

November 2020

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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Banking & Finance

1. UPI transactions surpass 2-billion mark in October on festive boost

National Payments Corporation of India data shows that Unified Payments Interface registered 2.07 bn transactions, almost 82% higher than 1.14 bn transactions reported in October month last year. Transactions amounted to ₹3.86 tn in first 15 days of Oct. UPI was introduced by NPCI, a subsidiary of RBI, in **2016**.

2. Reserve Bank to evaluate impact of 'RBI Kehta Hai' awareness campaign

RBI to evaluate the impact of multi-media public awareness campaign RBI Kehta Hai, which was launched in 14 languages to educate the public about safe banking and financial practices. It was the first even 360-degree campaign initiated by the central bank. RBI invited Expression of Interest from eligible companies.

3. ICICI Bank launches 'Mine' for millennials

Inspired by Millennial Network ICICI Bank Mine was launched. It is an instant savings account, driven iMobile application & offers investment guidance to suit the demand of millennials. It is India's 1st full comprehensive banking programme for millennials 1st experiential branch for millennials is opened in Bengaluru.

4. Bank of Baroda takes a step for emotional well-being – starts employee assistance program

India's premier public sector bank, Bank of Baroda takes a pioneering step for emotional well-being – starts employee assistance program. It is a free and anonymous psychological counselling for 8,000 odd employees launched on a pilot basis. It is being carried out in association with EAP India.

5. RBI announces co-lending scheme for banks, NBFCs

To improve the credit flow to the underserved sections, RBI issued guidelines under the co-origination model so that non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and banks can jointly lend. It is a joint lending process in which risks & rewards are shared. NBFCs to retain at least 20% share of individual loans on books.

6. SBI partners with Paytm to launch contactless credit card

State Bank of India partnered with payments platform Paytm to launch 2 models of credit cards – Paytm SBI Card & Paytm SBI Card Select. Available on VISA platform, the cards offer smart app features & also provides superior rewards & benefits for its users. Paytm CEO: **Vijay Sekhar Sharma**. SBI Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara

7. AU Small Finance Bank enters into agreement with CARE Health Insurance Company as Corporate Agent

After issuing certificate of registration CA0515 under Registration of Corporate Agents -Regulations by IRDAI AU Small Finance Bank entered into agreement with Care Health Insurance Co Ltd (formerly called Religare Insurance) for health insurance products. AU Bank HQ: Jaipur. MD & CEO: Sanjay Agarwal.

8. Govt provides Rs 670-crore support to RRBs to meet regulatory capital

Union government provided Rs 670 crore to RRBs considering their importance in agriculture finance. As per the current scheme, capital support is provided to these banks by Centre, concerned state governments & sponsor banks in the ratio of 50:15:35, resp. RRBs group reported net loss of Rs 2,206 crore this FY.

9. IFFCO Bazar Partners With SBI YONO Krishi App To Boost Accessibility Of Quality Agri-Products

IFFCO Bazar e-commerce wing of IFFCO announced its integration with SBI YONO Krishi, a dedicated portal catering to farmer's needs. It offers a wide variety of

products speciality fertilisers, organic agri-inputs, seeds, agrochemicals, agri-machinery etc., IFFCO MD: US Awasthi. YONO – You Only Need One.

10. SEBI enhances foreign investment cap of MFs from \$ 300 mn to \$ 600 mn

After a surge in interest in overseas investments by Indian investors, the SEBI enhanced the foreign investment limit for mutual funds to \$600 million from \$300 million with immediate effect, while capping the overall industry limit at \$7 billion. SEBI chairperson – Ajay Tyagi.

11. Axis Bank to acquire shares in CSC e-Governance for Rs 36 crore

Axis Bank has acquired over 57,700 shares in CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd for Rs 36.38 crore. CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd is a special purpose vehicle set up by the MeitY to oversee the implementation of the common services centre scheme. Axis Bank CEO: Amitabh Chaudhary HQ: Mumbai

12. Market Regulator SEBI Introduces Flexi-Cap Category For Mutual Fund Investors

To provide flexibility to mutual funds, Flexi-Cap fund was introduced. The fund will have to invest minimum 65% of total assets in equity & equity-related instruments but there will be no restriction in allocating funds across large, mid & small-cap stocks It is based on recommendations of Mutual Fund Advisory Committee.

13. NSE to launch first agricultural commodity futures contract in December

NSE to launch its 1st agricultural commodity futures contract for crude degummed soybean oil on December 1. Contract will facilitate the soybean oils processing & allied industries in India & overseas. It is monthly expiry cash-settled futures contract. MD & CEO of NSE: Vikram Limaye.

14. Karnataka Bank launches contactless RuPay National Common Mobility Card

Mangalore based Karnataka Bank launched a new RuPay debit card- National Common Mobility Debit Card. It is the bank's 1st ever contactless debit card. Equipped as an international Contact-less, it is a debit cum prepaid and inter-operable transport card. MD & CEO Mahabaleshwara Rao Tagline: Your Family Bank Across Indi

15. IFSCA approves draft Banking regulations for banking operations at IFSCs

International Financial Services Centres Authority regulator of IFSC including Gift City approved draft Banking regulations that will be applicable in international financial services centres. It paves way for rules for various aspects of banking operations GIFT CITY – **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.**

16. SEBI forms expert group under Sandip Bhagat to review norms related to share-based staff benefit, issue of sweat equity

Market regulator SEBI formed a seven-member expert group chaired by Sandip Bhagat Partner at S&R Associates to revisit the framework of share-based employee benefit and that of sweat equity regulations vis-a-vis the Companies Act and suggest policy changes Sweat equity shares reward employees for their contribution.

17. HDFC Bank launches SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0 for SMEs

HDFC Bank announced the launch of SmartHub Merchant 3.0. It will allow merchants and self-employed professionals to instantly open a current account and start accepting payments in-store, online, and on-the-go. The interface is available in nine languages. HDFC Bank CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan.

18. SBM Bank India set to launch a neo banking platform

SBM Bank India is focussing on technology to reach out to customers and is set to launch a neo banking platform. SBM Bank India was 1st foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from RBI to operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary in 2019. SBM Bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of State Bank of Mauritius

19. RBI imposes Rs 1 crore penalty on Punjab National Bank for contravention of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007

RBI has imposed ₹1crore penalty for contravention of nature referred in Section 26(6) of Payment and Settlement Systems Act. RBI observed that PNB was operating a bilateral ATM sharing arrangement with Druk PNB Bank, Bhutan, without prior approval from RBI Payment & Settlement Systems Act commenced on 12th August 2008

20. HDFC Bank, IndusInd in 'red flag' list on nearing foreign investment cap

HDFC Bank & IndusInd Bank have been put in 'red flag' list, a system used for monitoring foreign portfolio investor (FPI) limits. A listed company enters the list when the available legroom for overseas investment is less than 3% of the permissible limit. FPIs can invest up to 74% in both HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank.

21. Equitas Small Finance Bank launches "EVA" savings account for women

Equitas has launched 'Eva', unique savings account for women, offering 7% interest. Eva is available for all women - salaried/homemakers/businesswomen/senior citizens/transwomen as well as non-resident women. It also offers free health check-ups. Equitas Small Finance Bank Founded: 2007.

22. HDFC Bank launches "Mooh Band Rakho" campaign to create awareness on cyber frauds

HDFC Bank has launched Mooh Band Rakho campaign to increase awareness on cyber frauds & preventing them. Bank will conduct 1,000 workshops in next 4 months. Bank supports International Fraud Awareness Week 2020, global movement to minimise impact of fraud. International Fraud Awareness Week 2020: November 15 to 21.

23. RBI published first-ever 'nowcast' - an estimate based on high-frequency data

According to the Reserve Bank's first-ever 'nowcast', India's GDP contracted 8.6% in the quarter ended September and has entered a technical recession. Nowcasting is the prediction of the existing or the very near future of the state of the economy. Nowcasting is based on 27 indicators such as automobile sales.

24. Natural Support Consultancy Services & Nucleus Software Exports Ltd part of regulatory sandbox programme :RBI

The Reserve Bank of India named two startups in the first cohort on retail digital payments as a part of its regulatory sandbox programme. The initial two are National Support Consultancy Services from Jaipur and Nucleus Software Exports, based in Noida. Names of 4 more companies to be announced shortly.

25. Lakshmi Vilas Bank Under Reserve Bank of India Moratorium, To Be Merged With DBS India

In view of its weak financials, the Reserve Bank has placed the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited under moratorium. All cash withdrawals from the bank have been capped to Rs.25,000. RBI also drafted a scheme of amalgamation for LVB with the DBS Bank of India. T N Manoharan appointed as administrator of LVB for moratorium.

26. Yes Bank launches co-branded prepaid card with Neokred for cashless payments

To facilitate cashless payments, Yes Bank launched a co-branded prepaid card in partnership with Neokred Technologies. The card offerings can be personalised to suit the requirements of corporates seeking salary cards or expense cards for their employees. Neokred Technology founder & Chief Business Officer: Rohith Reji

27. Karnataka Bank launches Current & Savings Account campaign of FY 2020-21

Karnataka Bank launched CASA (current account, savings account) mobilisation campaign. With this, it intends to mobilize more than 4,10,000 CASA with an accretion of Rs 650cr of business by active involvement of its 8000 + workforce in all 859 branches. It will be operational till March 4, 2021.

28. Mastercard, USAID join hands for Project Kirana to empower women through financial inclusion

Mastercard joined hands with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for Project Kirana that will help increase revenue streams, expand financial inclusion & digital payments adoption of kirana shops that are owned/operated by women. 2-yr Project Kirana will be implemented in select cities of UP.

29. RBI panel proposes to raise promoters cap to 26% in private banks

An internal working group set up by the RBI has proposed to raise the cap on promoters' stake in private banks from the current 15 % to 26 % in 15 years & minimum initial capital requirement for licensing new banks to be enhanced from ₹500 cr to ₹1,000 cr. Scheduled commercial banks are those included in RBI Act 1934.

30. RBI imposes over Rs 5.78 crore fine on six entities including PNB, Sodexo, PhonePe

RBI has imposed a total fine of over Rs 5.78 crore on 6 entities, including PNB, Sodexo & PhonePe, for violating regulatory guidelines in exercise of powers vested under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Prepaid payment instruments are licensed & regulated by RBI.

31. RBI imposes fine on Muthoot Finance, Manappuram Finance for non-compliance

RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on Muthoot Finance, Ernakulam, for non-compliance with directions on maintaining loan to value ratio in gold loans and a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Manappuram Finance, Thrissur Section 45I of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 defines NBFC

32. RBI becomes first central bank in the world to reach 1 mn followers on Twitter

The Reserve Bank of India has reached one million followers on Twitter. With this, the central bank of India is now the first-ever such bank in the world to have reached these many followers in the micro-blogging site. The 85-year-old RBI got a Twitter account in January 2012.

33. Stashfin partners Visa to launch co-branded cards with credit lines

Singapore-based Stashfin has partnered with Visa to launch co-branded prepaid cards with credit lines, amid a growing propensity towards digital payments. Cards can be used at both physical merchant locations and ATMs as well as in online modes. The prepaid card acts like a personal overdraft facility.

34. NSDL Payments Bank Joins Hands with HDFC ERGO to Offer Customised Insurance Solutions to Customers

HDFC ERGO General Insurance & NSDL Payments Bank announced their partnership to offer general insurance products to bank's customers & bring together distribution network of NSDL Payments Bank & HDFC ERGO to contribute towards financial inclusion in nation National Securities Depository Limited Founded: **8 August 1996**

35. Home Ministry relaxes account norms for NGOs under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act

Union Home Ministry relaxed norms for NGOs mandated to maintain FCRA account with SBI. Ministry has set deadline of 31.03.2021 for NGOs registered under FCRA to open account at SBI. It allowed NGOs to maintain existing FCRA Account for utilization purposes FCRA, 2010 come into force on 1st May, 2011

36. Govt approves merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS India

The government approved the merger of crisis-ridden Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) with DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL) and removed restrictions on withdrawal of deposits. LVB is the second private sector bank after Yes Bank, has run into rough weather during this year. Lakshmi Vilas Bank Formed: 1926; HQ: Chennai

37. RBI rejects Muthoot Finance's proposal to buy IDBI MF

Muthoot Finance request for a NoC for its proposed acquisition of IDBI Mutual Fund was not acceded by RBI on ground that activity of sponsoring a Mutual Fund or owning an Asset Management Company is not in consonance with the activity of an operating NBFC. Muthoot Finance Founded: 1939; HQs: Kochi.

38. SEBI launches SMARTs program to strengthen investor education framework

Securities Market Trainers, program, an initiative aimed at enhancing investor education and awareness. The launch of SMARTs program comes amid World Investor Week being celebrated across the country. It takes investor education to all parts of the country. Chairman: Ajay Tyagi HQ: Mumbai Formed: 1992

39. Razorpay launches corporate cards in collaboration with Visa to help Small & Medium Enterprises

These cards will help provide relief and stabilize the financial operations of severely impacted business owners of startups and SMEs, who are grappling with a chaotic economic environment. It helps entrepreneurs in recurring & non-recurring online payments Razorpay HQ: Bengaluru VISA HQ: California US

40. Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL) 1st Trade Credit Insurance Transaction In Sandbox with Tata AIG, ICICI Bank & YES Bank

RXIL initiated a Trade Credit Insurance backed transaction with Tata AIG as insurer & ICICI & YES Bank as financiers. It is the 1st time a TReDS platform tested efficacy of TCI backed transaction improving ability in assigning credit limits to corporates. RXIL - Receivables Exchange of India Ltd. Is promoted by SIDBI.

41. RBI advises Lakshmi Vilas Bank to fully write down tier-2 bonds before DBS merger

Lakshmi Vilas Bank informed the exchanges that RBI advised the bank to fully write down ₹318 crore of its tier-2 bonds before the amalgamation with Singapore-based DBS Bank. A full-write down implies that investors in these bonds will not receive anything. DBS Bank CEO: Piyush Gupta.

42. HDFC Bank m-cap surges past Rs 8 lakh crore mark

The market capitalisation of HDFC Bank went past Rs 8 lakh crore making it the first domestic lender to achieve the feat. The market valuation rose to Rs 8,05,742 crore on BSE. HDFC Bank is 3rd most valued domestic firm in terms of market capitalisation. Reliance Industries is India's most valued firm.



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Economy

1. Remittances to India to drop by 9% in 2020: World Bank report

India followed by China, Mexico, Philippines, & Egypt continue to be the top 5 in 2020 to receive foreign remittances, WB said. Remittances to India would fall this year to \$76 billion due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic & global economic recession. Remittance flows to LMICs are projected to fall by 7%.

2. GST collection touches 8 month high of over Rs One lakh crore in October

Goods and Services Tax Collections in October stood at Rs 1.05 Lakh crore, crossing for the first time Rs 1 Lakh Crore mark since February this year. Out of gross GST CGST - ₹19,193 crore; SGST - ₹ 5,411 crore; IGST - ₹ 52,540 crore. Cess is ₹ 8,011 crore. The revenue for October is 10% higher than that of September.

3. Fitch Solutions Revises India's Fiscal Deficit Forecast To 7.8% From 8.2% Earlier For FY21

Fitch Solutions revised its forecast for central government's fiscal deficit for FY 2020-21 to 7.8% from its earlier projection of 8.2%. Fiscal revenue forecast in FY21 for central govt has been revised to 18.2% decline from the earlier forecast of 18.4%. Fiscal deficit - Difference between total income & expenditure.

4. Saudi PIF to invest \$1.3 billion in Reliance Retail for 2.04% stake

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) is investing Rs 9,555 crore (\$1.3 billion) to pick 2.04% stake in Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), becoming the latest high-profile global fund to purchase a stake in India's largest retailer. It is largest investment in RRVL so far eclipsing Silver Lake.

5. Q2 GDP to shrink 8.6%; India to enter recession for 1st time: RBI Official

As per RBI official, GDP is likely to contract by 8.6% for the July-September period, which means India will enter into a recession for 1st time in history in 1st half of this fiscal with 2 successive quarters of negative growth due to COVID-19 pandemic. RBI Estimated: Economy will contract by 9.5% for the fiscal year

6. Finance Minister announces 12 key stimulus measures to boost economy

Nirmala Sitharaman announced 12 key stimulus measures to boost the economy. These measures announced under Atma Nirbhar Bharat 3.0 will provide a boost to employment, agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing, housing and R&D of Covid-19 vaccine in India. These stimulus measures cumulatively amount to 15% of the GDP.

7. Retail inflation inches up to 7.61% in October

India's retail inflation remained above 7% in October for 2nd straight month. October's retail inflation of 7.61% was higher than the forecast of 7.3% in a Reuters' poll of economists. India's economy is likely to enter a technical recession for 1st time. Two consecutive quarters of contraction is termed as recession

8. India's gold imports drop 47 percent during April-October; fall to \$9.28 billion

Gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, declined 47.42% to \$ 9.28 billion during April-October. The decline in gold and silver imports has helped in narrowing the country's trade deficit. India is the largest importer of gold.

9. BSE StAR MF launches 'Corp Direct – A Direct Investment Portal for Corporates'

Leading Stock Exchange, BSE launched Corp Direct – A Direct Investment Portal for Corporates with more features which will further simplify & provide end-to-end value-

based services to the AMCs, distributors, investors, & mutual fund industry participants. Chairman of BSE: Vikramajit Sen. MD & CEO: Ashishkumar Chauhan.

10. Moody's ups India's growth forecast to -10.6% for FY2021

According to Moody's Investor Service forecast, India's GDP is expected to shrink by 10.6% this fiscal year raising its projection from the 11.5% contraction it had projected earlier. Moody's forecasted GDP for FY 2021-22 to 10.8% from 10.6% earlier. Barclays expects GDP to shrink 6.4% this fiscal.

11. Oxford Economics revises downwards its India growth forecast; pegs at average 4.5% for 2020-25

Forecasting firm Oxford Economics predicts that India's post-COVID-19 scars could be among the worst in the world. It expects India's growth equilibrium to worsen substantially over the medium term, with potential growth averaging just 4.5% over 2020-2025. Fiscal deficit is also expected to widen 7% of GDP in 2020-21.

12. India's GDP Q2 2020: Economic contraction narrows to 7.5% from 23.9% in Q1

India's GDP contracted by 7.5 percent in the second quarter, from July to September of 2020-21. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Gross Value Added (GVA) came in at minus 7 percent. $GDP = \text{consumption} + \text{government spending} + \text{Investment} + \text{net exports}$.

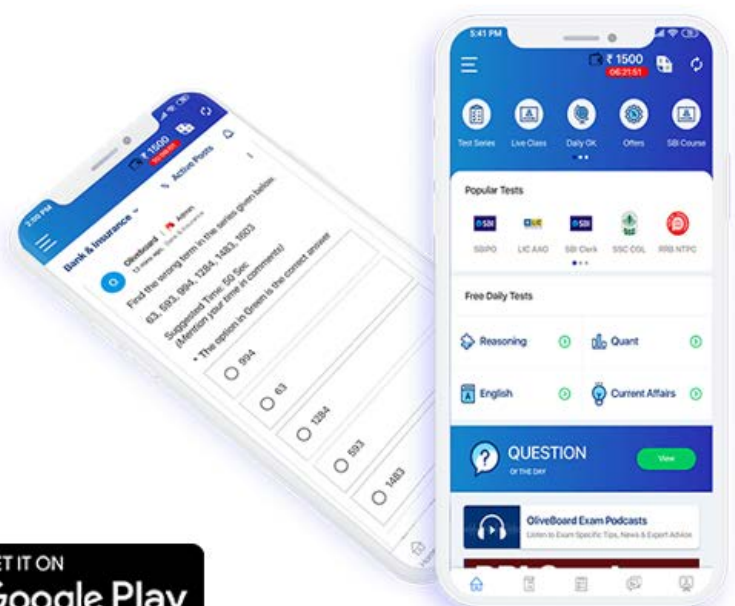
13. Total foreign direct investment inflows into India during second quarter of financial year 2020-21 is 28,102 million dollars

Out of 28,102 million dollars, FDI equity inflows is 23,441 million dollars. This takes the FDI equity inflows during the financial year 2020-21 upto September 30, 2021 to 2004 million dollars, which is 15 percent more than the corresponding period of 2019-20. FDI: an investment made by a firm/individual in a foreign country

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National

1. Govt clears ₹10,211-crore Dam rehab project with World Bank, AIIB's assistance

The Central govt gave nod for Phase II & III of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) to improve the safety & operational performance of selected 736 dams across India. Project worth ₹10,211 crore will be implemented from April 2021-March 2031. Share of external funding is ₹7,000 crore of total project cost

2. AYUSH Ministry and Invest India to jointly set up "Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau"

Ministry of AYUSH & M/s Invest India to form a collaboration to set up a Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau to facilitate planned & systematic growth of Ayush sector. Invest India to collaborate extensively to frame the plan of Bureau & define targets. Union Minister of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik.

3. FIP organises virtual version of Delhi Book Fair this year

The Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) organised a virtual version of the Delhi Book Fair, the oldest book fair of India after Kolkata, this year in light of the pandemic. The book fair organised in partnership with PragatiE is a two-day online event. CM of New Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal.

4. AAI hands over Lucknow airport to Adani group on lease for 50 years

Airports Authority of India handed over the Lucknow airport to Adani group on lease for a period of 50 years. Central government in Feb 2019 privatised 6 major airports of the nation- Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, and Guwahati. Airports Authority of India HQs: New Delhi; Founded: 1995.

