app is now divided into just 3 sections to give 'more prominence' to photos and videos. **Google Photos was announced in May 2015.**

#### **20. Durga Shanker Mishra launches the Beta version of PM SVANidhi Portal**

Durga Shanker Mishra- Secretary in Housing & Urban Affairs- launched the Beta version of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi '**PM SVANidhi**' Portal. Portal provides for an integrated end to end IT interface to users for availing benefits under the scheme. **PM SVANidhi was launched on 1 June 2020.**

An integrated IT platform to provide an end-to-end solution for scheme administration is being developed by SIDBI, which is the scheme implementation partner for PM SVANidhi. The portal will facilitate multiple scheme functions viz. loan application flow, Mobile App, e-KYC of applicants, integration with UIDAI, Udyamimitra, NPCI, PAiSA, lenders, States, ULBs and other stakeholders, calculation of digital incentives and payment of interest subsidy etc.

### **21. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launches online portal for issue of NOC for power, oil, and gas exploration projects**

**Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in the presence of Raksha Rajya Mantri Shripad Y Naik launched a web portal for issue of NOC** for power projects & Research Survey Exploration Exploitation activities in the Indian Territorial Waters & Exclusive Economic Zone. Ministry of Defence accords security clearances to projects.

To ensure ease of business and transparency in issuing NOC for such projects, the Ministry has developed the online application portal with the assistance of **National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG) and National Informatics Centre (NIC)**; Ministry of Defence (MoD) accords security clearances to various private/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)/Government organisations for power/wind/solar projects in areas nearby defence installations and also RSEE activities in the Indian TW and EEZ for applications received through different Ministries.



## Acquisitions & Mergers

### 1. Tata Power acquires 51% stake in Odisha's TPCODL

**Shares of Tata Power increased nearly 7 per cent** in intraday trade on the Bombay Stock Exchange after electric utility company said it has completed the acquisition of 51 per cent stake in TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPCODL) for Rs 178.5 crore. Tata Power has received the license for 25 years.

### 2. Facebook floats 'Jaadhu Holdings' to do business with Jio

Jaadhu Holdings is the name of the new company that Facebook has incorporated for its deal with Jio Platforms. **Jaadhu Holdings is the one that will acquire a minority, non-controlling share in Jio Platforms.** Fb hopes to invest \$5.7 billion for 9.99% stake Jaadhu, in Hindi, means magic.

**Jio Platforms, Facebook-owned instant messaging service WhatsApp Inc and Reliance Retail Ltd to also enter into a separate commercial agreement.** The alliance is also expected to help Reliance and Facebook to take on the Indian digital payment space, which is expected to rise five-fold to reach \$1 trillion by 2023, and compete with the likes of PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Paytm, and Google Pay. WhatsApp recently got the formal approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for payment services in India – potentially a game-changer in the digital payment landscape. According to industry experts, the market opportunities for online commerce in India is predicted to reach \$200 billion by 2028 from \$30 billion in 2018.

### 3. CCI approves proposed merger between Peugeot S.A and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V.

**Competition Commission of India approves merger between Peugeot SA (PSA) and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA).** PSA is a publicly listed limited liability company incorporated in France. FCA is a public company with limited liability headquartered in London. Competition Commission of India Chairperson: Ashok Kumar Gupta.

**Peugeot SA:** It is the holding company of a French-based group, which is mainly an original equipment manufacturer and dealer of motor vehicles, passenger cars as well as light commercial vehicles under the brands Peugeot, Citroën, Opel, Vauxhall and DS. It also provides ancillary services such as financing solutions for the acquisition of motor vehicles and mobility services and solutions. **Fiat Chrysler Automobiles:** It is incorporated and organised under the laws of the Netherlands. It is a global automotive group engaged in designing, engineering, manufacturing, distributing and selling vehicles, components and production systems worldwide.