5. Centre releases Rs 2,200 cr as first installment to 15 states for improvement of air quality

Central govt based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission released ₹2,200 crores as the 1st instalment to 15 states for improvement of air quality measures in their million-plus cities. Maharashtra received the highest amount of ₹ 396.5 cr. Chairman of 15th Finance Commission: N K Singh.

6. PM Modi to preside over Virtual Global Investor Roundtable

The Roundtable is being organised by Finance Ministry & National Investment & Infrastructure Fund. It is a dialogue between leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders & highest decision-makers from Govt & Financial Market Regulators. To be attended by 20 large pension and sovereign wealth funds.

7. President Kovind promulgates Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020

The Ordinance aims to ensure that all the stakeholders get an opportunity to seek unconditional stay of enforcement of arbitral awards where the underlying arbitration agreement or contract or making of the arbitral award are induced by fraud or corruption Ordinance to be promulgated only when parliament not in session

8. Hardeep Singh Puri Launches Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge

Minister for HUA Hardeep Singh Puri launched Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge, under which cities will be provided technical assistance and capacity-building to re-imagine parks and create accessible, safe, walkable streets for children and families. He also launched Data Maturity Assessment Framework (DMAF).

9. Vice President launches 'International Satavadhanam' event, a unique literary feat at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

VP M Venkaiah Naidu observed that avadhanam as literary feat has greatly contributed to Telugu language's glorious tradition. Avadhanam is like a test of poet's literary prowess & scholarship. International Satavadhanam was organised by Dr. Medasani Mohan. Organised under the auspices of Sri Krishnadevaraya Satsang.

10. Shipping Ministry renamed Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, announces PM Modi

As part of the efforts to revamp the ports & create world-class Inland Water Transport the name of Ministry of Shipping is being changed to Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. PM made the announcement, but an official announcement is yet to happen. Minister of Shipping: Mansukh L. Mandaviya.

11. Dr Harsh Vardhan holds first of its kind policy consultations with Indian Diaspora on STIP-2020

In a first of its kind policy consultation, Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan interacted with the highly-skilled Indian diaspora to facilitate channels for them to contribute to India's Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) 2020. It aims to accelerate growth in technology and innovation.

12. Govt approves 21 projects under Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain & Value Addition

Government approved 21 projects, leveraging investment worth Rs 443 crore supported with a grant of Rs 189 crore under the Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition. The approval was given during the inter-Ministerial Approval Committee meeting. Minister for Food Processing: Narendra Singh Tomar.

13. 15th Finance Commission headed by N K Singh submits its report to President

The original remit was to make recommendations for the period 2020-21 to 2024-2025 but it submitted an interim report for 2020-21. The report had reduced States' share in the divisible pool of taxes from 42% to 41%, after the dissolution of J&K as a State. 'Finance commission in COVID time' report was also submitted.

14. Govt brings news, films, audio, visuals content on online platforms under I&B ministry

In exercise of powers conferred by of Art 77 of the Constitution & by amending Government of India Rules, 1961, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting now has power to regulate policies related to news, audio, visual contents available on online platforms. These rules will be called 357th Amendment Rules 2020.

15. IFFCO reduces NP fertiliser price by Rs 50 to Rs 925/bag

Fertiliser co-operative major, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) announced a reduction in the maximum retail price of NP fertiliser by ₹ 50 to ₹ 925 per bag of 50 kg. This is in line with the declining agriculture input cost to farmers. It will also help in doubling farmers' income by 2022.

16. Indian Railways Launches The First Ever Food Truck To Serve Up Quick Bites At Pune Station

Jumbo King set up the first-ever food truck in Indian Railways premises. Vada Pav fans in Pune can now grab a quick bite without leaving the station. Indian Railways Stations Development Corporation took over the task of facility management at Pune station Indian Railways CEO: Vinod Kumar Yadav.

17. India Post Payment Bank launches doorstep service to submit digital life certificate

India Post Payments Bank successfully launched the initiative of doorstep service for submission of Digital Life Certificate through Postman. The facility to submit life certificate online through Jeevan Pramaan Portal was launched by PM Modi in 2014. Dept of Pensions & Pensioners' Welfare roped in for the facility

18. Government set up a 22 member inter-ministerial Panel headed by Arun Goel To Boost Country's Capital Goods Sector

The Govt set up a 22-member inter-ministerial committee for strengthening India's capital goods sector through interventions that help it in contributing actively towards achieving the target of a \$5 trillion economy and a \$1 trillion manufacturing sector. Arun Goel is the Secretary of Department of Heavy Industries.

19. Home Minister Amit Shah launched Sarhad Vistar Vikasotsav 2020 to provide basic amenities

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated Sarhad Vistar Vikasotsav 2020 in Kutch, Gujarat. It is aimed to address the problems relating to health, education and road connectivity in remote and border villages, so that standard of living can be improved. Amit Shah Constituency: Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

20. Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) at Jamnagar & National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA) at Jaipur inaugurated

PM Modi virtually dedicated two future-ready Ayurveda institutions to the nation. These are the Institute of Teaching & Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar and the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur. Both the Institutes are premier institutions of Ayurveda. Minister of AYUSH: Shripad Yesso Naik.

21. IRCTC Bharat Darshan Yatra from December 12, 2020

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will organize 'Bharat Darshan–Dakshin Bharat Yatra' from Hyderabad and Secunderabad from December 12 to 18, 2020. The theme of the yatra is to 'Show India to Indians'. IRCTC Founded: 27 September 1999; HQs: New Delhi.

22. PM Modi to unveil 'Statue of Peace' to mark 151st birth anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji

PM virtually unveiled 'Statue of Peace' to mark 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj. The 151-inch-tall statue has been made from Ashtadhatu - 8 metals, with Copper being the major constituent. The Statue is installed at Pali, Rajasthan.

23. PM Modi addresses 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum

Established in 2018 by Michael Bloomberg, Bloomberg New Economy Forum seeks to build a community of leaders to engage in discussions leading to actionable solutions about critical challenges facing a world economy. The focus to be on restoring the economy. Inaugural forum was held in Singapore. 2nd in Beijing, China.

24. Dr Harsh Vardhan addresses 33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meet in New Delhi through Video Conference

Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan stressed on the need to create a mass movement for elimination of TB. India's TB Harega, Desh Jeetega campaign targets to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal target of TB by 2025, 5 years ahead of global target of 2030 There was a 29% decline in number of TB cases in 2020 from 2019

25. Government of India & NDB Sign Agreement for USD 500 Million for Public Transport System in NCR

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited & the NDB signed a loan agreement for lending USD 500 million for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project to provide public transport in NCR is among the world's largest urban agglomerations.

26. RailTel bags e-office phase 3 project from Indian Railways

RailTel will implement e-office for Zonal Railways (Phase 3) using cloud-enabled e-office application developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). It will help Indian Railways digitize its manual records & is expected to be completed by Jan 2021. RailTel has already implemented for 106 establishments of IR.

27. PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone Of Rural Drinking Water Projects In UP

PM Modi laid the foundation stone of rural drinking water supply projects in Mirzapur & Sonbhadra districts of Uttar Pradesh via video conferencing provide tap water connections in all rural households of 2,995 villages & will benefit about 42 lakh people Jal Jeevan Mission launched by prime minister on August 15, 2019

28. Ministry of Tourism organises webinar on "India's Hidden Gems" under Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series

The webinar was presented by Ms. Bindu Menon, an expat relocation manager, an intercultural trainer and a brand communications specialist by profession, a linguaphile, an India enthusiast, an avid traveler and writer by passion. It is a joint initiative between Tourism & Electronics Ministry.

29. FICCI FLO inks pact with IESC, IIM Shillong to mentor women entrepreneurs

FICCI FLO, IESC & IIM Shillong will jointly provide guidance; mentor entrepreneurs by facilitating a nurturing, instructive & supportive environment during the initial; critical stages of starting a business, enabling them to reduce initial startup costs FLO - Ficci Ladies Organisation

30. Govt. aims to replace safeguard duty with custom duty to protect local manufacturers of solar equipment

Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy R K Singh has announced that India will replace safeguard duty with custom duty to protect the local manufacturers of solar equipment. India wants to expand its export base in the solar energy sector. Customs Duty is a tax imposed on imports and exports of goods.

31. Jal Shakti Ministry's multi-disciplinary Technical Committee recommends technologies in drinking water, sanitation

Multi-disciplinary Technical Committee in Dept of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has recommended 5 technologies in Drinking Water & Sanitation to States including Grundfos AQPure, Janajal Water on Wheel, Presto Online Chlorinator, etc. JJM Aim: To provide Tap Connection to every rural home by 2024.

32. Govt blocks 43 more mobile apps, including AliExpress, Alipay Cashier and CamCard

The govt had blocked 43 mobile apps under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, majorly including Chinese apps such as AliSuppliers, AliExpress, Alipay Cashier, CamCard and DingTalk, citing threat to national security, integrity and sovereignty. Earlier on June 29, govt had blocked access to 59 mobile apps

33. Prayagraj Express becomes India's first train with 24 coaches to run at 130kmph

The train that travels b/w Prayagraj & New Delhi was introduced on July 6, 1984, and currently boasts of 24 coaches manufactured by the German company, Linke Hofmann Busch (LFB). The version of the train with coaches made by LFB was introduced in Dec 2016. Indian Railways, Founded: 16 April 1853, India.

34. PM Modi unveils coin, postal stamp to mark 100 years of Lucknow varsity

Prime Minister unveiled the University's Centennial Commemorative Coin and a special Commemorative Postal Stamp and its Special Cover during the event. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh were present on this occasion. One of the oldest govt-owned institutions of higher education.

35. 12th anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks being observed

The 12th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks observed on Nov 26. This attack transformed India's outlook towards national security and led to strengthening its maritime surveillance and inter-agency coordination and dissemination of information. Venue:- Shivaji Terminus, Nariman House, Leopold cafe, Taj hotel

36. ₹900 cr stimulus package to help accelerate development of five to six Covid-19 vaccine candidates

3rd stimulus package of ₹ 900 cr. for the mission COVID Suraksha – Indian COVID-19 vaccine development was announced by the government to accelerate development of 5-6 vaccines. The grant is to be provided to the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for R&D. Phase I of Suraksha Mission allotted Rs 900 cr for 12 months.

37. UNDP Accelerator Lab India launches GRID to foster inclusive development

UNDP Accelerator Lab India launched Grassroot Innovation Database (GRID) with the aim to foster inclusive development. The database contains 1,500 simple to complex solutions across agriculture and technology which can be implemented at the community level. Accelerator Labs are UNDP's new way of working in development

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International

1. Super typhoon Goni slams into Philippines

Super typhoon Goni, the world's strongest storm so far in 2020 with winds reaching up to 225kph and gusts of up to 310kph brought intense rains and caused heavy flooding in several provinces in the southern part of the Philippines' main island of Luzon.

Capital: Manila; Currency: Philippine Peso.

2. Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara wins third term in office

Ivory Coast (aka Côte d'Ivoire), a West African country's incumbent President Alassane Ouattara has won a controversial third term in office in an election boycotted by the opposition. He took 94% of the vote, even winning 99% in some of his strongholds. Capital: Yamoussoukro. Currency: West African CFA franc.

3. World's largest IPO halted in China; Ant Group's dual listing postponed in Shanghai & HK exchanges

The largest Initial Public Offering in global finance, worth around \$35 bn, is delayed just two days ahead from its trading debut in Shanghai & Hong Kong stock exchanges, following a meeting of the groups' co-founder Jack Ma by Chinese market regulators. Jack Ma, co-founder of Alibaba, owns 8% of Ant Group's shares.

4. Tanzania's John Magufuli sworn in for second term after disputed vote

Tanzania's populist President John Magufuli has been sworn into office for a second five-year term amid tight security by the police and the army. Magufuli received 85% of the total votes polled while his main challenger, CHADEMA'S Tundu Lissu, got 13%. Tanzania Capital: Dodoma. Currency: Shilling.

5. Joe Biden Declared 46th US President, Kamala Harris to be the first female Vice-President of the US.

Democrat Joe Biden has won the White House and he is the oldest candidate ever to the White House. However, the result now condemns 74-year-old Trump to become the first one-term president since George H. W. Bush at the start of the 1990s. George Washington, first president of the United States.

6. Interpol creates two cybercrime-related communication services

International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) created the Cybercrime Knowledge Exchange Workspace and the Cybercrime Collaborative Platform Techniques to share information and knowledge across the world & develop an intelligence-based response. Interpol HQ: Lyon, France. President: Kim Jong Yang.

7. Joe Biden announces 12 member task force to deal with COVID-19, Former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy to co-chair group

President-elect Joe Biden, as promised will announce a 12-member coronavirus task force to mount an effective response to the pandemic. The task force to be co-chaired by former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, former Food & Drug Administration Commissioner. Murthy served as the 19th Surgeon General of the USA.

8. Indian-American Kash Patel Named Chief Of Staff To Acting US Defence Secretary

Indian-American Kash Patel has been named as the Chief of Staff to the Acting US Defence Secretary Chris Miller. The new appointment comes a day after Donald Trump fired Defence Secretary Mark Esper and designated Chris Miller, as the Acting Secretary. Kashyap Pramod Patel is popularly known as Kash Patel.

9. Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling party claims resounding election win in Myanmar

Myanmar's ruling party led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi claimed a resounding victory. National League for Democracy (NLD) party has won close to 400 seats while the opposition Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) has secured only 21 seats. Myanmar Capital: Naypyitaw. Currency: Kyat.

10. Abu Dhabi's SWF is first notified fund to get 100% income-tax exemption

Capital of the UAE, Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund - MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited became the first foreign SWF that has been notified and granted 100% income-tax exemption for the long-term investments to be made in the specified priority sectors in India. SWF is state-owned investment fund derived from surplus reserve.

11. 2nd World Health Expo held in Wuhan, China

The second World Health Expo was inaugurated in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province of China. This Expo will focus on displaying the most cutting-edge science and technology in the global health industry and help Wuhan build city of global health industry. China Capital: Beijing. Currency: Renminbi.

12. Maia Sandu becomes Moldova's first-ever Woman President

Moldova elected the country's first-ever woman President, with former Prime Minister Maia Sandu overwhelmingly claiming 57.7% of the popular vote. She has worked as an economist in the World Bank. Moldova has the 23rd highest global gender gap in the world. Moldova Capital: Chişinău. Currency: Moldovan leu.

13. UK govt first sponsors for 2021 UN climate change conference

The UK govt announced the first principal partners for the UN climate conference, COP26. SSE, ScottishPower, NatWest Group and National Grid are the first Principal Partners who will support the delivery of a successful and ambitious COP in November 2021. COP26 is scheduled to be held in Glasgow, Scotland.

14. In a first, WHO commits to eliminate cervical cancer globally

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Vaccination, screening and treatment can reduce new cases of cervical cancer by more than 40% and five million related deaths by 2050. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

15. Indian-American Mala Adiga appointed Jill Biden's policy director

US President-elect Joe Biden has appointed Indian-American Mala Adiga as the policy director of his wife Jill, choosing an experienced education policy hand as incoming First Lady focuses on education & plans to continue teaching community college classes. Joe Biden elected 46th President of the United States.

16. China to overtake the US as the world's biggest oil refiner by 2021: IEA

China will overtake US as world's biggest oil refiner by 2021, according to International Energy Agency. China's infrastructure & quick economic rebound from pandemic coupled with US economic crisis & transition away from oil-based fuels have led to this. IEA HQs: Paris, France. Founded: November 1974.

17. 'Quarantine' is Cambridge Dictionary Word of the Year 2020

"Quarantine" has been named the 2020 Word of the Year by Cambridge Dictionary. "Quarantine" was closely followed by "lockdown" and "pandemic" on the shortlist for Word of the Year. Collins Dictionary said "lockdown" was its Word of The Year in 2020. Cambridge is a city on the River Cam in eastern England.

18. Bangladesh to take legal action against online portals spreading rumours, fake news create instability in society

Bangladesh government has announced that action will be taken against the news portals which don't register with the authorities. The government of Bangladesh started the process for the registration of online news portals in December last year. PM: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka Currency: Taka

19. Israeli PM Netanyahu, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Nominated For Nobel Peace Prize 2021

They have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2021 for their contribution to establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. Especially for the signing of the Abraham Accord peace agreement by Israel, Bahrain&UAE. Donald Trump nominated for intermediatory for peace agreement.

20. Dubai gets Arab's First Coal power plant, a \$3.4 billion Hassyan coal plant

The UAE is set to become the 1st Arab Gulf country to generate electricity from coal. Dubai is starting up the \$3.4 billion Hassyan coal plant, with capacity being increased to 2,400 by 2023. Japan's Jera Co. to supply coal to Acwa Power of Saudi Arabia. UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Capital: Abu Dhabi



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States/UTs

Andhra Pradesh

1. AP plans to set up 400 EV charging stations in electric mobility push

In a bid to push for electric vehicles, Andhra Pradesh government to set up 400 charging stations in the state. Govt is also considering a proposal to study real-time performance impact of providing electric two-wheelers to ward & village secretariat staff BEE launched Go Electric campaign along with APSECM.

2. Andhra Pradesh Skill Development Corporation signs MoUs with IBM India, three other firms

The Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) signed MoUs with 4 industry/academic partners — IBM India, Singapore Polytechnic International (SPI), India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and LV Prasad Film & TV Academy (LVPA). APSSDC Headquarters: Guntur District.

3. Andhra Pradesh launched 'Abhayam' app to enable safe travel of women in autos, taxis

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy launched the 'Abhayam' app designed for safe and secure travel for women commuting by autos and taxis. The app aims at providing emergency help to those in distress and instills confidence among women. Blackbuck is State Animal of Andhra Pradesh.

4. Andhra Pradesh CM launches Jagananna Thodu scheme to provide interest-free loan to small traders and artisans

CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the Jagananna Thodu scheme under which an amount of ₹905 crore is deposited into bank accounts of 9.05 lakh small traders towards provision of interest-free loan. Through this, about ₹1,000 crore is lent to 10 lakh people Small & petty vendors & artisans need not pay heavy interest now.

Arunachal Pradesh

1. India's first solar-based water supply project launched in Arunachal Pradesh

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, inaugurated India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) in Arunachal Pradesh. This lift water supply project for 39 villages was commissioned at a cost of Rs 28.50 cr. Arunachal Jal Sankalp to aid Jal Jeevan Mission also launched.

Assam

1. Assam CM lays foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence

Assam CM laid the foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation near Guwahati. ₹10.33cr project will bolster agricultural & horticultural production in state by providing exposure to latest Israeli technologies. Assam Capital: Dispur; CM: Sarbananda Sonowal.

2. Sarbananda Sonowal lays foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation

To boost agricultural activity, Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation is coming up at Khetri with an investment of Rs 10.33 Cr. It aims to provide exposure to Israeli technologies to farmers & maximize production & income. Assam CM: Sarbananda Sonowal. Governor: Jagdish Mukhi.

3. Assam's Rupsi Airport at Kokrajhar set to start commercial operation by Jan 2021

The Airport was re-developed at a cost of Rs 69 crore and has also received its license by Directorate General of Civil Aviation. It has 10 terminals and can handle 200 passengers during peak hours. It has a terminal building with an area of 3,500 [sq.km](#). Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport also in Assam

4. Assam Health minister inaugurates Kalapahar CoVID Care Hospital in Guwahati

Assam Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the Kalapahar CoVID Care Hospital in Guwahati. The hospital will provide round the clock health services by the specialists. The state -of - art hospital has 160-bed capacity & has all modern equipment. World's largest CoVID Care Centre: Sardar Patel Centre in Delhi

5. Assam Education Dept launches toll free tele-education helpline number for govt school students

The Education Dept of Assam launched a toll-free tele-education helpline number - 18003453578 for government school students. It aims to guide 6th to 10th standards on subject matters and psychosocial aspects and will be extended to other students as well. Academic doubts & mental health counselling to be provided.

6. Assam's Tezpur Litchi receives GI tag

The Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority announced that Tezpur Litchi is given the GI tag. APEDA is an apex body under the Ministry of commerce and industry responsible for the export promotion of agricultural products. Tezpur Litchi has a juicy pulp with attractive red colour.

7. Map for Assam's 6th proposed 'Raimona National Park' unveiled

Assam forest and environment minister Parimal Suklabaidya unveiled the map for the state's sixth proposed national Park – Raimona National Park. Currently, Assam has five national parks, Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang, Dibru-Saikhowa.

CM: Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor: Jagdish Mukhi

Bihar

1. Nitish Kumar to be sworn-in as Chief Minister of Bihar for 7th term

Nitish Kumar has sworn-in as Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh term. He was unanimously elected leader of the NDA at a meeting of its newly-elected MLAs in Patna. There will be one minister each from NDA allies. Deputy CMs of Bihar: Tarkishore Prasad, and Renu Devi.

Chhattisgarh

1. Chhattisgarh launches scheme for distribution of fortified rice

Chhattisgarh CM launched a scheme for distribution of fortified rice through the Public Distribution System & other welfare initiatives for Kondagaon district. Fortified rice is a mixture of iron, vitamin B-12 and folic acid-enriched fortified rice kernel. Chief minister: Bhupesh Baghel; Governor: Anusuiya Uikey.

Goa

1. Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India of m/o tribal affairs and state of Goa to implement 'Goatribal plan'

The main agenda of the meeting was to finalise the Tribal Development Plan for the state of Goa for the establishment of 25 Van DhanVikasKendras, 1 Tribal food park, 2 showrooms in North and South Goa.

TRIFED: 1987 (under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act.)

Gujarat

1. PM Modi inaugurates 'Arogya Van' in Gujarat's Narmada district

Prime Minister inaugurated 'Arogya Van', a garden housing medicinal plants & herbs, near the Statue of Unity in Gujarat's Narmada district. Garden which boasts of 5 lakh plants of 380 species also highlights the importance of Yoga, Ayurveda & meditation. Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar; CM: Vijay Rupani.

2. Surat-based Indigo Seaways Pvt Ltd signs an agreement to operate a RoPax ferry on the Ghogha-Hazira route

A tripartite agreement has been signed between Deendayal Port Trust, Gujarat Maritime Board & Indigo seaways. The Ropax ferry will decrease the distance between Surat & Saurashtra from 317 km to 60 km & time taken has also decreased from 12 hrs to four hrs. RoPax is an acronym for roll-on/roll-off a passenger.

Haryana

1. 'Project Air Care' launched in Gurugram to fight pollution

Haryana CM unveiled 'Project Air Care' in Gurugram, as part of which 65 Wind Augmentation Air Purifying Units (WAYU) will be installed in the district. They will be installed and maintained by Indian Pollution Control Association. Haryana CM: Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya

Himachal Pradesh

1. CCEA approves ₹1,810 cr investment for 210 MW hydropower project in Himachal

210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project is located on river Sutlej situated in Shimla and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh. It is implemented by Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain basis with support from central & state govts. The central government will provide a grant of ₹ 66.19 crores.

2. Himachal Pradesh CM launches website of Atal Medical and Research University

Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur launched the website of Atal Medical and Research University, Ner Chowk Mandi. The university was established in 2018 by Himachal Pradesh University of Health Sciences Act 2017 to provide quality health care and education Himachal Pradesh Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya.

3. Himachal Pradesh CM flags off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara

To provide complete range of health care services for people living in remote & inaccessible areas of Himachal Pradesh, the state government flagged off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara in Shimla. The van would facilitate as a Mobile Primary Health Centre. Himachal Pradesh CM: Jai Ram Thakur. Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

4. HP govt launches 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan' to sensitize people about Covid-19 pandemic

Himachal Pradesh government launched 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan' to sensitize the people regarding the Covid-19 pandemic and to collect information regarding symptoms of diseases like TB, Leprosy, sugar and blood pressure by the door to door campaign. CM: Jai Ram Thakur Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

5. Himachal Pradesh CM Partners With Asian Development Bank To Improve Infrastructure Facilities

The estimated cost of the construction is Rs. 15 crores out of which Rs. 9 crores is being paid by ADB and the rest by the government of Himachal Pradesh. To improve the infrastructure in Mandi district of the state. ADB Formed: 1966; HQ: Philippines

Jharkhand

1. Jharkhand State Assembly passes resolution on 'Sarna Code'

Jharkhand Assembly passed a resolution for the provision of a separate 'Sarna Code' for tribals. The resolution will seek a special column for followers of the 'Sarna' religion in the Census 2021. 'Sarna' followers are nature worshippers. Jharkhand Capital: Ranchi; Governor: Draupadi Murmu

Karnataka

1. Karnataka govt signs agreement with Tata Technologies to upgrade 150 Govt ITIs

Government of Karnataka entered into an agreement with Tata Technologies to upgrade 150 Government ITIs at a cost of Rs 4,636.50 crore. Along with Tata Tech, 20 other companies are contributing 4,080 crore rupees from their CSR funds for this programme. Rs 657 crores to be provided by the state government.

2. Mysuru to get India's first sandalwood museum

This first of a kind museum has been set by the Mysuru Forest Division at the Sandalwood Depot in Aranya Bhavan, Mysuru. The museum is a platform for discerning visitors to know about sandalwood classification, farming techniques, and types of sandalwood. Sandalwood is an evergreen tree native to India and Indonesia.

3. Kadal App to help fishermen launched in Udupi

Coastal Security Police launched Kadal App for fishermen that will help them in submitting information about their arrival and departure from the fishing harbour using android mobile phones. In next few days, fisherman can get weather updates on the app. Info on places where fish will be available to also be provided

4. Vijayanagara set to be 31st district of Karnataka

Vijayanagara, named after the capital of the historic Vijayanagara Empire, is set to become Karnataka's 31st district. The state cabinet approved a proposal to carve out six of the eleven taluks of Ballari into Vijayanagar. Karnatak Governor: Vajubhai Vala; CM: B. S. Yediyurappa.

5. Karnataka Bio Economy Report details plans to achieve \$50 billion revenue by 2025

Karnataka has set a target of raising the state's Bio-economy share to 50% of the national Bio-economy revenue target of \$100 bn by 2025. Currently, the state's share stands at a little over 1/3rd of the national bio-economy revenues at \$22.6 bn At the national level, Bio-economy is valued at \$62.5 billion

6. Bengaluru's Bowring medical college named after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

The Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute in Bengaluru has been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The institute was set up in 2018-19 on the campus of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar. A.B.Vajpayee first leader from the BJP to become the Indian PM.

7. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan lays foundation stone for CBG plant in Bagalkot district of Karnataka.

This plant will utilize 200 TPD of press mud and will be commissioned at the estimated cost of about 42 crores. This will generate about 10.2 TPD of CBG and also bio-manure. Praj Industries and DVO Inc. have provided the technology for the proposed plant. CBG: compressed bio-gas; 1st Plant in North India : Punjab

8. Haveri Railway Station (Karnataka) Renamed Mahadevappa Mailara Railway Station

The Karnataka government has issued a notification, renaming Haveri Railway station as Mahadevappa Mailara, a freedom fighter from the district, at the age of 18, he accompanied Mahatma Gandhi on the Dandi March. He sacrificed his life for the nation. Karnataka CM: B. S. Yediyurappa; Governor: Vajubhai Vala.

Kerala

1. India's first solar-powered miniature train launched at Veli Tourist Village in Kerala

India's first, solar energy-driven miniature train was inaugurated at Veli Tourist Village by Kerala. The train was part of a string of projects totally worth Rs 60 cr taken up to elevate facilities at the panoramic destination to international standards. The train has 3 bogies & can accommodate 45 people.

2. Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurates Tourist Facilitation Centre facility in Guruvayur, Kerala

Tourist Facilitation Centre was inaugurated under PRASHAD Scheme. National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive launched by Ministry of Tourism for integrated development of pilgrimage & heritage destinations. The centre has been constructed at a cost of Rs 11.57 crores.

3. Kottoor elephant rehabilitation centre in Kerala set to become largest care centre in the world

The Elephant Rehabilitation Centre is located at Kottoor in Thiruvananthapuram. It is being implemented at a cost of Rs 108 crore with funding from Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). It has facilities to accommodate 50 elephants. 1st phase of the centre will be commissioned in Feb 2021.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Digital museum opens at Maharaj Bada in Gwalior of Madhya Pradesh

It is the 1st of its kind in Gwalior & Bundelkhand area & will play a role in educating school students. Divided into 16 galleries, it has been built in around 3500 sq. ft area & will play an important role in showcasing heritage in modern & digital way. The digital museum is developed by Gwalior Smart City.

2. MP govt forms 'cow cabinet' for protection and promotion of cattle

BJP-led MP Government announced first of its kind cow cabinet for protection of cows. Animal Husbandry, Forest, Panchayat & Rural Development, Revenue, Home & Farmers Welfare Department will be part of the cabinet. First meeting to be held on 22 November. Govt also aims to set up 4000 cow shelters this year.

3. Tigress on the Trail: Madhya Pradesh CM to flag off team of women bikers from Bhopal

In Madhya Pradesh, with the objective of promoting adventure and safe tourism for women, first and unique adventurous motorcycle trip is started. 15 eminent women bikers from all over the country will visit various tourist spots under Tigress on the trail. Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal. CM: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Maharashtra

1. Maharashtra government inks Rs 35,000-crore MoUs with 15 companies

During the Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0 event, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation of the Maharashtra govt inked MoUs worth around Rs 35,000 crore with

15 companies and called for attracting over Rs 1 lakh crore investments this year to the state. Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray.

2. 3-day policy discourse titled Panorama: Envisioning Film, Media & Entertainment Policy for Maharashtra begins

With an aim to establish Maharashtra as a film making and media entertainment hub, the 3-day Panorama: Envisioning Film, Media & Entertainment Policy for Maharashtra is organised by Maharashtra Film, Stage and Cultural Development Corporation Limited. It works under the State Department of Cultural Affairs.

3. German Bank KfW extends 545 million Euro funding to Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) infra projects

German bank KfW extended 2 loans totalling over 545 mn Euros to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) for infrastructure projects. The 34 kilometres long Metro Line 4 will bring north-south connectivity, linking Mumbai to Thane. KfW Bank - German state-owned development bank. HQ: Frankfurt.

4. Maharashtra to observe National Unity Week from Nov 19 to 25

In order to increase social harmony Minister for Skill Development and Minority Development Nawab Malik announced to observe National Unity Week from 19th to 25th November. Instructions are given to all the government agencies to conduct various programs. National Unity Day is celebrated on October 31.

5. Vibration-Absorbing Tracks To Be Laid For Mumbai Metro 3 Project

In a first for India Mumbai Metro Rail Corp Ltd., to lay vibration-absorbing tracks on Metro Line-3. The corporation started trial production of High Vibration Attenuation Booted Twin Sleeper Blocks to lay tracks with the help of a machine from Switzerland. It is expected to cost around ₹ 23000 cr & operational in 2021.

6. Maharashtra Tourism Minister & MoS unveil new logo & feedback QR Code of MTDC

Maharashtra Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray & Minister of State Aditi Tatkare unveiled a new logo & new feedback QR code of Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC). They unveiled the logo of Boat Club in Nashik. An MoU with Airbnb was signed. Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray. Capital: Mumbai.

7. First solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia to come up in Parbhani district of Maharashtra

1st solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia is coming up in Parbhani district. The project, once functional, will provide jobs to many women. The Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill will be the first in Asia that will operate on solar power. Chairman of the textile mill Dr. Sampriya Rahul Patil.

Manipur

1. Manipur government launches Oil Palm Project

Manipur CM N. Biren Singh launched Oil Palm Project, which is seen as an alternative to replace Jhum & poppy cultivations. The project was launched under the National Mission on oilseed and palm oil which aims to make India self-sufficient in edible oils. Imphal is the capital of Manipur. Governor: Najma Heptulla

Meghalaya

1. Asian Development Bank approves \$133 million loan for Meghalaya

Asian Development Bank approved \$132.8 million to improve power quality & upgrade power distribution network in Meghalaya with an aim to benefit about 180000

households. Meghalaya received \$120 million support from World Bank to modernise transport sector. ADB has already provided loan to improve secondary education.

2. \$120 million loan signing between India and World Bank for Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project (MITP)

Government of India, Government of Meghalaya and the World Bank signed a \$120 million project to improve and modernise the transport sector of the state of Meghalaya. The project will improve about 300 km of strategic road segments and stand-alone bridges. IBRD, an arm of WB is providing the loan amount.

3. India International Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

India International Cherry Blossom Festival, the calendar event of Meghalaya that attracts record number of tourists annually in Shillong, has been cancelled this year in wake of COVID-19 pandemic. Shillong hosts the only Cherry Blossoms festival in India. Meghalaya Governor: Satya Pal Malik; CM: Conrad Sangma.

Nagaland

1. Nagaland's Hornbill Festival to be celebrated virtually

Nagaland govt decides to celebrate Hornbill Festival virtually. It is held every year from December 1 to 10 & showcases the culture, heritage, food and customs of Naga tribes. 16 tribes come together to celebrate their traditions with dance performances. It is also called the Festival of Festivals.

Odisha

1. CM Naveen Patnaik launches Secha Samadhan, online services for farmers

CM Naveen Patnaik launched Secha Samadhan, a bilingual mobile application to address the irrigation problems faced by farmers without having to visit the offices concerned. He also launched 4 other online services to resolve the issue of water distribution Farmers to be informed about their complaint status via SMS.

2. Odisha government to introduce fish in nutrition scheme

The Odisha government is set to introduce fish & fish-based products in the supplementary nutrition programme for children, pregnant and nursing women, and adolescent girls. The pilot programme will start across 50 Anganwadi centres in Mayurbhanj district. MoU was also signed between the state govt & World Fish.

3. PM Modi Inaugurates Office-Cum-Residential Complex Of ITAT's Cuttack Bench

Prime Minister virtually inaugurated Office-cum-residential complex of Cuttack bench of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT). The Cuttack Bench of the ITAT was created and started functioning in 1970, and its jurisdiction extends to the whole of Odisha. Odisha CM: Naveen Patnaik; Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

4. Odisha Assembly passes 'Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Amendment Bill-2020'

Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Amendment Bill-2020 was passed by state assembly to amend existing Act of 1988 to prohibit strikes by employees of essential services in state & includes services like fire service, excise, forest, prison reforms, etc Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar; CM: Naveen Patnaik.



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Punjab

1. Punjab inks MOU with GAME to support MSMEs, in partnership with Omidyar Network India

In another significant step towards ensuring ease of doing business by simplification, digitization and decriminalization of compliances, Punjab has signed a MoU with The Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME), supported by Omidyar Network India. ONI is an investment firm focused on social impact.

2. Union Sports Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju inaugurates SAI Regional Centre in Zirakpur

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju virtually inaugurated the Sports Authority of India's new Regional Centre in Zirakpur, Punjab that will now act as one of the main SAI centres for the northern belt of India. The northern belt of India covers J&K, Leh, and HP.

Rajasthan

1. SECI, NTPC sign agreement to build two solar energy parks of 5000 MW Capacity each in Rajasthan

Solar Energy Corporation of India & National Thermal Power Corporation signed an agreement with Govt of Rajasthan to set up two mega 5000MW renewable energy parks. It is the 1st phase of the 25000MW Ultra Mega renewable energy park to be set up in Jaisalmer Govt aims to establish 175 MW renewable energy capacity by '22.

2. Child rights week observed in Rajasthan from Nov 14 to Nov 20

Skill development activities, awareness programmes & new welfare schemes marked the child rights week being observed in Rajasthan from November 14 to 20. Two new schemes Vaatsalya Yojana & Samarth Yojana have been launched for orphan & destitute children. Rajasthan CM: Ashok Gehlot. Governor: Kalraj Mishra.

3. Rajasthan govt to give ₹6,000 to women becoming mothers for second time under the Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana

On the birth anniversary of former PM Indira Gandhi, Gehlot launched Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana, under which ₹6000 will be given to women becoming mothers for the 2nd time. It aims to fight malnutrition & help increase nutrition levels in women More than 77,000 women are expected to be benefitted from this.

4. Letter of Understanding signed between Rajasthan, UN World Food Programme

A Letter of Understanding (LoU) has been signed between the government of Rajasthan and the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Winner United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) for proposed participation to achieve food and nutritional security goals. UNWFP HQ: Rome, Italy. Head: David Beasley.

Tamil Nadu

1. Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit promulgates ordinance to ban online gaming

The ordinance provides for banning "electronic transfer of funds" for wagering or betting, distributing the winnings or prize money, providing for the levy of a ₹5,000 fine and six months' imprisonment for those found to be engaging in it. Capital: Chennai Chief minister: Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

2. Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami launches 'Thee' app

Tamil Nadu CM launched 'Thee', a mobile phone-based app for benefit of general public to reach out to TN Fire & Rescue Services when in need. Arrangements have

been made to facilitate people in need getting help within 10 seconds of their using app. The app has been developed with Amtex technology.

3. Cyclonic storm "Nivar" causes widespread rain in Tamil Nadu

The cyclonic storm "Nivar," in the South West Bay of Bengal has caused widespread rain in Tamil Nadu. According to the list prepared by the World Meteorological Organisation's panel the name suggested by Iran. WMO HQ: Geneva, Switzerland Formed: 1950

4. Tamil Nadu ranks on the top in organ donation for the 6th time

Tamil Nadu was adjudged the best in organ donation in India for the 6th consecutive year. The State had also performed the first bilateral cadaveric hand transplant in the country. The entire process of registration for organ donation has been made online. The State also plans to launch an air ambulance soon.

5. SIDBI partners with Tamil Nadu to bolster MSME ecosystem in the state

SIDBI signed an MoU with Tamil Nadu to develop the ecosystem for MSMEs in the state. Under this, SIDBI will deploy a Project Management Unit to design training and capacity-building programmes to be taken up by the state government in various areas. PMUs aims to enhance efficacy & remove of bottlenecks for MSMEs.

Telangana

1. Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao inaugurates first Rythu Vedika

Telangana govt took up construction of 2,600 Rythu Vedikas, 1st of which will be launched in Janagaon district. It is 1st of its kind project where a platform is created to motivate & stabilize farmers in attaining higher returns & making them Rythee Raju. Each Rythu Vedika work shed costs Rs 22 Lakh.

2. Telangana government launched two apps – Palle Pragati PS App (panchayat secretary app) and Monitoring App

Telangana government has recently launched two mobile applications viz Palle Pragati PS App (panchayat secretary app) and Monitoring App for effectively monitoring the works undertaken by the gram panchayats and improving their efficiency & transparency. Telangana Capital: Hyderabad. CM: K Chandrashekar Rao.

3. GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (GHIAL) goes 'smart' with India's first 'Internet of Things enabled Smart Trolleys'

The first airport in India to deploy IoT for tracking and maintaining the availability of baggage trolleys for passengers in real-time across the airport. This Airport Baggage Trolley Project contains IoT technology with the LoRa (Long Range) platform. Hyderabad Airport Name: Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

Uttar Pradesh

1. Gorakhpur in UP to host International Bird Festival in Feb 2021

International bird festival to be organized in Gorakhpur in the month of February. It will attract international tourists at Ramgarhtal Lake for bird watching. Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyan & Ramgarh Lake were declared 1st notified wetlands of UP. Gorakhpur is also set to have a zoological park in 2021.

2. Ayodhya Airport to be renamed as Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has cleared the proposal to rename the Ayodhya airport as Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport, Ayodhya. The proposal for the same will be sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation after it is passed by the state Assembly. Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram: Seventh avatar of the God Vishnu

3. Flipkart, GiveIndia Foundation provide 50,000 PPE kits to Uttar Pradesh

E-commerce company Flipkart in collaboration with Give India Foundation provided 50,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to Uttar Pradesh to fight Covid -19. Walmart acquired an 81% controlling stake of Flipkart in 2018. Flipkart CEO :Kalyan Krishnamurthy; Founded : 2007 HQ: Bengaluru

4. Uttar Pradesh Government Okays Ambitious Ganga Expressway Project Worth ₹ 36,402 Crore

An ambitious 594-km Ganga Expressway project worth ₹ 36,402 cores running along the river from Hardwar to Allahabad. It will run through Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao and Rae Bareilly. Ganga Expressway: proposed six-lane greenfield expressway in UP.

5. U.P. Governor Anandiben Patel promulgates ordinance on unlawful conversion

The ordinance makes religious conversion a cognisable & non-bailable offence inviting penalties of up to 10 years in prison if found to be effected for marriage, force, undue influence, coercion, allurements or other allegedly fraudulent means. UP CM: Yogi Adityanath. Governor: Anandiben Patel.

Uttarakhand

1. Dehradun Municipal Corporation launched Plastic Lao Mask Le Jao initiative

Attempting to reduce the spread of plastic waste on the roads & spreading awareness about Covid-19 at the same time, Municipal Corporation of Dehradun in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & HDFC bank launched the initiative. 5,000 masks to be distributed in exchange for plastic under this

2. Uttarakhand Govt to launch Dobra Chanti bridge on Foundation Day

The Uttarakhand govt to launch the country's longest motorable single-lane bridge of Dobra Chanti and provide free Wi-Fi connectivity to all government degree colleges of the state. It is a 440 m long bridge and has come up at a cost of Rs 150 crores. Uttarakhand to celebrate its 21st Foundation Day on November 9.

3. Uttarakhand wildlife board clears proposal to de-notify elephant reserve

De-notification of the Shivalik Elephant Reserve as an elephant reserve to pave way for the expansion of the Dehradun airport project. But as per the norms of the central government, no law or Act yet under which the legal status of an elephant reserve. Dehradun Airport is also known as Jolly Grant Airport

4. Union Environment Ministry Approves Construction Of Rs 1,100 Crore Song Dam Drinking Water Project In Dehradun

This scheme, will provide 24-hour drinking water to the city of Dehradun and will give a rebirth to River Rispana. It one of the most important projects of our government. Originally built on the Song River, the dam is about 148 m high and to generate 6MW. CM Trivendra Singh Rawat; Governor:Baby Rani Maurya

5. Union Environment Ministry Approves Construction Of Rs 1,100 Crore Song Dam Drinking Water Project In Dehradun

Environment Ministry approved the construction of the Song Dam worth Rs 1100 crore in Dehradun. This scheme aims to bring 24-hour drinking water and will be a rebirth to river Rispana. The dam is about 148 m high and aims to generate power up to 6 MW. Dehradun is the capital of Uttarakhand CM: Trivendra Singh Rawat

West Bengal

1. From Waste to Art unique tyre park set up in Kolkata

Kolkata is set to get a unique park decked up with used tyres. Tyre Park has been conceived and developed by the West Bengal Transport Corporation. Disposal of used tyres poses a major challenge and tyres usually pile up at bus depots in the state. Sundarbans, a mangrove area is located in West Bengal.

2. World's first tram library for children launched in Kolkata

The West Bengal Transport Corporation and Apeejay Anand Children's Library launched the world's first tram library for children in Kolkata. The tram would run on Shyambazar-Esplanade and Esplanade-Gariahat routes, spanning across North and South Kolkata. WB CM: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar.