### 4. Abu Dhabi's Mubadala to buy 1.85% stake in Reliance Jio platforms for Rs 9093.6 cr

**Abu Dhabi-based sovereign investor Mubadala Investment Company** will buy a 1.85 per cent stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 9,093.6 crore. With this investment, Jio Platforms has raised Rs 87,655.35 crore from leading global technology and growth investors. Mubadala owns electronic chip manufacturing co. Global Foundries.

Mubadala Investment Company (Mubadala) will invest Rs 9,093.60 crore in Jio Platforms at an equity value of Rs 4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of Rs 5.16 lakh crore. Mubadala's investment will translate into a 1.85 per cent equity stake in Jio Platforms on a fully diluted basis. Mubadala has an investment portfolio across several fields, including petroleum, renewable energy, aerospace, satellite communications, agriculture, healthcare, metals and mining. Mubadala CEO: Khaldoon Al Mubarak. **Headquarters: Abu Dhabi, UAE.**

### 5. Yatra terminates Rs 2,300-cr merger pact with US software firm Ebix

Online travel company Yatra has terminated its pending merger agreement with US-based software firm Ebix and filed litigation against it in the State of Delaware, seeking "substantial damages" for alleged breaches of terms of the pact. Yatra.com is an Indian online travel agency based in Gurugram.

**Ebix Inc had signed an agreement to acquire Yatra Online Inc for an enterprise value of USD 337.8 million (over Rs 2,300 crore) in 2019.**

### 6. Abu Dhabi Investment Authority to invest Rs 5,684 crore in Jio Platforms for 1.16% stake

**Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) will invest Rs 5,683.50 crore for a 1.16 percent stake in Jio Platforms.** ADIA's fund infusion is eighth investment in Jio Platforms, the digital arm of Reliance Industries, over the past seven weeks. **ADIA is a sovereign wealth fund of the Abu Dhabi emirate.**

ADIA manages a global investment portfolio that is diversified across more than two dozen asset classes and sub-categories; The ADIA deal values Jio Platforms at an equity value of Rs 4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of Rs 5.16 lakh crore; Mubadala, which is also owned by Abu Dhabi, had announced a Rs 9,093.60 crore investment for a 1.85 percent stake; Silver Lake Partners also announced an additional Rs 4,547 crore investment for a further 0.93 percent stake in the telecom major, having invested earlier in May; Facebook was the first to put its finger in the Jio Platforms pie with a Rs 43,574 crore (\$5.7 billion) investment for a 9.99 percent stake; General Atlantic announced a Rs 6,598.38 crore investment for a 1.34 percent stake in Jio Platforms mid-May. And it was followed by KKR, which announced an investment worth Rs Rs 11,367 crore for a 2.32 percent stake.

#### **7. Bharti Airtel arm buys 6.3% more stake in Robi Axiata from NTT Docomo**

**Bharti International (Singapore), a whole owned subsidiary (step-down) of Bharti Airtel currently owns 25% stake in Robi Axiata, an entity in Bangladesh.** BISPL has acquired additional 6.3% stake in Robi from NTT DOCOMO and its group entities. Robi is the 2nd largest mobile network operator in Bangladesh.

**Robi is a subsidiary Company of Axiata Investments (Labuan) Limited,** which is also the subsidiary of the leading Asian telecom giant, Axiata Group Berhad, which is based in Malaysia; Bharti Airtel Limited, also known as Airtel, is an Indian global telecommunications services company based in New Delhi, India.

#### **8. Just Eat acquires Grubhub for \$7.3B in food delivery consolidation**

Two pioneers in restaurant delivery - Just Eat Takeaway.com and Grubhub combined in a \$7.3 billion US deal that will create one of the world's largest delivery companies. **The deal is expected to close in the first quarter of 2021.** Just Eat Takeaway.com & Grubhub have about 70 mn.users worldwide.