3. ADB approves \$50 mn loan to improve resource planning in West Bengal

Asian Development Bank has approved a \$50mn loan to improve operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in West Bengal. Loan will support the integration of financial and information system and the expansion of automation reforms. ADB HQs: Mandaluyong, Philippines; Founded: 19 December 1966.

4. West Bengal launched Duare Paschim Banga Sarkar and Karmai Dharma scheme

West Bengal govt launched Duare Paschim Banga Sarkar scheme from which officials will redress grievances of people and Karmai Dharma scheme under which 2 lakh youths will be provided with 1 bike with assistance from cooperative banks. The Assembly election in West Bengal is due in April-May 2021.

5. West Bengal accepts expert panel recommendation to cut Class 10 & 12 syllabus

West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee said that the state has accepted the expert panel's recommendations to reduce curriculum for secondary (Class 10) and higher secondary (Class 12) levels by 30-35 percent, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CM: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar

6. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee announces health scheme 'Swasthya Sathi' for all

Mamata Banerjee announced that the Swasthya Sathi health scheme will cover the entire population of the state. Decision will be applicable from Dec 1, 2020. The scheme, officially launched in Dec 2016 is a basic health cover for secondary & tertiary care. WB Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar; Capital: Kolkata.

Delhi

1. President signs Ordinance to constitute a Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas

President Ram Nath Kovind approved 'The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020' which provides for the constitution of a Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas. Commission will be constituted by the Central Government.

2. M Kutty appointed chairman of commission on Delhi air quality management

Former Chief Secretary of Delhi M Kutty was appointed as the chairperson of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas. Arvind Kumar Nautiyal from Ministry of Environment to be a full-time member. They have been appointed for a term of three years.

3. Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL) becomes first airport in Asia-Pacific region to get Level 4+ carbon accreditation

Delhi airport becomes the first airport in the Asia-Pacific region to get Level 4+ accreditation under ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation, affirming our constant efforts towards sustainability and a greener future. GMR Group owns and operates the airport. DEL is the eighth-largest airport in the world.

4. Amit Shah inaugurates mobile COVID-19 RT-PCR Lab at ICMR in New Delhi

Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a mobile COVID-19 RT-PCR Lab at Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi. It has been jointly developed by Spice Health & ICMR. Tests will be free of cost for the people & report would be available within 6 to 8hrs. RT-PCR: Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Jitendra Singh inaugurates Mansar Lake Development Plan in Jammu

Minister of State for DoNER Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated Mansar Lake Development Plan. With this, the number of tourists is expected to increase to 20 lakhs per year in the Mansar region. It is also expected to generate ₹ 800 crores of income per year. It aims to create employment for 1.15 crore man-days.

2. J&K govt launches e-Auction portal to promote GI tagged 'Kashmir Saffron'

Jammu and Kashmir government has launched an e-Auction portal to promote trading of GI tagged 'Kashmir Saffron' across the country. This e-auctioning will provide an efficient platform to the saffron growers for getting optimum returns of their yield. J&K incumbent Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha.

3. LG Manoj Sinha releases Panchayat Newsletter "Parivartan" first ever publication in five official languages of J&K

LG appreciated the initiative of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for coming out with a publication in all the five official languages of J&K, viz Dogri, Urdu, Kashmiri, Hindi and English. J&K UT:-31 October 2019; Capital (summer) Srinagar; Jammu (Winter)

4. Asia's oldest stock exchange, BSE signs MoU with Mission Youth, Govt of J&K to spread financial awareness

BSE signed an MoU with Mission Youth, Govt of J&K to spread financial awareness, support economic development & encourage sustainable livelihood in the UT. Under this, eligible candidates can undergo skill courses in Banking & Financial Markets, etc., CEO of Mission Youth: Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah.

Puducherry

1. Puducherry launches morning meal scheme in schools named after former DMK Chief M Karunanidhi

Puducherry government launched a free breakfast scheme for school students named after M Karunanidhi. It will benefit more than 80,000 students in 419 govt and govt-aided schools. The govt has earmarked Rs 12 crores in the budget to implement the scheme. Former TN CM K Kamaraj introduced the noon-meal scheme.

Ladakh

1. SpiceJet launches dedicated freighter services to Leh in Ladakh, operated by SpiceXpress, the dedicated cargo arm

The first time a civil airliner has started freighter services to Leh. Accordingly, the airline operated its first freighter flight from Delhi to Leh carrying 13 tonnes of cargo

supplies. Boeing 737 freighter has been deployed on this route. Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: R. K. Mathur

2. Ladakh gets largest solar project at Leh Indian Air Force station

Ladakh got the largest solar power project setup under Make In India initiative at Leh IAF station to provide an energy alternative to fossil fuel. This project, Provision of Solar Photo Voltaic Powerplant 1.5 MW is at a high altitude in the entire Ladakh. The project worth Rs 122 crore.



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Sports

1. Jio named title sponsor of Women's T20 Challenge

BCCI announced Jio, a telecommunications co., as title sponsor of Women's T20 Challenge, to be held in Sharjah from Nov 4 to 9. 3 teams -Velocity, Supernovas and Trailblazers led by Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana & Mithali Raj resp. to play each other. BCCI President – Sourav Ganguly Reliance Foundation: Nita Ambani

2. Amit Panghal, Sanjeet and Ashish Kumar win gold at the Alexis Vastine International

Indian boxers Amit Panghal, Sanjeet, and Ashish Kumar have won gold medals at Alexis Valentine International Boxing Tournament held in France.

Amit Panghal: 52 kg category;

Ashish Kumar: 75 kg category;

Sanjeet: 91 kg category.

India had earlier secured three bronze medals in the event.

3. Lewis Hamilton wins Emilia Romagna GP

Lewis Hamilton registered his 93rd career win at Emilia Romagna Grand Prix as Mercedes wrapped up a record seventh consecutive constructors' title. Hamilton now inches closer to be crowned as the World champion for a record-equalling seventh time. Emilia Romagna Grand Prix takes place in Imola, Italy.

4. Australia's Shane Watson formally announces retirement from all forms of cricket

Shane Watson, the former Australia all-rounder & Chennai Super Kings opener, formally announced his retirement. Watson, who was bought by CSK two years ago, already retired from international cricket in 2015. He played a crucial role in CSK's IPL 2018 win. He played 59 Tests, 190 ODIs, & 58 T20s at international level.

5. West Indies Marlon Samuels retires from all forms of cricket

Marlon Samuels is a Jamaican former cricketer who played internationally for the West Indies. He top-scored in both of their World T20 final victories. Across formats, he scored 11,134 international runs including 17 centuries and scalped 152 wickets. West Indies includes 13 independent island countries.

6. Paris Masters 2020: Rohan Bopanna, Oliver Marach enter men's doubles quarter-finals

India's Rohan Bopanna & Austrian Oliver Marach entered the men's doubles quarter-finals of the Paris Masters tennis tournament. The Indian-Austrian duo will face the eighth seed pairing of Edouard Roger-Vasselin & Jurgen Melzer in the quarter-finals. World's No.1 Tennis Player – ATP & WTA Rankings: Novak Djokovic

7. Daniil Medvedev beats Alexander Zverev to win Paris Masters final 2020

Daniil Medvedev won the Paris Masters for first time by beating Alexander Zverev for his eighth career title and third at a master's event. It was Medvedev's first final and title of the year, while Alexander Zverev was playing in his third straight final.

Medvedev from Russia has ATP single ranking – 4.

8. Sports Ministry announces new incentive structure to fund 500 private academies

In a first-ever move, Sports Ministry has introduced an incentivisation structure to extend monetary support to 500 private academies, through Khelo India Scheme over

next 4 years starting FY 2020-21. Under the scheme, SAI & NSFs will be working together. The Sports Authority of India was established in 1982.

9. Lewis Hamilton wins Turkish GP to clinch record-equalling seventh F1 title

Lewis Hamilton won Turkish Grand Prix to win F1 2020 world championship. With this, he equalled Michael Schumacher's record of winning seven F1 world titles. Hamilton also extended his record of winning most races in F1 history to 94 with win in Istanbul. The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile HQs: Paris, France

10. Dominic Thiem Defeats Rafael Nadal in Straight Sets at ATP Finals

In tennis, Dominic Thiem defeated 20-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal in straight sets at ATP Finals in London. ATP - Association of Tennis Professionals is the governing body of the men's professional tennis circuits. It is headquartered in London. Dominic Thiem is an Austrian player. ATP CEO: Andrea Gaudenzi.

11. FIFA cancels Women's Under-17 football World Cup; India to host 2022 edition

FIFA cancelled both women's U-17 & U-20 World Cup which were scheduled to be held in India and Costa Rica resp. & handed both countries the hosting rights of 2022 editions. FIFA Club World Cup, originally planned for December, to be held in Feb 2021 in Doha FIFA HQ: Zurich, Switzerland President: Gianni Infantino

12. Daniil Medvedev Beats Dominic Thiem To Win ATP Finals Title

In Tennis, Daniil Medvedev beat US Open champion Dominic Thiem to win ATP Tour Finals, the biggest title of his career. Medvedev is the first man to beat all three of the world's top-ranked players at the season finale. Medvedev is the first Russian to win the ATP Finals since 2009.

13. Sports Minister launches 2nd edition of Fit India School Week

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the second edition of the "Fit India School Week" program in the presence of Fit India Mission. Sports Minister encourages school children to participate in the Fit India movement. It launched in 2019 Founder of FIT India : Suparno Satpathy

14. Uttar Pradesh fast bowler Sudeep Tyagi retires

Sudeep Tyagi, who played for Indian national cricket team in four ODIs and 1 T20 as a fast bowler, announced his retirement from all forms of the game. The UP pacer was also a part of the CSK. He played 42 first-class matches & picked up 109 wickets. In List A he featured in 23 matches & picked up 31 wickets.

15. Sports Ministry recognizes Archery Association of India as National Sports Federation

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has granted the annual recognition to Archery Association of India as a National Sports Federation (NSF), validating its elections held for new office-bearers earlier this year. AAI's recognition was withdrawn last year President of AAI: Arjun Munda HQ: New Delhi



Agreements & MoUs

1. IREDA signs MoU with MNRE, setting key targets for year 2020-21

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency has signed an MoU with Ministry of New & Renewable Energy for setting key targets for 2020-21. Govt has set a revenue target of ₹2,406cr under 'Excellent' rating along with various performance-related parameters. Minister Responsible MNRE: R. K. Singh; IREDA CMD: Pradip K Das

2. Maharashtra inks Rs 35,000-crore MoUs with 15 companies

Maharashtra inked MoUs worth around ₹35,000cr with 15 companies for attracting over ₹1 lakh crore investments in 2020 to the state. MoUs signed between Maharashtra Industrial Development Corp & the 15 companies are expected to create 23,182 jobs. CM: Uddhav Thackeray; Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

3. IREDA signed an MoU with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. signed an MoU with Ministry of New and Renewable Energy setting key targets for 2020-21. Govt set a revenue target of Rs. 2,406 cr under 'Excellent' rating along with various performance-related parameters. Minister for New and Renewable Energy: R K Singh.

4. SBI becomes first corporate partner of edX from India to offer Massive Open Online Courses

State Bank of India partnered with edX in order to offer Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The bank will initially offer 3 courses - Unleashing Creativity at the Workplace, Relationship Marketing Strategy for Financial Services, & Conflict Resolution. CEO of edX & Prof at MIT: Anant Agarwal SBI Chairman Dinesh Khar

5. Cabinet Approves Signing Of MoU Between India, Spain For Scientific And Technical Collaborations In Astronomy

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of MoU Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru and the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC) and the GRANTECAN, S.A. (GTC), Spain to develop scientific and technical collaborations in astronomy field. Spain Capital: Madrid. Currency: Euro.

6. Cabinet approves MoU between India and United Kingdom on cooperation in the field of Telecommunication

The MoU signed between India & the UK will contribute to strengthening bilateral cooperation and mutual understanding in the field of Telecommunications/ICTs. Post-Brexit, the MoU is also aiming for enhanced scope of cooperation and opportunities for India United Kingdom PM: Boris Johnson Currency: Pound Sterling

7. Cabinet nod for inking MoU between India, UK for cooperation in medical product regulation

Union Cabinet approved the signing of an MoU between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and the United Kingdom Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency for cooperation in medical products regulation for pharmacovigilance. Drugs Controller General of India: Dr V G Somani.

8. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Israel for cooperation in health and medicine

The MoU signed between India & Israel in health & medicine field covers areas of cooperation such as exchange and training of medical doctors and other health professionals, assistance in development of human resources & exchange of medical devices, etc., Support for development of 'Green Healthcare' to be provided.

9. Prasar Bharati signs MoU with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to launch 51 education TV channels

Public broadcaster Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics under MeitY. Under this, 51 DTH education TV channels to be available as DD co-branded channels to all DD Free Dish viewers. Bhaskaracharya National Institute is located in Gujarat.

10. AAI signs MoU with NTPC to set up solar power plants at airports

Airports Authority of India signed an MoU with an NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), a subsidiary of NTPC, subsidiary to promote the usage of electric vehicles and set up solar power plants at its airports. NTPC will be provided land & rooftop free of cost. The AAI owns and manages more than 100 airports across India.

11. Dynamitic Technologies sign MoU with CSIR – CSIO for developing futuristic solution for defence industry

Bengaluru based Dynamitic technologies and Central Scientific Instruments Organisations (CSIR – CSIO) signed an MoU for jointly designing, developing & manufacturing futuristic solutions for the defence and aerospace, health care and agriculture industry. Research on areas of multi-spectral surveillance payloads of UAS

12. HIL signs MOU with Department of Chemicals & Petro Chemicals to achieve revenue target of 451 Crore rupees

HIL (India) Ltd PSU under Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers signed MoU with Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals recently to achieve the revenue target of Rs 451 crore. The company registered highest ever sale for product in the first two quarters. HIL India Limited Chairman: S P Mohanty.

13. Indian Railways partners with Indian School of Business to implement artificial intelligence, data analytics

The Indian Railways is set to implement AI and data analytics to improve its operational efficiency & tied up with the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad to analyse data generated by the railways. It will set up a CoE in this regard in next 3 months. Indian School of Business is located in Hyderabad.

14. Embassy Group signs an MoU with Karnataka to Provide Educational And Infrastructural Support to government schools

Embassy Group has signed an MoU with the Govt of Karnataka, Dept of Education for improvement of Government Schools in Bangalore. MoU is to provide educational resources, infrastructural support, and holistic health programs for Govt Schools. The MoU was signed for a period of two years.

15. Indian Railways partners with Hyderabad ISB to establish Centre of Excellence in AI and data analytics

Indian Railways collaborated with Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, to establish CoE in AI & Data Analytics for South Central Railways. It is aimed at serving the railways' needs of AI by analysing all the data gathered for providing better services. Indian Railways established: 16 April 1853.

16. World Bank inks agreement with Department of Investment and Public Asset Management to provide advisory services

DIPAM has signed an agreement with the World Bank. Under the agreement, the World Bank is to provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization. DIPAM has a framework for monetizing non-core assets of government CPSEs of ₹100crore & above. World Bank President: David Malpass; HQs: Washington D.C., US

17. TASK, TSCHE, Microsoft and Nasscom has joined hands to train 30,000 youth in AI

The Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK), along with the Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE), has joined hands with Microsoft and Nasscom FutureSkills to implement the March to Million initiative in Telangana. The initiative aims at skilling 1 million youth in AI by 2021.

18. EESL Signs MoU with DNRE Goa to implement the country's first Convergence Project

India's 1st convergence project to generate green energy for rural and agriculture consumption is set to come up in Goa. Goa has set a target to generate 150MW green energy in the next 2-3 years & will also set up 100MW solar power plants across the state. EESL – Energy Efficiency Services Limited. MD: Rajat Sud.

19. O&M Agreement for Chennai- A&N Islands Submarine Cable

Universal Service Obligation Fund, BSNL & Andaman & Nicobar Administration signed a tripartite agreement for Operation and Maintenance of Chennai- Andaman & Nicobar Islands Submarine Cable (CANI-SMC) Project. BSNL was nominated as the Implementing Agency. M/s NEC Infrastructures India (P) Ltd is the Executing Agency

20. SBI, Luxembourg Stock exchange sign MoU to promote green finance

SBI has signed a MoU with the Luxembourg Stock Exchange for setting up a long-term cooperation mechanism & promoting ESG (environmental/social/corporate governance) & green finance will open up new avenues for market development and fundraising. SBI chairman - Dinesh Khara HQ: Mumbai

21. Indian Oil signed MoU with MoPNG for upcoming CBG Plants

Indian Oil R&D Centre has developed robust technology on Bio-methanation and has signed MoU with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India as a technology provider for the upcoming CBG Plants Indian Oil is the first company to market Compressed Bio-Gas

22. NCR Transport Corporation signed an MoU with Bharat Electronics Limited for the development of indigenous platform

National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) signed an MoU with Bharat Electronics Ltd for the development of indigenous platform doors to be installed in nation's 1st regional rapid corridor which will connect Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut. BEL observed Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 from 27 Oct- 2 Nov.

23. Flipkart launches 'FlipMarch' to onboard military veterans, initiative is focused on offering a new career path to ex-servicemen

Flipkart has partnered with the Army Welfare Placement Organisation to identify and onboard the selected candidates. They will be offered customised induction, sensitisation programmes, and curated learning programmes to enable a seamless transition. Flipkart CEO, Kalyan Krishnamurthy.

24. India, US extend nuclear energy partnership by 10 more years

India and the US have extended the MOU for cooperation on nuclear energy for 10 more years. Both countries have committed to promote cooperation on initiatives aimed at giving an impetus to nuclear safety & security, R&D in nuclear science & tech. MOU was signed on November 7, 2010.

25. J&K Sports Council inks MOU with Cricketer Suresh Raina's Cricket Academy to develop budding Cricketers in UT

The vision of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha of making Jammu & Kashmir a centre of sporting excellence, J&K Sports council entered into an MoU with Suresh Raina Cricket Academy to develop budding cricketers to National & International level. J&K UT formed on 31 Oct 2019

26. Mercedes-Benz joins hands with SBI to target High Net Worth Individual (HNI), customers

This collaboration will give the luxury automobile manufacturer access to State Bank of India's High Net Worth Individual (HNI) customer base, while the bank's customers will enjoy exclusive benefits at the time of booking a Mercedes-Benz car. Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director & CEO : Martin Schwenk.

27. ISL and Sportradar renews integrity partnership

India's premier football tournament, the Indian Super League (ISL), and Sportradar signed a multi-year renewal of their integrity partnership, present since 2016. Sportradar will provide the Hero ISL with access to intelligence & Investigation Services. ISL started:- 2013; Total teams:11

28. Cabinet approves MoU between BRICS nations on sports and physical culture

Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi signed a Memorandum of Understanding between BRICS on cooperation in the field area of sports science, sports medicine, coaching techniques. BRICS:- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
BRICS formed: 2006; HQ: Shanghai

29. HDFC Bank signs MoU with Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce & Industries (ICCI) to support SMEs and Start-ups

ICCI will engage, enroll and support various Startups /SMEs /MSMEs to facilitate inter-alia financial and other facilities to/from HDFC Bank. ICCI is operational as the biggest platform to support entrepreneurship globally. ICCI:- Investment facilitation agency under guidelines of GOI.

30. Indian Railways partners with Indian School of Business for Integrated Coal Freight Optimization Model

Indian Railways has collaborated with Hyderabad-based ISB for study on an integrated coal-freight optimisation model to increase network throughput. With introduction of FOIS, entire data of freight services is available in digital format. Indian Railways Founded: 16 April 1853.

31. ICCI signs MoU with HDFC bank for Start Up support initiative

ICCI in its endeavour to support SMEs & Start-ups has signed an MoU with HDFC Bank. Through this association, ICCI will engage, enrol & support various Startups /SMEs /MSMEs to facilitate inter-alia financial and other facilities to/from HDFC Bank. HDFC HQs: Mumbai; Founded: August 1994.

32. India and Finland sign MOU for developing cooperation in the field of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.

Indian and Finnish partnership and support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of Air and water pollution; Waste management; low-carbon solutions and sustainable management of natural resources including forests etc. Capital: Helsinki; Currency: Euro

33. L&T bags Rs 7,000-cr order to construct part of Bullet Train project

Infrastructure major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) will construct a part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR), also known as the Bullet Train Project. The approx. 508 km speed rail project will cover Maharashtra, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Gujarat India's first High-Speed Rail corridor project

34. Women empowerment: IESC, FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) sign MoU under the aegis of IIM Shillong

The Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre (IESC) under the aegis of IIM Shillong signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with FICCI Ladies Organisation. Objectives of providing a supportive environment for entrepreneurs FLO's vision: women empowerment.

35. IBM, MeitY collaborate to build future-ready skills, enhance employability

IBM collaborated with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology to create a robust education and skilling ecosystem through the Common Services Centre Academy. It aims to provide access to employment to 4,000 village-level youth in rural areas. Common Services Centre (CSC) programme is an initiative of MeitY

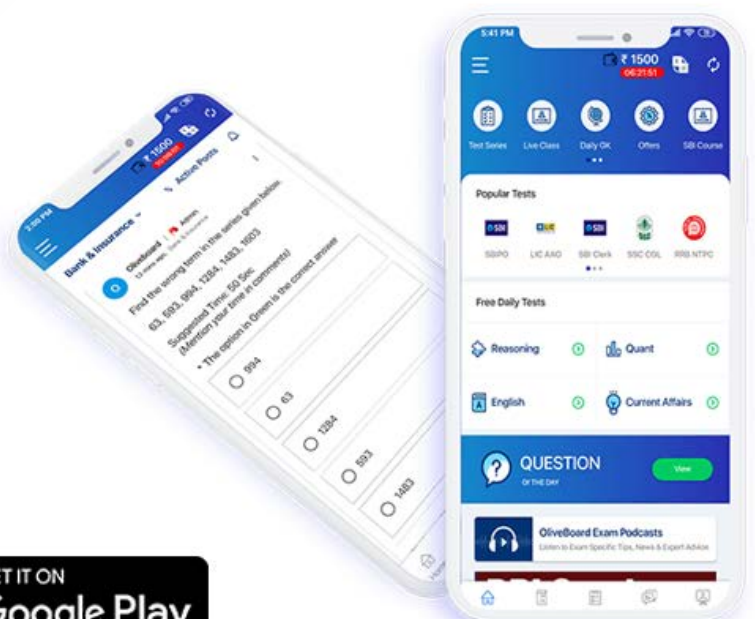
36. PFC and REC executed MoU with SJVN Thermal Ltd for extending term loan for Buxar Thermal Power Project in Bihar

Power Finance Corporation & REC Ltd signed MoU with SJVN Thermal Ltd. for an Extending Term Loan of ₹ 8520.46 Cr for 2x660 MW Buxar Thermal Power Project. It is expected to be commissioned in FY 2023-24 and generate approximately 9828 mn Units of energy. STPL, wholly-owned subsidiary of SJVN Ltd is executing this.

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Schemes

1. Over 11 Lakh MSMEs registered on UDYAM online system since July

More than 11 lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises have registered on the New online system of MSME -Udyam Registration till date. Out of these, 3.72 lakh enterprises are registered under manufacturing sector, 6.31 lakh enterprises under service sector. 11,188 enterprises are owned by divyangjan entrepreneurs.

2. Finance Minister Launches Atma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana to create new employment opportunities

Finance Ministry launched the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana to incentivise creation of new employment opportunities during Covid recovery phase. Union Govt will provide subsidy for 2 years to new eligible employees after 1st Oct 2020 under the scheme. Subsidy support will be credited in Aadhar seeded EPFO account

3. Govt expands scope of PM-KUSUM for harnessing solar energy by farmers

Renewable energy ministry has expanded the scope of PM-KUSUM to enable greater solar energy generation in farm sector. Now, besides barren, fallow & agricultural lands, solar power plants can also be installed on pastureland and marshy land of farmers. PM-KUSUM: Pradhan Mantri KisanUrja SurakshaevemUtthan Mahabhiyan

4. First direct flight from Kalaburagi to Hindon Airport flagged off under UDAN scheme

The first direct flight operations from Kalaburagi, Karnataka to Hindon Airport, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh were flagged off under the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik. Till date, 295 routes & 53 airports were operationalized under this. UDAN Scheme was launched on April 27, 2017.

5. Centre launches Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge to mechanize sewer cleaning in 243 cities

On the occasion of World Toilet Day Hardeep Singh Puri launched Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge, which promotes mechanized cleaning & aims to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of hazardous cleaning Target to mechanize cleaning operations: 30 April 2021.

6. Centre approves Rs 107.42 crore grant for 28 food processing projects in 10 states

Government said a grant of Rs 107.42 crore has been approved for implementing 28 food processing projects spread over 10 states. The committee considered the projects applied through a unit scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana projects are likely to generate employment for 10,000 people

7. ESIC extends Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana scheme up to June 2021

ESIC has announced the extension of the "Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana" to provide cash compensation to insured persons rendered jobless by another 1 year up to June 30, 2021 & relaxed eligibility conditions for period b/w March 24, 2020 & Dec 31, 2020. ESIC Founded: 24 February 1952; HQs: New Delhi.

8. Mastercard and USAID partner to launch 'Project Kirana' for women entrepreneurs

A two year programme, will first be rolled out in select cities of Uttar Pradesh - Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi. It will work to increase revenue streams, financial inclusion and digital payments by adoption of kirana shops that owned/ operated by women. USAID: US Agency for International Development

9. International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics, UNICEF India, FOGSI and 3 others partner for POSHAN Abhiyaan

Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. All these organisations will meet every month for scientific deliberations on various issues addressed under POSHAN. POSHAN Abhiyaan:- National Nutrition Mission

10. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation extends deadline for submission of Jeevan Pramaan Patra to February 28, 2021

Ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the vulnerability of the elderly population to the coronavirus, the EPFO has extended the time limit up to 28th February 2021 for submission of Life Certificate in respect of the Pensioners drawing pension under EPS 1995 act. EPFO HQ: New Delhi; Formed:1952

11. PM Modi launches 'Har Ghar Nal Yojna', 3,000 villages in Uttar Pradesh to benefit

The scheme worth Rs 5,555.38 crore is aimed at providing tap water to every household to over 41 lakh villagers in Sonbhadra and Mirzapur districts of Uttar Pradesh. The Jeevan Mission aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024. Goa: 1st state completed this scheme under Jal Jeevan mission.



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Appointments & Resignations

1. Harpreet A De Singh appointed CEO of Alliance Air; becomes first woman to head an Indian air carrier

The ministry also appointed Deepak Khullar as the CEO of the Air India subsidiary Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) which runs Centaur hotels in Delhi and Srinagar. Alope Singh has been appointed as CEO of divestment-bound Air India Express. Nivedita Bhasin will be the new ED (safety) replacing Harpreet.

2. Rajiv Jalota appointed Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust

Jalota is the 1st GST commissioner of Maharashtra. The post of MbPT Chairman was vacant after former chairman Sanjay Bhatia retired on 2020 July 31 and was appointed as up-Lokayukta of the state. Mumbai Port Trust is under the Union ministry of shipping. Union Minister of Shipping- Mansukh L. Mandaviya.

3. Electronics Sector Skill Council of India appoints PVG Menon as CEO

Menon will be responsible for overseeing the operations of ESSCI and work closely with its governing Council on strategic issues related to the growth of the electronic systems design and manufacturing industry in India. Ajai Chowdhry- Chairman of ESSCI. ESSCI is registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956.

4. Former HDFC Bank CEO Aditya Puri joins Carlyle as senior adviser

Aditya Puri who retired as the CEO of HDFC Bank joined the global investment firm Carlyle as senior adviser. He will provide guidance on the evolving market landscape and new investment opportunities & advise team on investment opportunities across Asia. Carlyle Group HQ: Washington. HFDC Bank CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

5. Priyanka Radhakrishnan becomes first Indian to be appointed minister in Jacinda Ardern-led NZ govt

Keralite Priyanka Radhakrishnan of labour party is given charge as the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, Minister for Youth, Minister of Community and Voluntary Sector and Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment. NewZealand Capital: Wellington PM:Jacinda Arden Currency: Dollar

6. Citigroup appointed Anand Selva as the global head of consumer banking

Citigroup Inc has announced Anand Selva as head of its global consumer bank. He will be appointed to the post in January 2021 filling the spot left vacant by Jane Fraser when she becomes the first female CEO of a major Wall Street bank. CEO: Michael Corbat; HQs: New York, US.

7. Duarte Pacheco of Portugal elected as new President of Inter Parliamentary Union

Duarte Pacheco of Portugal with 56% of the vote was elected as the new President of Inter-Parliamentary Union for the period 2020-2023. He will be the 30th President of the Geneva-based body. Previous IPU president was Mexican MP Gabriela Cuevas Barron. IPU Secretary-General: Martin Chungong Members: 179 Founded: 18

8. Vodafone Idea appoints Jagbir Singh as CTO

Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL), the telecom operator providing services under the brand Vi, has appointed Jagbir Singh as Chief Technology Officer (CTO). He was also involved with very large 4G network rollouts and operations. He will be replacing Vishant Vora. CEO of Vi: Ravinder Takkar. Tagline: Together for Tomorrow.

9. NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh's tenure extended till July 2025

State-run power giant NTPC which ranked first among Indian PSUs in Forbes' World's Best Employer 2020, approved the extension of tenure of its Chairman and Managing

Director Gurdeep Singh till July 31, 2025. His extended term will start from Feb 4, 2021. NTPC - incorporated under Companies Act, 1956. HQ: New Delhi.

10. National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Chairman Dilip Rath elected to International Dairy Federation board

Chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Dilip Rath has been unanimously elected to the Board of Belgium based International Dairy Federation (IDF) during the General Assembly of IDF. Rath has been associated with IDF for the last 10 years. Piercristiano Brazzale has been elected as President of IDF

11. Justices Sanjay Kumar Medhi, Nani Tagia and Manish Choudhury appointed as Judges of the Gauhati High Court

President in exercise of power conferred by clause (I) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India appointed Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi, Justice Nani Tagia & Justice Manish Choudhury, additional Judges of Gauhati High Court, as Judges of Gauhati High Court Gauhati is in Assam. Law & Justice Minister: Ravi Shankar Prasad

12. Gyanendro Ningombam elected as Hockey India president

Gyanendro Ningombam has been appointed as 10th President of the Hockey India. The former president Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad has been elected as the senior vice-president. Ningombam from Manipur is the first President of Hockey India from the North East Region. Hockey India formed in 2009 is headquartered in New Delhi.

13. Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra Elected to UN Advisory Committee

Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra was elected to the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. The ACABQ consists of 16 members appointed by the Assembly in their individual capacity. India selected as non-permanent member of UNSC for 2 years.

14. Indian Oil Corp director A K Singh to head Petronet LNG

Indian Oil Corp (IOC) director-pipelines Akshay Kumar Singh will be the new managing director and chief executive of the country's biggest gas importer, Petronet LNG Ltd. Petronet is a joint venture of IOC, GAIL, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and BPCL. A K Singh replaces Prabhat Singh who completed his 5-year term.

15. Alope Singh takes charge as Air India Express CEO

Alope Singh took over as CEO of Air India Express. He was earlier associated with an aviation advisory firm in Delhi. He got three decades of experience in air transport & travel & held leadership roles in Air India, Alliance Air & a Gulf-based carrier. Air India Express HQ: Kochi.

16. Vellayan Subbiah appointed new chairman of Cholamandalam Investment Finance

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (Chola), a Murugappa group firm named Vellayan Subbiah as the chairman in the place of M.M. Murugappan, who will step down upon reaching the retirement age. Subbiah is the MD of Tube Investments of India Ltd. Chola is the financial services arm of Murugappa Group.

17. HDFC Mutual Fund appoints Navneet Munot as MD and CEO

Navneet Munot, who was earlier CIO at SBI Mutual Fund appointed as MD and CEO of HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd since inception in 2000. SBI Mutual Fund overtook HDFC AMC to become India's largest asset manager in the last quarter of financial year 2019-20. Munot succeeds Milind Barve. HDFC AMC Co. Ltd HQ: Mumbai.

18. Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan to lead RBI innovation hub

Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder of Infosys Ltd, to chair the Reserve Bank's new innovation hub (RBIH), which aims to promote advancement in financial sector using technology. RBIH to be guided by governing council. CEO for council is yet to be appointed. Gopalakrishnan is presently chief mentor of Start-Up Village.

19. Senior IPS officer D K Thakur appointed as Lucknow police commissioner

In a major reshuffle, the Uttar Pradesh government-appointed senior IPS officer Dhruva Kant Thakur as the new police commissioner of Lucknow, replacing Sujit Pandey. D K Thakur was the Additional Director General (ADG) of Police Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS). UP Capital: Lucknow CM: Yogi Adityanath

20. CAG GC Murmu Elected as External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union, Geneva

CAG of India Girish Chandra Murmu has been elected as External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva for 3 years. The election took place at the virtual meeting of the 284th session of the IPU which is a 179 countries Parliamentarians body. IPU has permanent observer status at the UN General Assembly.

21. Achyuta Samanta elected President of Volleyball Federation of India

Prof. Samanta, MP Kandhamal & Founder, KIIT & KISS has been elected as President of Volleyball Federation of India. He is 1st person from Odisha to be elected for this post. With this, he has become entitled to be member of Olympics Association of India. Volleyball Federation of India Founded: 1951; HQs: Chennai.

22. OneWeb emerges from bankruptcy, names Sunil Mittal as Executive Chairman

Bharti Enterprises Chairman, Sunil Bharti Mittal has been appointed as executive chairman of OneWeb, a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications company which has now emerged from bankruptcy and will start commercial connectivity services in late 2021 OneWeb announced appointment of Neil Masterson as the CEO.

23. N. Ramesh takes charge as Deputy MD of Exim Bank

N.Ramesh took charge as Deputy Managing Director of Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank). He served as Director in Deptt. of Commerce at the Centre from 2016 to 2019, where he oversaw agriculture, export inspection, biotechnology & plantations division. Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) was set up in 1982.

24. N. Chandrasekaran appointed as the chairman of board of Tata Chemicals

Tata Chemicals, appointed N. Chandrasekaran as an additional director and chairman of the board of directors of the company. Currently, he is the chairman designate of Tata Sons, the holding company of Tata Group. Chandrasekaran is a director on the board of RBI since 2016

25. New Zealand's Greg Barclay elected as the ICC chairman

New Zealand's Greg Barclay was elected as the new independent chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) after a second round of voting. He succeeds India's Shashank Manohar who stepped down earlier this year. ICC CEO: Manu Sawhney HQ: Dubai Founded: 1909

26. Vijay Sinha elected Speaker of Bihar assembly

Vijay Kumar Sinha, the NDA candidate for the Speaker's post in the Bihar Assembly, sailed through after a united opposition forced elections for the post after a gap of 51 years. He was declared elected by Pro-Tem Speaker Jitan Ram Manjhi.

Bihar CM: Nitish Kumar; Governor: Phagu Chauhan

27. Lt Gen Harpal Singh appointed new Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army

He is presently the Director-General of Border Roads Organisation and would take over his new appointment on December 1. He later commanded a Border Roads Task Force in Jammu and Kashmir valley. He has also been the Chief Engineer of Project Dantak (BRO). Major Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary appointed as the new DG of BRO.

28. Rajnish K Jenaw appointed as CMD, National Schedule Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)

Rajnish K Jenaw has been posted as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Schedule Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC) under the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment. NSFDC was set in the year 1989.

29. Indian oil Chairman Shri SM Vaidya takes charge as VP of the World LPG Association

The World LPG Association (WLPGA) is the authoritative voice of the global LPG industry representing the full LPG value chain. The primary goal of the Association is to add value to the sector by driving premium demand for LPG. SM Vaidya currently is the Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation.

30. Burkina Faso president Roch Marc Christian Kabore re-elected

63-year-old head of the ruling People's Movement for Progress party secured 57.87% votes. The result gives Kabore another five years in the office that he has held since 2015. Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa.

Capital: Ouagadougou; Currency: CFA franc



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Awards

1. Writer Paul Zacharia selected for the 28th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram of Kerala

Writer Paul Zacharia was chosen by a jury headed by Kerala Sahitya Akademi President Vysakhan for the 28th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, the highest literary honour of the Kerala government. The award comprises a cash prize of ₹5 lakhs, a citation and a plaque. A Secret History of Compassion was Zacharia's 1st novel.

2. Six women led startups win COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge organized by MyGov

MyGov launched the COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge in collaboration with UN Women to involve women-led startups to come up with innovative solutions that can help fight COVID-19. It was implemented in two stages: Ideation stage and Proof of Concept Stage. 3 Winners are: Dr Gayatri Hela, Romita Ghosh, Anjana Ramkumar.

3. HDFC Bank Ltd has been voted 'Most Outstanding Company - Financial Sector' in India by Asiamoney

Asiamoney asks participants in the poll to consider the company's overall performance. Known as Asia's Outstanding Companies Poll, it recognises listed companies in 2 categories: by country & by sector. HDFC Bank bagged the honour for 2nd consecutive year Asiamoney is a financial publication established in 1989.

4. CSIR-CDRI Scientist Dr Susanta Kar honoured with Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award-2020

To recognize the significant contributions towards defining the survival tactics of Leishmania donovani, Society of Biological Chemists (India) chose Dr Susanta Kar, Senior Scientist, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow for the Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award 2020 Leishmania donovani is a causative agent of Kala Azar.

5. Ministry of Water Resources to award Maharashtra villager Sangli sampatrao Pawar

Union Ministry of Water Resources declared an award for a villager of Sangli Sampatrao Pawar for his contribution to revitalization of Agrani River, a tributary of Krishna. In all, 107 villages in five tehsils of Sangli district fall under this river basin Union Minister of Water Resources: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

6. Dr. Dinesh Katre, Senior Director & HOD at C-DAC Wins 2020 Emmett Leahy Award

The Emmett Leahy Award was constituted in 1967 in the USA. It honours a pioneer in the field of information and records management and recognizes outstanding contributions. Dr Katre is the first Indian and second person in Asia to have won this award. He is invited to join the Award committee for the next 10 years

7. Harsh Vardhan gives away Gandhian Young Technological Awards in 2 categories -SITARE-GYTI & SRISTI-GYTI awards

Dr Harsh Vardhan gave Students Innovations for Advancement of Research Explorations - Gandhian Young Technological Innovation & Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technological Innovations-Gandhian Young Technological Innovation awards. Minister of Health & Family Welfare – Dr Harsh Vardhan.

8. Malayalam author S Hareesh wins the JCB Prize for Literature 2020 for his Moustache novel

S Hareesh for his novel Moustache won the JCB Prize for Literature 2020. It has been translated into English by Jayasree Kalathil & published by HarperCollins India. He will

receive ₹ 25 Lakh cash prize & the translator will receive an additional ₹10 Lakh. JCB Prize is one of the richest literary prizes in India.

9. Ruskin Bond To Be Presented With Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020

Ruskin Bond, one of India's most cherished authors was conferred Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020. Mr. Bond has a substantial body of work across genres for children and adults. He was conferred the Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan. Bond's famous works: Room on the roof, Blue Umbrella, etc.,

10. Tamil Nadu bags first prize in National Water Awards 2019

Tamil Nadu topped the Jal Shakti Ministry's National Water Awards 2019 in the best state category. The ministry confers the award based on parameters such as the implementation of irrigation water supply schemes, performance in rainwater harvesting, etc., Maharashtra – 2nd and Rajasthan – 3rd rank.

11. K S Subramanian has bagged Fertiliser Association of India Golden Jubilee Award

TN Agricultural University's Director & NABARD Chair, K S Subramanian has bagged Fertiliser Association of India Golden Jubilee Award for outstanding contribution in nano-fertilizers & its role in improved use efficiency while ensuring environmental safety NABARD Founded: 12 July 1982 HQs: Mumbai

12. Bangladeshi teen, Sadat Rahman, wins International Children's Peace Prize

A Bangladeshi teen Sadat Rahman has been awarded the International Children's Peace Prize for his work to stop cyber bullying of teens. The award was given away by the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai during a ceremony in the Netherlands. The Prize was launched by KidsRights in 2005.

13. Union Minister of Education launches Lilavati Award-2020: AICTE's Innovative education program to empower women

The theme of Lilavati Award is women's empowerment. It is an initiative of the technical education regulator - All India Council for Technical Education & it aims to recognise efforts by AICTE-approved institutions to treat women with equality & fairness. AICTE Chairman: Anil Sahasrabuddhe Education Min: Ramesh Nishank

14. National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) confers four awards to Assam for success in fishery sector

Assam has got the best state award under the category of best hilly and North-Eastern state. Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Limited was selected under the category of best hilly & Northeastern Quasi-government organization Odisha has been named as the best marine state category.

15. Kerala Tourism bestowed the coveted 'Highly Commended' Award by World Travel Mart London

Kerala's Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission, as a recognition for its remarkable activities aimed at promoting Responsible Tourism (RT) during COVID-19, has been bestowed the coveted 'Highly Commended Award' in the category of 'Meaningful Connections.' It is its 5th International Award since its inception in 2017.

16. Scottish writer Douglas Stuart wins Booker prize for novel Shuggie Bain

Douglas Stuart has won the 2020 Booker Prize for fiction with his debut novel Shuggie Bain, which described a boy growing up in Glasgow in the 1980s with a mother

battling addiction. Booker Prize is considered one of the leading prizes for literary fiction. PH Newby was the first winner of the prize in 1969.

17. Queen Mother of Bhutan and HelpAge India receive 2020 UN Population Award

Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan, was announced as the individual laureate for the 2020 United Nations Population Award. HelpAge India was announced as the award's institutional laureate. United Nations Population Award was inducted in 1981.

18. Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal conferred With Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has been conferred with the Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Vatayan-UK organization in London to honour poets, writers and artists for their works in the respective fields. Education Minister has written more than 75 books

19. Naseeruddin Shah honoured with the Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar

Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah has received the Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar at Sangit Kala Kendra Awards. Two emerging stars Neel Choudhary and Irawati Karnik, were awarded the Aditya Vikram Birla Kalakiran Puraskars. AVB Kalashikhar Puraskar & Kalakiran Puraskars instituted: 1996

20. Netflix's 'Delhi Crime' bags top prize at International Emmy Awards 2020

Netflix's India Original series "Delhi Crime", helmed by Indian-Canadian director Richie Mehta, has bagged the best drama series honour at the 48th International Emmy Awards. "Responsible Child" bagged the best TV Movie / Mini-Series award. "For Sama" won the best documentary award.

21. Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit Tiger Reserve gets global award for doubling tiger population

The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) & UP Forest department have bagged the first-ever international award, TX2, for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years. PTR was 1st to receive the award among 13 tiger range countries. Pilibhit was declared a tiger reserve on June 14, 2014.