#### **9. CCI approves acquisition by MacRitchie in 91Streets, Ascent and API**

CCI approves acquisition by MacRitchie Investments Private Limited in 91Streets Media Technologies Private Limited, Ascent Health and Wellness Solutions Private Limited and API Holdings Private Limited under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. **CCI HQ- New Delhi, Chairman- Ashok Kumar Gupta.**

MacRitchie Investments Pte. Ltd. is an investment holding company an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited; 91Streets is a company incorporated in India and operates on a pan-India basis directly and through its subsidiaries; Ascent is a company incorporated in India and is operating on a pan-India basis directly and through its subsidiaries; API is a company incorporated in India and is not engaged in any business.

#### **10. TPG, L Catterton pick up 1.32% stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 6441.3 Cr**

**RIL has sold a further 1.32% stake in its digital arm Jio Platforms for Rs 6441.3 Cr to TPG and L Catterton.** With this Jio has now raised an overall Rs 1,04,326.9 Cr from Facebook, Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala & ADIA. RIL Chairman- Mukesh Ambani.

**L Catterton, one of the world's largest consumer focused private equity firms,** will invest Rs 1894.50 crore, translating into a 0.39 per cent equity stake in Jio Platforms on a fully diluted basis; Founded in 1989, L Catterton is the investment partner for leading consumer-focused brands around the world; Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has taken 1.16 per cent equity stake in Jio Platforms.

#### **11. CCI approves acquisition of Metso Oyj's minerals business by Outotec Oyj**

The CCI approves the acquisition of Metso Oyj's ("Metso") minerals business by Outotec Oyj ("Outotec") under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. It is to be achieved by a partial demerger of Metso Minerals pursuant to the Finnish Companies Act. Competition Commission of India Chairman: A K Gupta.

**Outotec is a public limited liability company incorporated and registered under the laws of Finland.** The Outotec Group has two registered entities in India. Metso is also a public limited liability company, incorporated and registered under the laws of Finland.

#### **12. Facebook-Jio deal gets Competition Commission nod**

The Competition Commission cleared Facebook's proposed acquisition of 9.99 per cent stake in Jio Platforms, the digital arm of Reliance Industries. **The deal would bring together JioMart and Facebook's WhatsApp platform.** WhatsApp has over 400 million users in India.

Jio Platform holds 100 percent of the issued and outstanding share capital of Reliance JioInfocomm Limited (RJIL). RJIL provides telecommunications services to users across the country.

### 13. Mastercard acquires Fincity; aims to advance open banking strategy

Mastercard has announced plans to buy Fincity, a North American provider of real-time access to financial data and insights, for a purchase price of US\$825 million. Mastercard said the transaction would close by end of 2020, subject to regulatory reviews. CEO and co-founder of Fincity, Steve Smith.

### 14. HUL completes acquisition of female hygiene brand VWash from Glenmark

Leading FMCG player Hindustan Unilever (HUL) said it has completed the acquisition of VWash from pharma major Glenmark Pharmaceuticals. VWash was launched by Glenmark in 2013. HUL has acquired intellectual property rights including trademarks. **World Intellectual Property Organization HQ: Geneva, Switzerland.**

## QUICK LEARNERS

### BANKING

POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO	PERCENTAGE
Repo Rate	4.00%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	3.0%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.0%

### ECONOMY

ORGANIZATION/ PARAMETERS	RATE/ FIGURES
Moody's (India's economic growth)	Contract by 4% (FY20), 8.7% (FY21)
World Bank (Global Economy Growth)	Shrink by 5.2% (CY20)
World Bank (Emerging Markets and Developing Economies Growth)	Shrink by 2.5% (CY20)
World Bank (Per capita income)	Decline by 3.6%
World Bank (Global GDP)	Decline by 6.2%
Customs duty on bamboo imports	Hiked to 25%
S&P Global Ratings (India's economic growth)	Shrink by 5% (CY20), 8.5% (FY 21-22), 6.5% (FY22-23)
Fitch & CRISIL (India's economic growth)	Contract by 5% (FY20-21)
Moody's (India's economic growth)	Shrink by 4% (FY20-21)
World Bank (India's economic growth)	Contract by 3.2% (FY20-21)
Fitch Ratings (India's economic growth)	9.5% (FY21-22)
ADB (India's economic growth)	Contract by 4% (FY20-21), 5% (FY21),
ADB (Growth of countries in Developing Asia)	0.1% (FY20)
Moody's Global Macro Outlook report for June (GDP)	Contract 3.1% (FY2020)

### APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Mohandas Pai	Chair of the IBBI advisory committee
Arun Singhal	CEO FSSAI
Manoj Pande	Commander-in-Chief of Andaman and Nicobar Command
SN Rajeswari	CMD of Oriental Insurance
Subramanian Sundar	Lakshmi Vilas Bank MD and CEO's tenure extended
Pradip Kumar Tripathi	Secretary in Ministry of Steel
R K Chaturvedi	Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

Gaitri Kumar	India's next High Commissioner to UK
Krishnendu Majumdar	BAFTA Chair
Uday Kotak	CII President
Patrick Pichette	Twitter Chairman
Virendra Nath Datt	NFL CMD
Rajiv Topno	Senior advisor at World Bank
Navnit	India's ambassador to WTO
Raveesh Kumar	India's Next Ambassador to Finland
Rajiv Singh	DLF Chairman
AM Naik	L&T Non-Executive Chairman
Shambhu S Kumaran	Ambassador of India to the Philippines
Prabhakar Raghavan	Head of Google Search
Monika Kapil Mohta	India's next Ambassador to Switzerland
Anshuman Sharma	Govt nominee director in IDBI board
Imtaiyazur Rahman	CEO of UTI Asset Management Committee
Devendra Kumar Singh	New Director of SIDBI
Javed Iqbal Wani	J&K High Court judge
Santosh Jha	Ambassador of India to Belgium
Maya Nair	Director & Chief Information Security Officer at CRISIL Limited
Ndayishimiye	Burundi's new president
Prakash Chandra	Non-exec Chairman of RBL Bank
Kaizad Bharucha	Executive Director of HDFC Bank
Urjit Patel	Chairman of NIPFP
Pralay Mondal	CSB Bank President
Vikram Pawah	President of BMW Group India
Jaideep Nandi	MD of Bajaj Consumer Care
Colin Shah	New chairman of GJEPC
T. Rabi Sankar	IFTAS Chairman
N Rajendran	IFTAS CEO
Gaurav Maheshwari	Standard Chartered Bank's CFO-India
Sethuraman Panchanathan	Head of National Science Foundation
Nikhil Rathi	Chief executive of the UK's Financial Conduct Authority
Vini Mahajan	First female chief secretary of Punjab
Sanjay Mahajan	Carrier Midea India MD
Lazarus Chakwera	Malawi President
Tushar Mehta	Solicitor General of India
KK Venugopal	Attorney General of India
Micheal Martin	Prime Minister of Ireland

## AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
Kritika Pandey	Commonwealth Short Story Prize for Asia 2020
Quarraisha Abdool Karim	R10m French prize
Kiran Mazumdar	EY world entrepreneur of the year 2020
Javed Akhtar	Only Indian to win prestigious Richard Dawkins award
Renjith Kumar	NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal
Rattan Lal	2020 World Food Prize
Shobha Sekhar	Medal of the Order of Australia
Deccan Development Society	Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's Biodiversity Award