22. TN schoolgirl wins Children's Climate Prize for designing solar-powered ironing cart

Vinisha Umashankar, a 14-year-old studying in 9th grade at a private school in Tiruvannamalai, has won prestigious Children's Climate Prize for designing a mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power a steam iron box rather than conventional charcoal. Award founded by Telge Energi; started: 2016

23. Indo-Japan cooperation wins OECD MAP 2019 award for highest agreement ratio in transfer pricing cases

Indo-Japan cooperation won OECD Mutual Agreement Procedure (tax administrations consult to resolve disputes regarding the application of double tax conventions) 2019 Award for highest agreement ratio for a pair of jurisdictions for transfer pricing cases. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – OECD

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Ranks & Reports

1. Kerala best-governed, Uttar Pradesh worst among large states, says Public Affairs Centre report

Goa was adjudged the best-governed state in the small states' category, and Chandigarh among the Union Territories, according to findings of the Public Affairs Index-2020 report released by Bengaluru-based not-for-profit organisation Public Affairs Centre. TN & Andhra Pradesh are at 2nd & 3rd spots among large states.

2. 30 Indian cities feature in WWF list of 100 cities to face greatest rise in water risks by 2050

According to WWF Water Risk Filter which is an online filter co-developed by the Worldwide Fund for Nature helps evaluate water risk worldwide. Jaipur topped the list of Indian cities, followed by Indore and Thane. China accounts for almost half the cities 100 cities are expected to suffer rise in water risk by 2050.

3. UP's Chandauli tops aspirational district rankings for September

Chandauli district of UP topped the rankings of aspirational districts by government think-tank NITI Aayog for September. Bokaro and Purbi Singhbhum (in Jharkhand) have been placed at second and third positions resp. Sonbhadra (UP) has been ranked fourth. Aspirational districts programme was launched in 2018.

4. Wildlife Institute India Survey shows high diversity in Ganga River

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in the second phase of its survey of the entire main stem of the Ganga river found that 49% of the river has high biodiversity and biodiversity sightings, including of Gangetic Dolphin & otters have increased in the river. It is the 1st ever study done in India on the entire river.

5. Interstate Migrant Policy Index (IMPEX) 2019: Kerala on Top; Delhi near bottom

The Interstate Migrant policy Index (IMPEX) published by Mumbai-based non-profit India Migration Now assesses states on 8 policy indicators. Kerala, Goa & Andhra Pradesh emerged successful in integrating migrant workers. Delhi scored only 37 out of 100. Kerala scored 57. Goa and Rajasthan scored 51.

6. Lancet Report: India ranked 196th in BMI ranking; Netherlands tops

India was ranked at 196th place w.r.t BMI (Body Mass Index), according to a recent publication by the Lancet. Indian 19-year-olds have a BMI of 20.1. Indian boys ranked 180th with an average height of 5.46 ft & girls 182nd with average height of 5.06 ft. The normal BMI ranges between 20 & 25.

7. MEA Secretary Rahul Chhabra Launches IBSA Report

Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (Economic Relations) Rahul Chhabra launched India-Brazil-South Africa report on 'Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors', prepared by 2nd batch of Fellows under IBSA Visiting Fellowship Program. IBSA established by the Brasilia declaration of 6 June 2003.

8. Vital Statistics of India Report: Arunachal Pradesh has the best Sex ratio; Manipur lowest

With 1084 females born per 1000 males, Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio in India followed by Nagaland at 965 & Mizoram at 964. These 3 states topped the Vital Statistics of India based on Civil Registration System. Manipur was at the bottom. Number of registration of births increased to 89.3% in 2018.

9. Resonance Consultancy Report: London adjudged best city in the world for 5th consecutive time

According to a report issued by Resonance Consultancy which advice on real estate, tourism & economic development some 100 cities around the world (that have populations exceeding 1 mn) were scored using 25 ranking factors. London was ranked first. Delhi in India was ranked 62 on the list.

10. Worldwide Cost of Living: Paris and Zurich join Hong Kong as the world's most expensive cities

EIU has released Worldwide Cost of Living report 2020 based on their cost of living. As per the survey Hong Kong, Zurich & Paris are the three most expensive cities in world. Survey looked at prices of 138 goods & products across 130 countries. EIU Founded: 1946; HQs: London, United Kingdom.

11. Elon Musk Overtakes Bill Gates to Grab World's Second-Richest Ranking

Tesla CEO Elon Musk passed Bill Gates to become world's 2nd richest person after his net worth soared \$7.2bn to \$127.9 bn, according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a ranking of world's 500 richest people. He has added \$100.3bn to his fortune in 2020. In January 2020 Elon Musk ranked 35th

12. India can attract \$120-160 billion FDI annually by 2025: CII-EY report

As per the Confederation of Indian Industry & EY report, India can expect to attract \$120-160 billion of foreign direct investment annually by 2025 if it manages to increase the FDI to Gross Domestic Product ratio between 3-4% from less than 2% now. India received \$35.37 billion FDI during April-August 2020

13. India tops Asia in bribery, use of personal connections to access public services: Survey report

India has emerged as the country with the highest bribery rate of 39% in the Asian region, according to a survey by global civil society organisation Transparency International. The report titled Global Corruption Barometer – Asia.

Indonesia and China have second & third highest bribery rates.

14. Global Terrorism Index 2020: South Asia most impacted region by terrorism, India 8th most affected country

For 2nd time, South Asia was the most impacted region by terrorism in 2019, recording more deaths than any other region, despite improvements in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, said Global Terrorism Index 2020 report by The Institute for Economic & Peace Afghanistan (9.592) was reported to be the most impacted nation

15. The State of Tax Justice 2020 Report by Tax Justice Network

State of Tax Justice 2020, a first-of-its-kind annual report by the Tax Justice Network, reveals how much tax each country loses to international corporate tax abuse and private tax evasion. Countries are losing a total of \$427 billion in tax each year. India losing **Rs 75,000 crore** in taxes per year due to tax abuse

16. NITI Aayog releases 'Mitigation and Management of Covid-19: Practices from India's States & UTs'

NITI Aayog released a compendium of practices from states & UTs that details information about various initiatives implemented by states, districts & cities in India for containing & managing Covid-19 outbreak. It has been disaggregated under six sections. CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant.

Important Days

1. International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, 2 November

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2 November as the 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists' in General Assembly. The date was chosen in commemoration of the assassination of two French journalists in Mali in 2013. UN General Assembly is headquartered in New York, USA.

2. World Tsunami Awareness Day: November 5

World Tsunami Awareness Day 2020 is observed every year on 5 November with an aim to create ways to save lives in view of future disasters. The UN through a resolution adopted on 22 December 2015 and designated the day to be World Tsunami Awareness Day. International Day for Disaster Reduction - October 13.

3. International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict: 6 November

Day is observed annually on November 6 across world to raise awareness about protection of environment during armed confrontations. According to UNEP, at least 40% of all internal conflicts were linked to exploitation of natural resources in last 60 years. UNEP HQ: Nairobi, Kenya. Head: Inger Anderson.

4. National Cancer Awareness Day 2020 - November 7

National Cancer Awareness Day 2020 is observed every year on November 7 to raise the awareness of cancer and encourage its prevention. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan first announced National Cancer Awareness Day in September 2014. Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally.

5. World Town Planning Day 2020 : November 8

World Town Planning Day is an opportunity to unite planners and celebrate planning around the globe. The American Planning Association in partnership with APA's International Division is sponsoring activities celebrating this year's World Town Planning Day Focus on the social pillars of equity, diversity, and inclusion

6. World Science Day for Peace and Development: 10 November

World Science Day for Peace and Development is observed on November 10 every year to raise the importance of science in our lives. It highlights the significant role of science & the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. Theme 2020: Science for & with Society in dealing with COVID-19

7. National Education Day 2020: November 11

National Education Day is celebrated every year on November 11. This day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He served the country from 1947 to 1958 as the first Minister of Education in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet The 1st National Education Day was celebrated in 2008.

8. Public Service Broadcasting Day: November 12

Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year to commemorate the only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947. Gandhiji addressed the displaced people, who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra after partition. This day (Jan Prasaran Diwas) was declared in 2000.

9. World Pneumonia Day: November 12

World Pneumonia Day is observed on 12 November each year. It was first established in 2009 to raise awareness about this condition. Pneumonia is a respiratory infection

that affects the lungs. It accounts for 15% of all deaths of children under age of 5. Pneumonia can be caused by bacteria, virus or fungi.

10. World Diabetes Day: 14 November

World Diabetes Day was created in 1991 by IDF and WHO in response to growing concerns about escalating health threat posed by diabetes. Campaign is represented by a blue circle logo that was adopted in 2007 after passage of UN Resolution on diabetes. Theme for World Diabetes Day 2020: The Nurse and Diabetes.

11. World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims: 15 November

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was started by RoadPeace in 1993. On 26 Oct 2005, the UN-endorsed it as a global day to be observed every 3rd Sunday in Nov each year, making it a major advocacy day for road traffic injury prevention. WHO launched Global status report on road safety in Dec 2018.

12. Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches the National Newborn Week 2020

National Newborn Week 2020, being observed from 15th- 21st November to reinforce the importance of newborn health level. Theme: "Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere". India became the 1st country to launch INAP. INAP:- India Newborn Action Plan; launched: 2014

13. International Day for Tolerance : 16 November

In 1996, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 16 November as International Day for Tolerance. This action came in the wake of the United Nations Year for Tolerance, 1995, proclaimed by the assembly in 1993. India is a founding member of the United Nations.

14. National Press Day: 16 November

National Press Day, observed on 16th November every year, is symbolic of a free and responsible press. It was on this day the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards. Information and Broadcasting Minister: Prakash Javadekar.

15. National Epilepsy Day: November 17

In India, November 17 is observed every year as National Epilepsy Day to create awareness about epilepsy. It is a chronic disorder of brain characterized by recurrent seizures caused as a result of sudden, excessive electrical discharges in neurons. International Epilepsy Day: Every year 2nd Monday of February.

16. International Students' Day 2020: November 17

International Students' Day is celebrated every year to focus on availing education for all students. The date of November 17th was chosen to be commemorated as the International Students' Day due to the events that took place in Prague during World War II National Education Day: November 11

17. Naturopathy Day: 18 November

Naturopathy Day is observed every year on November 18 across India to promote drug-free treatment form of medicine. 2020 marks the third edition of the day under the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH). The theme for 2020: Nurturing Vitality Through Naturopathy.

18. World Toilet Day 2020: November 19. Theme: Sustainable sanitation and climate change

World Toilet Day celebrates toilets and raises awareness for people living without access to safe sanitation. It is about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis

and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. According to UN there are 4.2 bn people without safe sanitation.

19. World Philosophy Day: 15 November (Third Thursday of November)

World Philosophy Day is observed on the third Thursday of November every year to foster philosophical analysis, research, and studies on major contemporary issues. It also raises awareness about the importance of philosophy. World Philosophy Day was introduced by UNESCO in 2002.

20. International Men's Day 2020: November 19

International Men's Day is observed every year on November 19. The day celebrates the achievements and contributions of men and boys to the nation, society, community, family, marriage, and childcare. It aims to promote basic humanitarian values. The theme for 2020: Better health for men and boys.

21. World Children's Day: 20 November

World Children's Day is being celebrated every year on November 20. It was first celebrated in 1954 as Universal Children's Day to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide, and for improving children's welfare. National Children's Day (Bal Diwas) is celebrated on Nov 14.

22. Africa Industrialization Day: 20 November. Theme: Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the AfCFTA era

Since 2018, Africa Industrialization Day has been successfully commemorated with weeklong events. The Africa Union Commission will be hosting the 2020 Africa Industrialization Week celebrations (#AIW2020) on 16-20 November 2020. African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was signed in 2018.

23. World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2020: 18 – 24 November 2020

Antimicrobial Awareness Week is observed every year from 18 to 24 November. It aims to create & increase awareness of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) & to encourage best practices among people. The slogan for the campaign is Handle Antimicrobials with care. Theme for 2020: United to preserve anti microbials.

24. World Heritage Week: 19th to 25th November

Archaeological Survey of India celebrated World Heritage Week from 19 to 25 November in India. The purpose of celebrating this week is to create awareness among the general public about the importance of preserving natural heritage sites in the country. UNESCO HQs: Paris, France; Founded: 16 November 1945.

25. Awaas Diwas: 20th November, To commemorate the launch of PMAY-G, which aims to provide "Housing for All" by 2022

Rural Development Minister virtually interacted with Rural Development Ministers of States on occasion of "Awaas Diwas". To commemorate launch of PMAY-G to provide "Housing for All" by 2022. It was decided to celebrate 20th Nov every year as Awaas Diwas. PMAY-G was earlier known as Indira Awaas Yojana.

26. World Television Day 2020 observed on 21 November

UN General Assembly in 1996 established 21 November as World Television Day to commemorate the date on which World Television Forum was held. As per the United Nations, television continues to be the single largest source of video consumption. Inventor of TV: John Logie Baird.

27. World Fisheries Day: November 21

The day is observed every year on the 21st of November to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher-folk communities, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout

the world. This is first-time government will award best performing States in this sector. Ministry of Fisheries, & Dairying celebrated at NASC Complex.

28. National Pharmacy Week 2020, organised by IPA commences

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association-Delhi State Branch in collaboration with Delhi Pharmaceutical Trust celebrated the inaugural function of the 59th National Pharmacy Week. It was celebrated throughout the country from November 16-22, 2020. 2020 theme of NPW: "Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals"

29. World Investor Week (विश्व निवेश सप्ताह) 2020: November 23 - 29, 2020

World Investor Week (WIW) is a week-long global campaign promoted by the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) to raise awareness about the importance of investor education and protection. World Investor Week Celebrated under the aegis of IOSCO & SEBI.

30. AAI commences Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020: 23rd to 27th November 2020

AAI commenced Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020 from 23rd to 27th Nov 2020. It is being observed at all airports & ANS locations managed by AAI across India. To raise awareness on Aviation Safety, AAI will undertake various employee engagement programs. Theme: Shared Cultures, Thread Heritage, Shared Responsibility.

31. International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women: 25 November

The UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, a multi-year effort aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls. This year, the day marks the launch of 16 days of activism that will conclude on 10 December. 2020 theme: "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect"

32. Indian Army's Rajputana Rifles celebrates its Remembrance Day on November 25

Lt. Gen KJS Dhillon paid homage to fallen soldiers on Rajputana Rifles' Remembrance Day. Rajputana Rifles is the oldest rifle regiment. November 25 is observed as its Remembrance Day to pay homage to soldiers of the regiment, who lost their lives in WWII. Rajputana Rifles Motto: Veer Bhogya Vasundhara Formed: 1775

33. Constitution Day or Samvidhan Diwas : 26 November.

The day is also known as National Law Day. The day commemorates the adoption of the Constitution in India. Earlier it commemorates the Purna Swaraj, Lahore Session in 1930. Since 2015, the day is celebrated to promote Constitution values among citizens. Constitution adopted: 26 January 1950.

34. National Milk Day observed on 26th November to mark the birth anniversary of Dr .Verghese Kurien

National Milk Day was introduced in 2014, to honour Dr .Verghese Kurien, who is considered as the 'MilkMan of India' & 'Father of the White Revolution'. This day commemorates his contribution to the country's dairy farming and production.

The largest producer of milk in the world : India

35. Indian Organ Donation Day: November 27

Every year, for the past 10 years, 27 November has been celebrated as the 'Indian Organ Donation Day' in the country. Organ donations is very low in India. According to estimates, only 0.65 donations per mn population take place compared to 26 in the US. 2020 was the 11th edition of the day.

36. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People observed on November 29

UN General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (resolution 32/40 B). On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine. Palestine Capitals: Ramallah, East Jerusalem; Currency: Shekel, Dinar

37. Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare: 30 November

The Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is observed on November 30 every year. The day honours those who suffered and died in the wake of chemical warfare. It also aims to reaffirm the vision of UN for a world free of chemical weapons. The day has been observed since 2005.





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Summit & Conferences

1. 206th Session of Governing Council of the IPU to be held from 1st to 4th November

The agenda of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Virtual Session includes the election of the new President since the outgoing President Gabriela Cuevas Barron had completed her term on 19th of October. The term of the new President will be from 2020 to 2023. IPU Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland; Founded- 30 June 1889.

2. PM Modi to address the 20th virtual SCO summit chaired by Russian President

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to lead Indian delegation to the 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of States. The meeting will be chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin. India was granted observer status of SCO in 2005 & it became full member in 2017. SCO currently has 8 member & 4 observer states.

3. Finance Minister Sitharaman Attends 1st BRICS Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors Meeting

Finance Minister participated in the first BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under BRICS Russian Chairmanship. The minister supported the expansion of the membership of NDB and emphasised the importance of regional balance. BRICS Bank HQ: Shanghai, China. President: Marcos Prado Troyjo.

4. 13th Urban Mobility Conference 2020 inaugurated by MoHUA Hardeep Singh Puri

The 13th Urban Mobility Conference 2020 was held virtually under the theme 'Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility'. The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) of Odisha won the Award of Excellence again. Mo Bus Service was adjudged the best bus service in India 14th UMI Conference is scheduled to be held in Kochi, Kerala.

5. External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar represents India at 15th East Asia Summit (EAS)

External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit that discussed ways to strengthen the platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges. The virtual summit was chaired by Vietnamese PM, Nguyen Xuan Phuc. India is a founding member of EAS; EAS Established: 2005

6. 8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial meeting unanimously adopts BRICS STI Declaration 2020

The 8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial meeting unanimously has adopted BRICS STI Declaration 2020. Science and Tech cooperation among the member countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa was discussed in the meeting. BRICS is acronym for **Brazil, Russia, India, China & S. Africa.**

7. PM Modi attends 12th BRICS Summit hosted by Russia under the theme "Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth"

PM Modi virtually attended the 12th BRICS Summit hosted by Russia, under the theme Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth. India will be taking over the Chairship of BRICS, which would be 3rd BRICS Presidency for India since its inception. India will host the 13th BRICS Summit in 2021.

8. PM Modi inaugurates Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020. Theme of the summit: 'Next is Now'.

The summit will deliberate on challenges emerging in the post-pandemic world. It will focus on the impact of innovations in the domains of IT & Electronics and Biotechnology. It will see participation of 4000 delegates & 270 speakers in 75 panel discussions. 2 MoUs will be signed between Karnataka and Netherlands.

9. 132 countries attend the 4th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies

Over 2,000 representatives from 132 countries attended the virtual 4th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies organised by the Interpol, Europol and the Basel Institute on Governance from November 18 to 19.

Organised by Interpol, Europol & Basel Institute on Governance

10. G20 Summit: PM Narendra Modi calls for new Global Index for post-Corona World

PM Modi has called for a new Global Index for the Post-Corona World that comprises 4 key elements: creation of a vast Talent Pool; ensuring that Technology reaches all segments of society; Transparency in systems of governance; dealing with Mother Earth. India to host G20 summit in 2022

11. India to host G20 summit in 2023 after Italy, Indonesia; Brazil to hold the presidency in 2024

India which was earlier scheduled to host the G20 Summit in 2022 coinciding with 75th anniversary of Indian independence will now host the Summit in 2023 & swapped the Group's Presidency with Indonesia. Italy will host G20 summit in 2021 & Brazil in 2024. G20 Founded: **26 September 1999**.

12. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan addresses Boston Center of Excellence for Health & Human Development

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan virtually addressed Boston Center of Excellence for Health & Human Development. He congratulated the Boston Center of Excellence for Health & Human Development for bringing together experts to research better cure & healthcare. Harsh Vardhan Constituency: Chandni Chowk, Delhi.

13. Malaysia Hosts 2020 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit

APEC Leaders' Meeting 2020 was held under Chairmanship of Malaysian PM Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin. Theme of APEC Malaysia 2020: "Optimising Human Potential Towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity: Pivot. Prioritise. Progress". APEC Summit 2021 to be hosted by New Zealand; APEC HQs: Singapore

14. PM Modi to inaugurate RE-INVEST 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020). Leading companies will display their latest technological development in the field of renewable energy and energy transition. Theme 2020: 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.

15. PM Narendra Modi chairs 33rd PRAGATI interaction

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the PRAGATI meeting. During the meeting, multiple projects, grievances and programs were reviewed. The projects taken up were of the Ministry of Railways, MORTH, DPIIT and Power Ministry. PRAGATI - Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation

16. India hosts Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government for the first time

India is hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Heads of Government summit for the 1st time after it gained full membership of the grouping in 2017. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu will chair the 19th meeting of the Council of Heads. First-ever SCO Start-up forum to also be launched this year.



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Science & Technology

1. IISc, Bengaluru & IOCL sign MoU for hydrogen-generation technology

IISc & IOCL signed the MOU to develop & demonstrate biomass gasification-based hydrogen generation technology for producing fuel cell-grade hydrogen at an affordable price. The technology is crucial for the fuel cell operated buses being conceived by IOCL. IOCL had launched trials of 50 hydrogen-CNG fuel buses in Delhi.

2. India test-fires air launched version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was test fired from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal. In 2019 May, the Indian Air Force for the first time had successfully test fired the aerial version of the BrahMos missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft. Also, INS Kora test fired Anti-Ship Missile in Bay of Bengal.

3. Metallic asteroid 16 Psyche that orbits between Mars and Jupiter is worth \$10,000 quadrillion

An extremely rare metallic asteroid has an estimated worth of \$10,000 quadrillion - more than Earth's entire economy. It is one of the most massive objects in the main asteroid belt & orbits between Mars and Jupiter about 230 million miles from Earth. It measures about 140 miles in diameter, made of iron & nickel.

4. ISRO to launch India's earth observation, nine customer satellites

PSLV in its 51st mission (PSLV-C49) will launch EOS-01, the primary satellite, along with 9 customer satellites owned by the US, Luxembourg & Lithuania. It will be launched from Sriharikota space port. It is ISRO's first satellite launch amid the pandemic. EOS-01 - for agriculture, forestry & disaster management support

5. US drug maker Pfizer's COVID vaccine found more than 90% effective

US drug-maker Pfizer released preliminary data from late-stage human trials of Covid-19 vaccine BNT162b2, it developed with German biotech firm BioNTech. It is found more than 90% effective. It is headed for a review by the US Food and Drug Administration. Pfizer CEO: Albert Bourla. HQ: New York, USA.

6. China launches 'world's first 6G experiment satellite'

China has sent into space the world's first 6G experiment satellite. The 6G satellite was among three Chinese satellites successfully launched into orbit, along with 10 commercial remote sensing satellites developed by Argentinian company Satellogic. This was the 351st rocket of China's Long March series.

7. Virgin Hyperloop completes first-ever human trial in hyperloop pod in US

Virgin Hyperloop completed the human trial in the hyperloop pod at the DevLoop test facility. Hyperloop is a next-generation travel system that uses pods travelling at high speeds through low-pressure tubes erected on columns using magnetic levitation. Virgin Group Founder: Richard Branson.

8. Fast Radio burst (FRB) spotted by NASA for the first time in Milky Way Galaxy

NASA observed a mix of X-ray and radio signals never observed before in galaxy. Significantly, the flare-up observed included the first fast radio burst seen within the galaxy. The X-ray portion of the simultaneous bursts was detected by several satellites. FRBs are powerful, millisecond-duration radio waves.

9. IIT Guwahati formulates efficient "pincer" catalytic systems that transform biomass wastes into valuable chemicals

IIT Guwahati has formulated efficient "pincer" catalytic systems that transform biomass wastes into valuable chemicals. Tiny amounts of "pincer catalysts" convert

large amounts of industrial waste such as glycerol into lactic acid and hydrogen. Catalysts also efficiently convert bioethanol into butanol.

10. India's AI supercomputer Param Siddhi 63rd among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in world

PARAM-Siddhi AI supercomputer was established under the National Supercomputer Mission and will be installed in the C-DAC unit. The Top500 project tracks the most powerful supercomputers in the world and is published twice a year. Pratyush was ranked 78th. Powerful Supercomputer in world: Japanese Fugaku (442 petaflops)

11. L&T delivers India's first launch hardware for human space programme

Larsen & Toubro delivered the first hardware, the middle segment of the world's 3rd largest solid propellant, a rocket booster S-200 for the Gaganyaan Launch Vehicle to ISRO ahead of schedule. It was produced at L&T's Powai Aerospace Manufacturing Facility This booster segment is 8.5 metres long & weighs 5.5 tons.

12. India becomes 4th nation to get IMO nod for its own navigation system i.e. Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)

India has become the 4th country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognized by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a part of Worldwide Radio Navigation System. other three countries are US, Russia & China US: GPS Russia: GLONASS

13. China to launch moon probe, seeking first lunar rock retrieval since 1970s

China plans to launch an unmanned spacecraft to moon to bring lunar rocks in 1st attempt by any nation to retrieve samples from Earth's natural satellite since 1970s. It will make China 3rd nation to have retrieved lunar samples following US & Soviet Union China plans on retrieving the samples from Mars by 2030

14. SpaceX, NASA, ESA launch Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich mission

SpaceX, NASA, ESA successfully launched Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich mission. Sentinel-6a will be the first of two identical satellites, the second to be launched in five years, that will provide measurements of unprecedented precision until at least 2030. ESA HQs: Paris; NASA HQs: Washington DC; SpaceX HQs: California

15. IIT-Madras made an unmanned self-driving survey craft for ports

IIT-Madras researchers have made a Solar-Powered Unmanned Autonomous Survey Craft for Indian ports and inland waterways. It can undertake autonomous hydrographic and oceanographic surveys, providing real-time data transmission over long distances. It can be equipped with a 360° camera and LiDAR.

16. IIT Guwahati develops free-space optical communication system

IIT Guwahati has developed a novel free-space optical communication system for information transfer. In free-space communication, data in the form of voice, text or image is transmitted using light wirelessly rather than through optical fibres. IITs are governed by the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961

17. Niti Aayog forms panel to study feasibility of ultrahigh speed travel in India using hyperloop tech

Niti Aayog has formed a high-level panel to explore the technological and commercial viability of the Virgin Hyperloop technology for ultrahigh-speed travel in India. The committee has Niti Aayog member VK Saraswat as its Chairman.

The first test run conducted in Las Vegas; USA

18. Indian Oil successfully tests innovative Zero-Emission Electric Mobility technology

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has successfully conducted a "Proof of Concept" feasibility study on "Zero-Emission Electric Mobility" at one of its fuel stations in Bengaluru. Zero-Emission Electric Mobility is a concept that allows the electric vehicle(EV). EV charging system designed: Hygge Energy.

19. In a First For Southeast Asia, Malaysia Signs Deal With Pfizer for Vaccine

Malaysia has agreed to buy 12.8 million doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, becoming the first country in Southeast Asia to announce a deal with the US drug maker after some expressed reservations over the need for ultra-cold storage of -70°C. Pfizer's vaccine developed by US & German BioNTech

20. NASA-ESA successfully launch satellite to monitor global sea levels

The joint US-European satellite built to monitor global sea levels lifted off on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. It will extend a nearly 30-year continuous dataset on sea level. Global sea level is rising approximately 0.13 inches a year.

21. The Bengaluru based IISc researchers develop wastewater treatment, recycling system for rural areas.

The Assistant Professor, Lakshminarayana Rao has informed that the water treatment system demonstrated by them is economical & enables reuse of wastewater, reducing dependence on freshwater resources. This demonstrated in Berambadi Primary school, Karnataka. It was published in the Journal of Water Process Engineering.

22. India to launch deep-sea exploration exercise, Earth Sciences dept to ally with ISRO, DRDO on mining project

India now plans to launch an ambitious 'Deep Ocean Mission' to explore poly-metallic nodules, energy etc under the aegis of Ministry of Earth Sciences. International Seabed Authority earlier approved 10,000 sq. km for India with a 15-year PMS exploration. Poly-Metallic Sulphides contain iron, copper, zinc, silver, gold

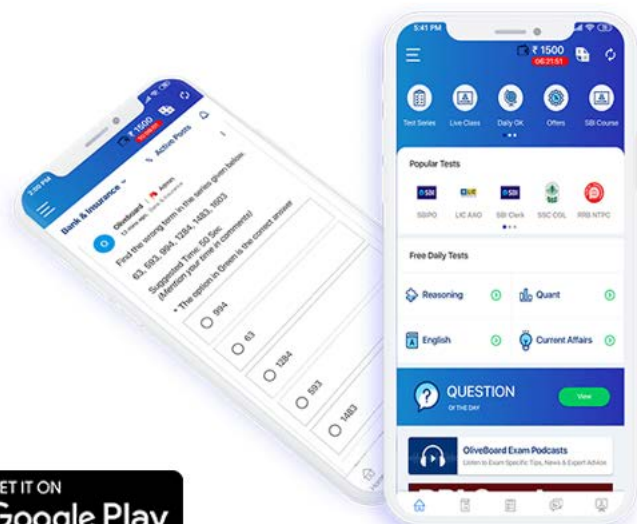
23. Ministry of Earth Sciences to launch Deep Ocean Mission in 3-4 months

India to soon launch an ambitious 'Deep Ocean Mission' that envisages exploration of minerals, energy and marine diversity of the underwater world. It is expected to cost over ₹ 4,000 crores. This project will be piloted by MoES, DRDO, CSIR, DBT and ISRO. India to also procure deep-sea vessels for exploration.

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Defence

1. First phase of Malabar exercise involving India, USA, Japan and Australia to begin

1st phase of Malabar exercise among the navies of India, US, Japan & Australia will kick start off Visakhapatnam in Bay of Bengal in a reflection of growing congruence in strategic interests of 4 nations. Exercise is conducted as a non-contact, at sea only 2nd phase is scheduled from Nov 17 to 20 in Arabian sea.

2. Enhanced version of multi-barrel rocket-launcher system Pinaka Mk-1 missile successfully flight-tested in Chandipur, Odisha

Enhanced version of Pinaka Mk-1 system was taken up to achieve longer-range performance compared to the earlier design with lesser length. This will replace Pinaka Mk-1 missiles currently used by regiments of the Indian Army along with India's frontiers. Pinaka can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in a period of 44 seconds

3. Two-day joint coastal security exercise Sagar Kavach begins in Odisha

The exercise was launched at Paradip Coast. It is carried out jointly by Odisha & West Bengal govt. More than 10 departments, including Navy, Coast Guard, the Odisha Police, the local fishermen, the forest department & port marine department have joined. Paradip Coast is located in Odisha.

4. India conducts major tri-service exercise in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

A special tri-service combat exercise called 'Bullet Strike' was conducted at the Teressa Island in the Nicobar group of islands. The high-voltage exercise, with assets and manpower from the Army, Navy and IAF as well as Para-SF and marine commandos. ANC was India's first theatre command established in 2001.

5. Rajnath Singh unveils model of Anti-Satellite Missile at DRDO Bhawan

A model of Anti Satellite (A-SAT) Missile installed inside DRDO Bhawan was unveiled by Defence Min Rajnath Singh. Mission Shakti was India's 1st ASAT Missile Test. This made India 4th nation in the world with capability to defend its assets in outer space. Mission Shakti was conducted in 2019 on Abdul Kalam Islands.

6. Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine 'Vagir' launched at Mazagon Dock

Union Min Shripad Naik launched the 5th Scorpene class submarine Vagir of Project 75 in Arabian Waters at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai. Vagir is a part of 6 Kalvari-class submarines being built in India. They are designed by French Naval Defence company DCNS. Vagir is named after a sandfish, a predator of Indian Ocean.

7. India Successfully Test-Fires Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile, Hits Pilotless Target Aircraft

India successfully test-fired the all-weather Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) air defence system. It was tested from the Balasore flight test range. QRSAM is capable of providing air defence on the move and has a range of 30 km. The first trial of the QRSAM was conducted on 4 June 2017.

8. Second phase of Malabar Exercise begins in Northern Arabian Sea

Second phase of Exercise Malabar 2020 begins in Northern Arabian Sea. It will involve coordinated operations of increasing complexity between navies of Australia, India, Japan and US. Phase II centered around Vikramaditya of Indian Navy & Nimitz of US Navy Exercise Malabar began in 1992 between the US and India.

9. SITMEX 2020: India, Singapore, Thailand naval exercise begins

A trilateral naval exercise involving India, Singapore & Thailand commenced in the Andaman Sea. The 2-day long exercise, SITMEX-2020, is scheduled in a "non-contact,

at sea only format", involving a war-at-sea exercise, naval manoeuvres among others.
Thailand Capital: Bangkok Singapore Currency: Singapore Dollar

10. 30th India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) held

30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was held between the Indian and the Royal Thai Navy. INS Karmuk an indigenously built Missile Corvette and Thailand HTMS Kraburi a Chao Phraya Class Frigate participated in the CORPAT. Thailand Capital: Bangkok; Currency: Thai baht.

11. India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 begins in Andaman Sea

Indian Navy hosted 27th India-Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 in Andaman Sea to enhance mutual inter-operability & imbibing best practices from each other. SIMBEX series of exercises b/w India & Singapore being conducted annually since 1994 Currency: Singapore dollar; Capital: Singapore.

12. Indian Navy inducts two American Predator drones on lease for surveillance in the Indian Ocean Region

For closer defence and security cooperation between India and the US. Sea Guardian drones that can stay airborne for about 36 hours and can cruise a height of 40,000 feet could also be used for surveillance along India's land borders including Ladakh. India bought US helicopter: AH-64 Apache

13. Indian Navy gets indigenous 'Varunastra', a heavyweight torpedo

The first Varunastra, an indigenously designed and developed heavyweight torpedo, was handed over to the Indian Navy by its manufacturer Bharat Dynamics Limited (BEL). The weapon has a range of 40 kilometers, can travel at a speed of up to 70 km/hr. It can carry a warhead weighing 250 kg.

14. Indian Army launches cycling expedition in Gujarat & Rajasthan to commemorate 1971 Indo-Pak War victory

To commemorate the commencement of the Golden Jubilee Victory Celebrations of Indian Armed Forces in the Indo-Pak War of 1971. Konark Corps of Indian Army has launched a 1971 km cycling expedition was flagged off Lakhpat in Kutch. Vijay Diwas: 16 December

15. Sea-launched interceptor destroyed mock intercontinental-range ballistic (ICBM) in test, Pentagon says

Aegis SM-3 missile, manufactured by Raytheon Missiles & Defense, was fired from a U.S. Navy destroyer situated northeast of Hawaii, targeting a mock ICBM that was launched from a test range at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Pentagon: HQ of US defence department; founded: 1947



Books & Authors

1. 'Till We Win': Book on Covid-19 by AIIMS Director

Book "Till We Win" has been co-written by leading public policy & health systems expert Chandrakant Lahariya, vaccine researcher & virologist Gagandeep Kang and AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria to give a definitive account of India's fight against Covid-19. It will be published by Penguin Random House India.

2. Rachna Bisht Rawat authored the book titled 'Insomnia: Army Stories'

Rachna Bisht Rawat's collection, titled 'Insomnia: Army Stories' captures the emotions of men who guard the nation. It is different from other army books which tell tales of valour. Rachna's characters are from real life, moulded with creative licence. It is published by Ebury Press.

3. Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy by Tamal Bandyopadhyay

Tamal Bandyopadhyay authored the book titled 'Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy' set to release in November 2020, sheds light on the insider perspective on the force that restructure the banking system in India. It is published in Roli Books. He is a Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award recipient.

4. Court and Courtship: Indian Miniatures in the TAPI Collection by J P Losty

Art historian J P Losty catalogues & describes an eclectic collection of Indian miniature paintings accumulated over the years by textile collectors Praful and Shilpa Shah in his new book named Court and Courtship: Indian Miniatures in the TAPI Collection. TAPI – Textile and Art People of India.

5. Harper Collins presents Chinmay Tumbe's book 'The Age of Pandemics'

Harper Collins is presenting Chinmay Tumbe's India's Age of Pandemics, the devastation it caused and the far-reaching impact it had on every aspect of life. It is the 1st comprehensive coverage of influenza in India which claimed more casualties than WWI. The author is a faculty at the Tata Institute of Social Science

6. Anupam Kher's new book titled 'Your Best Day Is Today!'

Actor Anupam Kher's latest book is titled Your Best Day Is Today! Through this, he will recount experiences during the lockdown, several ups & downs. His previous books are his biography Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly & The Best Thing About You is You. Kher is a recipient of two National Film Awards.

7. "Thavaasmi: Life and Skills through the lens of Ramayana" book by Rallabandi Srirama Chakradhar & Amara Sarada Deepthi launched

VP Venkaiah Naidu launched the book titled "Thavaasmi: Life and Skills through the lens of Ramayana". Authors of the book: Rallabandi Srirama Chakradhar, co-author - Amara Sarada Deepthi. Thavaasmi is in 4 volumes prepared by a team of young professionals. The book presents Ramayana as dialogue b/w father & daughter.

8. Book titled 'How to be a Writer' by Ruskin Bond

Ruskin Bond came out with, yet another book How To Be A Writer which gives a glimpse into the writing credo of the man who has had an incredibly successful writing career. The book is peppered with nuggets of practical advice for those aspiring to write. Bond was awarded Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award

9. 'Jacinda Ardern: Leading with Empathy' to be co-authored by Supriya Vani and Carl A Harte

'Jacinda Ardern: Leading with Empathy' is the biography of the New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern. It will be published in 2021. The book is co-authored by Supriya Vani

and Carl A Harte. Harper Collins India has announced the acquisition of the book. New Zealand Capital: Wellington.

10. Boskiyana, a book on Gulzar by Yashwant Vyas

Boskiyana: The Life and the World of Gulzar is a book to know the philosophy of Gulzar's life. Gulzar is a great person, famous poet, film director, writer-songwriter. Gulzar has been awarded the Padma Bhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke, Grammy, Oscar, etc., Vyas has been associated with Gulzar for around 2-3 decades.

11. Sonu Sood's autobiography to be titled 'I Am No Messiah'

Actor Sonu Sood is all set to pen his autobiography titled 'I Am No Messiah.'

Written in first person, the book will reveal the emotional and often challenging journeys he undertook along with the people he rescued. It will be released in December 2020.

The book will be co-written by Meena Iyer.

12. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveils two books: 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' & 'Loktantra Ke Swar'

The Republican Ethic Volume III' & 'Loktantra Ke Swar' are collections of selected speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind during the third year of his presidency. Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar unveiled the e-book versions of the two books. 57 Speeches are covered in 8 sections in Republican Ethic V-3.

13. Reporting India – A book by Veteran Journalist and News Agency ANI chairman Prem Prakash

Veteran Journalist Prem Prakash recently launched his book titled 'Reporting India: My Seventy Year Journey as a Journalist'. It accounts the life of the author who is a pioneer in Indian Journalism. He is currently the chairman of Asian News International. The book will be published by Penguin Random House India.

14. Books by 3 Indian writers feature in 2020 '100 Notable Books' selected by The New York Times

Editors of The New York Times Book Review selected 100 "notable fiction, poetry and nonfiction" works from around the world.

'A Burning' by Megha Majumdar

'Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line' by Deepa Anappara

Samanth Subramanian's 'A Dominant Character Barack Obama's newly released memoir 'A Promised Land' .

15. PM Modi Releases Book On Life And Ideals Of Guru Nanak Dev penned by Kirpal Singh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book on the life and ideals of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism and first of its ten gurus. The book is penned by a Chandigarh based author Kirpal Singh. Guru Nanak Jayanti is celebrated on November 30, 2020. Guru Nanak was born in 1469.



Miscellaneous

1. Shashi Shekhar Vempati to head panel to look into TRP system

The central government has announced a 4-member committee to be headed by the Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati, to look into the Television Rating Points (TRP) system and recommend any changes required to make it more robust and transparent. Currently, BARC is the primary agency that publishes TRPs.

2. Marathi film Karkhanisanchi Waari only Indian entry at Tokyo International Film Festival

Karkhanisanchi Waari (Ashes on a Road Trip), the 149-minute film tells the story of the Karkhanis, the last joint family of Pune. The movie will have its world premiere at 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival. It is the only Indian entry at the festival. The movie was directed by Mangesh Joshi.

3. Guadalajara in Mexico named World Book Capital 2022

Guadalajara (Mexico) named World Book Capital for 2022 by DG of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, on recommendation of World Book Capital Advisory Committee & representatives of International Publisher's Association, International Federation of Library Associations. Tbilisi in Georgia named World Book capital for 2021.

4. 14 scientists from IIT-BHU in world's top 2% scientists' list by Stanford University

14 scientists from the IIT - Banaras Hindu University have figured among the top 2% scientists in a global list compiled by the Stanford University. The exhaustive list has 1,59,683 persons with nearly 1,500 scientists, doctors and engineers in India. IIT BHU Director: Pramod Kumar Jain

5. Polio Vaccine Becomes First-Ever Vaccine Listed Under WHO Emergency Use

WHO has listed the nOPV2 vaccine for emergency use to address rising cases of vaccine-derived polio strain, 1st approval of its kind. These can occur if a weakened strain of poliovirus contained in oral vaccine circulates among under-immunized populations. WHO HQs: Geneva, Switzerland; Founded: 7 April 1947.

7. 'Phoolsunghi': a Bhojpuri classic revived in English

Pandey Kapil's celebrated novel Phoolsunghi is possibly the first Bhojpuri novel to be translated into English. Delhi-based scholar Gautam Choubey breathes life into his elegant translation of 1977 classic, published recently by Penguin Random House India. Bhojpuri: Indo-Aryan language spoken in northern-eastern India.

8. PM Modi pays tribute to prominent leader Sir Chhotu Ram on his birth anniversary

Sir Chhotu Ram, a politician in British India's Punjab Province. He dedicated his life to public service and farmer welfare and fought for the rights of the food givers of the country. Sir Chhotu Ram is credited with several pro-farmer measures.

He was Co-founder of National Unionist Party; Born: 24 Nov 1881

9. Malayalam film Jallikattu is India's official entry for 2021 Oscars

Malayalam film Jallikattu is India's official entry to the best International Feature Film category of the 93rd Academy Awards. The short story novel Moustache on which it is based upon won JCB prize for literature. It was directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery. It is the 3rd Malayalam film to be chosen for entry to the Oscar

Obituary

1. Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Duraikannu passes away at 72

Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Duraikannu passed away at the age of 72. He was elected from Papanasam in 2006, 2011, and 2016 Assembly elections. He was later appointed as the Agriculture Minister and Animal Husbandry in May 2016. TN CM- Edappadi Palaniswami, Governor- Banwarilal Purohit.

2. Former James Bond actor Sean Connery dies aged 90

Scottish movie legend Sean Connery, who shot to international stardom as the suave and sophisticated British agent James Bond and went on to grace the silver screen for four decades, has died aged 90. Connery will be remembered first as British agent 007. Ian Fleming created the fictional character of James Bond.

3. Violin maestro TN Krishnan passes away

Legendary violinist T N Krishnan passed away. He was 92. Krishnan started as a child prodigy and went on to perform with legends from several generations. He was honoured with many titles, including Sangeetha Kalanidhi, Padma Bhushan & Padma Vibhushan. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1992.