Amartya Sen

Peace Prize of the German Book Trade

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

DATE	DAY	THEME
1 June	Global Day of Parents	Appreciate all parents throughout the world
1 June	World Milk Day	20th Anniversary of World Milk Day
3 June	World Bicycle Day	NA
5 June	World Environment Day	Biodiversity -concern that is urgent & existential.
7 June	World Food Safety Day	NA
8 June	World Ocean Day	Innovation for a sustainable ocean
8 June	World Brain Tumour Day	NA
9 June	World Accreditation Day 2020	NA
9 June	Coral Triangle Day	NA
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour	COVID-19: Protect Children from Child Labour, now more than ever
13 June	International Albinism Awareness Day	Made to Shine
14 June	World Blood Donor Day	Safe blood saves lives
15 June	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Building Strong Supports for Elders
15 June	Global Wind Day	NA
16 June	International Day of Family Remittances	Remittances are a lifeline
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought	Food. Feed. Fibre
18 June	International Picnic Day	NA
18 June	Autistic Pride Day	NA
19 June	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	NA
19 June	World Sickle Cell Awareness Day	NA
19 June	World Sauntering Day	NA
20 June	World Refugee Day	Every action counts
21 June	International Yoga Day	Yoga for Health - Yoga at Home
21 June	International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice	NA
21 June	World Music Day	NA
21 June	World Hydrography Day	Hydrography enabling autonomous technologies

22 June	World Rainforest Day	NA
23 June	United Nations Public Service Day	NA
23 June	International Olympic Day	NA
23 June	International Widow's Day	NA
25 June	Day of the Seafarer	Seafarers are Key Workers
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	Better Knowledge for Better Care
26 June	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	NA
27 June	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day	MSMEs: First responders to societal needs
29 June	National Statistics Day	Good Health & Well Being & Gender Equality
29 June	International Day of the Tropics	NA
30 June	International Asteroid Day	NA
30 June	International Day of Parliamentarism	NA

## OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Bobby Joe Morrow	Olympic champion
Wajid Khan	Music director
Nanoma	International archer-turned-coach
P Namgyal	Former Union Minister and three-time Congress MP from Ladakh
Riaz Sheikh	Ex-Pakistan first-class cricketer
Pritam Singh	Management guru
Basu Chatterjee	Film maker
Chandrakanta Goyal	Senior BJP leader
Ved Marwah	Former governor and Delhi ex-top cop
Hamza Koya	Former India footballer
Kurt Thomas	Former Olympian
Chiranjeevi Sarja	Kannada Actor
J. Anbazhagan	DMK MLA
Arjun Charan Sethi	Former Union Water Resources minister
Pierre Nkurunziza	Burundi's President
Tony Dunne	Manchester United legend
Gulzar Dehlvi	Urdu poet
Sushant Singh Rajput	Noted Bollywood actor
Vasant Raiji	India's oldest 1st-class cricketer
A.Vaidyanathan	Former Member of Planning Commission
Matt Poore	Former New Zealand cricketer
Danikutty David	Former Kerala volleyball captain
Lt General Raj Mohan Vohra	1971 War Hero

Madhavrao Patil	Former Lok Sabha MP and founder of Janalaxmi Cooperative Bank
K R Sachidanandan	Malayalam director
B.P.R. Vithal	Veteran economist
Dinu Ranadive	Veteran journalist
A.L. Raghavan	Playback singer
Vidyaben Shah	Social worker and National Award winner
Rajinder Goel	Domestic cricket stalwart
Ahmad Radhi	Iraqi football legend
Pappukutty Bhagavathar	Veteran Kerala singer and actor
Geetha Nagabhushan	Veteran Kannada Novelist

### IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

#### INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier BD Mishra (retd)
Assam	Dispur	Sarabananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	S.P Malik
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Devvrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Satyadev Narayan Arya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Draupadi Murmu
Karnataka	Bengaluru	B S Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Anandiben Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Uddhav Thackrey	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Dr. Najma Heptulla
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Sangma	Shri 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**

<b>Union Minister</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
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	Rajya Sabha (M.P)
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Rajya Sabha (M.P)
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Ministry of Steel	Rajya Sabha (Jharkhand)
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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