4. Religious guru Ramrao Maharaj passes away

Ramrao Maharaj, a top religious leader of the Banjara community, passed away due to prolonged illness. He was 88. He had nearly 120 million followers across the nation and had close relations with top political leaders like PM Modi, Devendra Fadnavis. He was the head of Pohradevi peetha, Maharashtra

5. Bihar's shortest-serving CM Satish Prasad Singh dies

Bihar's shortest-serving CM Satish Prasad Singh died of COVID-19, six days after his spouse's demise. He became Bihar's 6th CM in 1968 only for five days. He was also Bihar's first non-upper caste chief minister. He became an MLA from Parbatta constituency He was succeeded by the socialist leader B P Mandal.

6. Former International Hockey Umpire Susanta Kumar Dey passes away

According to the Bengal Hockey Association, former international hockey umpire Susanta Kumar Dey who had represented Bengal National team from South Eastern Railway had passed away. He was also a National Hockey Player. He coached Bengal National Team, East Bengal Club.

7. Veteran author & Gujarati columnist Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ passes away

Author & Gujarati columnist of Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ passed away. A Jesuit priest born in Spain; he was a Mathematics teacher. He wrote in Gujarati, English & Spanish. He translated many mathematical concepts into Gujarati and coined terms. He is popularly known as Father Valles.

8. Former India footballer Satyajit Ghosh dies

Former India and Mohun Bagan defender Satyajit Ghosh died. Ghosh represented India in the 1985 Nehru Cup in then Cochin in the team coached by Yugoslavian Milovan Ciric. After starting his career with Railway FC in 1980, Ghosh switched to Mohun Bagan. Indian Football Captain (Incumbent): Sunil Chhetri.

9. Former Sikkim CM Sanchaman Limboo passes away

The former Chief Minister of Sikkim Sanchaman Limboo passed away. He was 73. He was the fourth Chief Minister of Sikkim from Sikkim Sangram Parishad Party. He became the CM for nearly six months after toppling down Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari's Government. Sikkim Capital: Gangtok. Governor: Ganga Prasad.

10. Bahrain's longest serving PM Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa passes away

The world's longest-serving PM Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain passed away. Khalifa, the uncle of King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, had served as prime minister since Sunni Muslim-led island kingdom declared independence from Britain in 1971. Crown prince Sheikh Salman bin Hamad al-Khalifa appointed PM.

11. Japanese Nobel-prize-winning neutrino pioneer Masatoshi Koshiya dies aged 94

Physicist Masatoshi Koshiya, who shared 2002 Nobel prize for the detection of cosmic neutrinos, passed away. Koshiya's most famous work involved detecting neutrinos from a distant supernova explosion using a vast detector based in a mine in central Japan. Capital: Tokyo; Currency: Yen.

12. Senior BJP leader Kailash Sarang passes away

Senior BJP leader from Madhya Pradesh and former member of parliament, Kailash Sarang passed away. Kailash Sarang had also written a book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi titled 'Narendra to Narendra'. His son Vishwas Sarang is a medical education minister in MP.

13. Former Pondicherry Lt Guv Chandrawati dies at 92

Chandrawati, former Lt Governor of Pondicherry, passed away. She has a number of 1st to her credit as she was the 1st Member of Parliament (1977), the 1st MLA, 1st minister (1964-66 and 1972-74) & 1st leader of Opposition in the Haryana assembly (1982-85). Pondicherry was a French colonial settlement in India until 1954

14. Actor Asif Basra passed away

Actor Asif Basra, known for starring in movies like Jab We Met, Once Upon a Time in Mumbai and Kai Po Che! passed away. He was 53. In his career, Basra played supporting parts in many critically-acclaimed features like Black Friday, Parzania & Outsourced. Basra most recently starred in Amazon Prime Video's Paatal Lok.

15. Legendary Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee passes away

Legendary Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee passed away. He was 85. Chatterjee's honours included a Padma Bhushan and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. In 2017, the French government gave Chatterjee its highest civilian award, the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. Chatterjee was also an accomplished playwright and poet.

16. Rajasthan Cabinet Minister Master Bhanwarlal Meghwal passes away

Rajasthan's cabinet minister Bhanwar Lal Meghwal passed away. He was minister of social justice & empowerment in govt of Ashok Gehlot. He had also served as education minister of Rajasthan & was a member of Legislative Assembly from Sujangarh constituency. Rajasthan's Capital: Jaipur; Governor: Kalraj Mishra.

17. Ray Clemence, former Liverpool, Tottenham and England goalkeeper passes away

A five-time league champion and three-time European Cup winner, Ray Clemence passed away. He was 72. He was one of the finest 'keepers of his generation and won 61 caps for England, while he also won the FA Cup and UEFA Cup with Tottenham. FIFA HQs: Zürich, Switzerland; President: Gianni Infantino.

18. Former Goa Governor & veteran BJP leader Mridula Sinha passes away

Mridula Sinha from Chhapra in Bihar was the first woman Governor of Goa. A renowned Hindi writer, Mridula Sinha also served as the head of the BJP's women's

wing and chairperson of Central Social Welfare Board in the Ministry of Education. Sinha was also a former president of BJP Mahila Morcha.

19. Sahitya Academy Award Winner Poet Alokeranjan Dasgupta Passes Away At 87 In Germany

Bengali poet Alokeranjan Dasgupta passes away at his residence in Germany. He was 87 years old. He was awarded Ananda Purashkar in 1985, Rabindra Puraskar in 1987 & Pravasi Bharatiya Samman 2005 & won the Sahitya Award for his Marami Korat book of poems. Germany Capital: Berlin; Currency: Euro.

20. YM Deosthalee, former chairman of L&T Finance, dies at 74

M Deosthalee, former chairman of L&T Finance Holdings, has died at the age of 74 in Mumbai. He is a qualified chartered accountant and holds a degree in law. He joined L&T in 1974 & was instrumental in setting up L&T Finance, a wholly-owned subsidiary. HQ in Mumbai, it was founded in 1938 by Danish engineers.

21. 'Elephant Man' Ajay Desai passes away in Belagavi

Field biologist and wildlife conservation expert Ajay Aadrushyappa Desai passed away in Belagavi. He was 62. Known as "Elephant Man", he spent decades in the research of species-specific behaviour of Asiatic elephants. He was a consultant to WWF Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary & Nagarhole National park: Karnataka.

22. Former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi passes away

Former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi passed away at the age of 86. The veteran leader was a three-term Assam chief minister from 2001 to 2016, six-time parliamentarian and Union minister twice. He was MLA from Titabor assembly constituency since 2001. Assam CM: Sarbananda Sonowal; Capital: Dispur.

23. Prominent Islamic scholar Kalbe Sadiq dies at 83

Former vice president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Maulana Kalbe Sadiq passed away at 83. Also known as the messiah of the destitute while others termed him as an embodiment of 'Ganga Jamuni' tehzeeb (culture). He was an Islamic scholar, reformer & an educationalist from UP.

24. Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel passes away

Senior Congress leader and party treasurer Ahmed Patel (71) passed away. An eight-time parliamentarian, Ahmed Patel served three terms in the Lok Sabha and five terms in the Rajya Sabha. He was appointed the treasurer of the party in 2018. Rajya Sabha is permanent body and is not subject to dissolution.

25. Argentina football legend Diego Maradona dies of heart attack at 60

Argentine football legend Diego Maradona, widely regarded as one of the game's greatest ever players, died of a heart attack. He had recently battled health issues and underwent emergency surgery for a subdural haematoma. Currency: Argentine peso; Capital: Buenos Aires

26. FC Kohli, first CEO of TCS and father of Indian IT industry, passes away at 96

Faqir Chand Kohli, the first CEO of Tata Consultancy Services and father of India's software industry died. He pioneered India's 'Technology Revolution' to help the country build a USD 100 billion IT industry during his tenure at TCS. TCS CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan; Founded: 1968

27. James D. Wolfensohn, Former World Bank Chief, Dies at Age 86

James Wolfensohn, whose reforms as the head of the World Bank Group for a decade made him known as a champion of the world's poor. World Bank provides loans and

grants to the governments of low and middle income. Headquarters: Washington, US;
President: David Malpass

28. **Legendary Bangladeshi actor, Liberation War fighter Aly Zaker passes away at 76**

Aly Zaker was a towering figure of Bangladesh in theatre, Television and films. He involved in Liberation War movement of Bangladesh against Pakistan. He was also a founder trustee of the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka. He had been fighting cancer for years Won 2nd highest Bangladeshi civilian award: Ekushey Padak (1999)

29. **Sudan's former prime minister Sadiq al-Mahdi dies**

Former Sudanese Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi has died from a coronavirus infection. Al-Mahdi was Sudan's last democratically elected prime minister and was overthrown in 1989 in the military coup that brought former President Omar al-Bashir to power. Sudan Capital: Khartoum Currency: Sudanese pound



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Person in news

1. Syska Group announces Rajkummar Rao as its new brand ambassador

Fast Moving Electrical Goods company Syska Group has roped in actor Rajkummar Rao as its brand ambassador. He will promote the Syska products across LED and fan segments. With this partnership, company aims to reach the masses across tier 2 & tier 3 cities Syska's first- brand ambassador was Irrfan Khan.

2. Nepal confers honorary rank on Army Chief Gen Naravane

Army Chief Gen M Naravane was conferred the rank of Honorary General of the Nepal Army by President Bidya Devi Bhandari. He was presented with a scroll and a sword during the ceremony attended by Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli & Indian Ambassador Vinay M Kwatra. Chief of Nepal was earlier the same rank by Prez Ram Nath Kovind

3. EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020: Azim Premji has donated ₹22 crores/day; emerges as most generous Indian

With a donation of ₹7904 crore, Azim Premji, the founder-chairman of Wipro topped the list of philanthropists in India for 2020. He donated ₹22 crore per day. HCL Technologies' Shiv Nadar came second donating ₹795 crores. Mukesh Ambani donated ₹458 crores. Binny Bansal - 1st philanthropist under 40 to enter the list.

4. Prime Minister pays gratitude to Birsa Munda on his birth anniversary: 15 November

PM Modi paid tributes to tribal leader Birsa Munda on his birth anniversary Born in 1875 in present-day Jharkhand, Munda had challenged the British rule and is credited with mobilising tribals against the empire. He died in British custody at an age of 25. Jharkhand came into being on Munda's birth anniversary in 2000.

5. ED Director SK Mishra's tenure extended by one year

Union govt has extended the term of ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra by 1yr after modifying his appointment order. Order stated that his appointment will be for a period of 3yrs from the date of appointment or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Enforcement Directorate Founded: 1 May 1956.

6. Actor Sonu Sood appointed as state icon of Punjab by Election Commission of India

Actor Sonu Sood has been appointed as the state icon of Punjab by the Election Commission of India (ECI). The decision of honouring Sonu Sood with the title comes after he earned laurels for his humanitarian work during the lockdown. Election Commission of India Formed: 25 January 1950.

7. Smriti Mandhana appointed as brand ambassador for Equitas Small Finance Bank

India's leading women cricketer Smriti Mandhana has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Equitas Small Finance Bank. Mandhana will feature in promoting Equitas Small Finance Bank's new product aimed at women called Eva. Equitas Small Finance Bank HQs: Chennai; MD & CEO: Vasudevan P N

8. Rohit Sharma signs as brand ambassador for Education fee financing company Financepeer

India's leading batsman Rohit Sharma signed as brand ambassador for Financepeer, Google incubated Education fee financing Company. Established in 2017, it ensures access to education and seamless operations of schools apart from offering insurance covers. CEO of Financepeer: Rohit Gajbhiye.

9. Pagarbook signs Akshay Kumar as brand ambassador till 2022

Staff management solutions provider, PagarBook, signed on Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as the face of the brand till 2022. With the association, the company aims to drive visibility for PagarBook in its efforts to reach 10 million registered users by FY2021. Rupesh Mishra, co-founder, PagarBook.





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Insurance

1. HDFC ERGO Implements AI Enabled Solution To Automate Motor Claim Settlements

HDFC ERGO General Insurance, India's 3rd-largest non-life insurance company in private sector launched IDEAS (Intelligent Damage detection Estimation and Assessment Solution) for motor claim settlements. It uses Neural Network image processing & Analytics. It supports instant image detection & claims estimates.

2. Aegon Life Insurance launches 'Life + 36 critical illness Insurance' plan on Flipkart

Aegon Life Insurance launched Life + 36 critical illness Insurance on Flipkart at a starting premium of Rs. 153 for a life cover of Rs 1 lakh plus Critical Illness cover of Rs.10,000. The policy is issued instantly and requires no medical check-up nor KYC. Aegon Life Insurance HQ: Mumbai. CEO: K. S. Gopalakrishnan.

3. IRDAI sets up panel headed by R Chandrasekaran to revisit retail business of engineering tariff

IRDAI has set up a nine-member working group headed by R Chandrasekaran, former secretary-general of GI Council, to revisit product structures of engineering tariffs relevant for the retail category in the wake of continuous advancement in technology. The panel has to submit the report within three months.

4. Edelweiss Tokio Life launches COVID Shield +, India's 1st individual COVID life insurance policy

Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance launched COVID Shield+, India's 1st individual Covid-19 life insurance product, to secure people's dreams and aspirations from the financial impact of a Covid-19 diagnosis. The product carries 1-year tenure starting at ₹ 5329 Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Company CEO: Sumit Rai.

5. Airtel Payments Bank partners with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer Smart Drive Private car insurance

Airtel Payments Bank and Bharti AXA General Life Insurance announced Smart Drive Private Car insurance. It offers financial protection against damage due to accident, theft & natural or man-made disasters & comes with accident cover for the policyholder. Airtel Bank CEO Anubrata Biswas Bharti AXA CEO Sanjeev Srinivasa

6. Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched #CancerSendsNoNotifications campaign

Bharti AXA General Insurance launched #CancerSendsNoNotifications campaign – an initiative to increase awareness & spread knowledge on detecting the disease early among people in India. As per a recent WHO report, 1 in every 10 Indians will develop cancer. National Cancer Awareness Day is celebrated on November 7.

7. Tata AIA Life Insurance partners with PayBima to drive Life Insurance Protection through Digital sales

TATA AIA Life partnered with PayBima to distribute its industry-leading life insurance solutions. It is in line with Tata's mission to provide Ease of Doing Business to its customers & aims to make the process of buying life insurance solutions easy. PayBima is the digital arm of Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd.

8. HDFC to merge its health, general insurance; Irdai gives final nod

HDFC Ltd on Thursday said insurance regulator Irdai has given the final nod for merger of HDFC ERGO Health Insurance with HDFC ERGO General Insurance. HDFC

will hold 50.58% stake in HDFC ERGO. HDFC ERGO acquired a majority shares in Apollo Munich Health.

9. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India launches ANANDA-Business App to convert physical formats into digital

LIC has launched Atma Nirbhar Agents NewBusiness Digital Application – ANANDA. It will enable an agent to complete a policy without physically meeting customer. One prerequisite would be that the mobile number of customer should be mapped with his Aadhar LIC Founded: 1 September 1956; HQs: Mumbai.

10. Muthoot Finance, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance tie up to provide insurance on gold jewellery

Muthoot Finance has tied up with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to provide insurance on gold jewellery as part of their new initiative. Scheme named as "Muthoot Gold Shield" is backed by Group Affinity All Risk policy of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance. Muthoot Finance is the largest gold loan NBFC in the country.

11. IPPB ties-up with PNB MetLife to extend PMJJBY Insurance

India Post Payments bank (IPPB) has tied-up with PNB MetLife India Insurance, for its customers availing the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY). It backed low cost life insurance scheme to provide protection and financial security to poor. IPPB Formed: 1 September 2018; HQ: New Delhi

12. HDFC Life, HDFC Ergo unveil combi Corona Kavach health insurance policy.

HDFC Life & HDFC Ergo launched combi insurance product 'Click 2 Protect Corona Kavach'. It will provide all benefits of Click 2 Protect 3D Plus & Corona Kavach. Corona Kavach provides coverage against treatment in case of hospitalisation & AYUSH treatment. Ministry of Ayush was established in 2014.

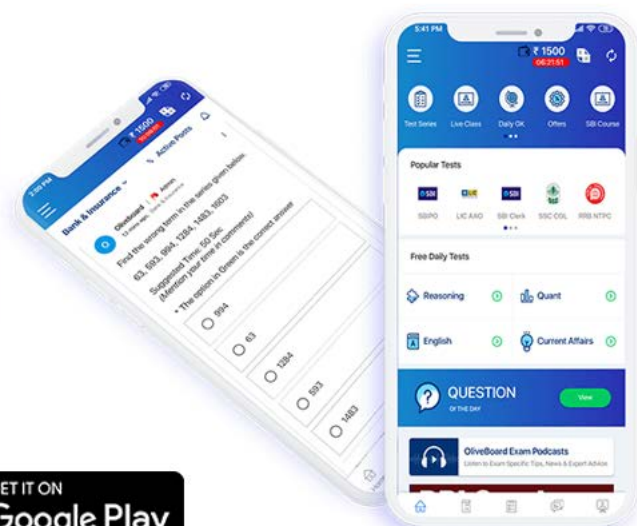
13. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority approves Mitsui Sumitomo's Max Life stake swap with Max Financial Services Ltd

IRDAI has approved the proposed transfer of 39.47 crore shares constituting 20.57 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital of Max Life Insurance held by Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance to MFSL. It constitutes 21.87 % of issued and paidup share capital of MFSL IRDAI Formed: 1999; HQ: Hyderabad

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India & World

1. India & Mexico holds 8th Joint Commission Meeting

India and Mexico recently held the eighth Joint Commission Meeting. The Meeting was co-chaired by Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of Republic of India (EAM) and H. E. Marcelo Ebrard, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States. Mexico Capital- Mexico City, Currency- Mexican Peso.

2. Indian Naval Ship Airavat reaches Port Sudan as part of 'Mission Sagar-II'

INS Airavat reached Port Sudan as part of Mission Sagar-II. India is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities & COVID-19, and towards the same INS Airavat is carrying consignment of 100 Tonnes of food aid for Sudan. Sudan Capital: Khartoum; Currency: Sudanese pound.

3. India, GCC Troika hold annual Political Dialogue in virtual mode

India & the GCC Troika held their annual Political Dialogue. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar led the Indian delegation. Senior representatives from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar also participated in the meeting. GCC – Gulf Cooperation Council. GCC was established in 1981. Secretariat: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

4. School building built in Nepal with India's assistance inaugurated

Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri inaugurated a school building constructed with India's assistance in Nepal's Dharchula district. The new building of Shree Mahendra Model School has been built with Indian government's grant of NPR 30 million. Nepal PM: K P Sharma Oli. President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

5. New York Headquartered UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopts two India sponsored resolutions on Nuclear disarmament

Two resolutions named 'Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons' & 'Reducing Nuclear Danger' which call for the prohibition of nuclear weapons under the 'Nuclear Weapons' cluster were adopted by the 1st Committee of UN General Assembly. The resolution manifests India's goal of nuclear disarmament.

6. India-Italy bilateral Summit: PM Modi, Italian PM to hold Virtual Bilateral Summit

PM of India & his Italian counterpart Giuseppe Conte held a bilateral summit to give an opportunity to the leaders to comprehensively review the broad framework of the relationship & exchange views on major regional and global issues of mutual concern. Italy is India's 5th largest trading partner in EU.

7. India hosts 5th Joint Working Group on Coal between India and Indonesia through video conference

5th Joint Working Group on Coal was co-chaired from the Indian side by Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Additional Secretary Ministry of Coal & Jonson Pakpahan of Indonesia. India provided an overview of coal sector in India & presented emerging scenarios for future. Indonesia President: Joko Widodo. Capital: Borneo Islands.

8. Bangladesh signs MoU with Indian Company for collecting 3 crore COVID 19 vaccine doses

MoU was signed between Bangladesh's Beximco Pharmaceutical Ltd and the Serum Institute of India for priority delivery of 3 crore COVID 19 vaccine doses. The process of development of the vaccine is in final stages at University of Oxford & AstraZeneca. Serum Institute is the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines.

9. India looks at partnership with Nordic, Baltic nations for green and digital future

India has increased engagement with Nordic and Baltic countries for green & digital future. Nordic countries are --Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, while Baltic countries --Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania who share a coastline with Baltic sea. First India-Nordic Summit took place in Sweden in 2018.

10. USAID provides USD 3 million to COVID Action Collaborative to mitigate effects of pandemic in India

Catalyst Management Services (CMS) launched a partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support India's response to COVID-19 under which it has provided \$ 3 mn for comprehensive support the COVID Action Collab (CAC) USAID HQ: Washington, D.C., USA.

11. India and Italy sign 15 agreements in various sectors

India and Italy signed 15 Agreements in various sectors such as energy, fisheries, shipbuilding, design etc. Italy will assume Presidency of G-20 in December 2021 followed by India in 2022. India and Italy will be part of the G20 Troika from December 2020 Summit was attended by the Prime Ministers of both countries.

12. AIM-Sirius Innovation' programme launched for Indian & Russian school children

To develop technological solutions NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission & Sirius, Russia, launched 'AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme for Indian and Russian school children. Under this, 48 students and 16 educators and mentors will create 8 virtual products. It is a 2-week programme that will take place between 7& 21 Nov

13. Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari releases special anthology 'My Understanding on Gandhi'

Nepal Prez Bidhya Devi Bhandari released an anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- My understanding about Gandhi at Kathmandu in the presence of Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra. It was brought out by Embassy of India along with BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation It was released to celebrate 151st Birth Anniversary of Gandhi.

14. PM Modi to virtually co-chair 17th ASEAN-India Summit with his Vietnamese counterpart

PM Modi to co-chair the 17th ASEAN-India Summit along with PM of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc. Leaders of all 10 ASEAN Member States will virtually participate in the Summit. ASEAN-India Summits provide opportunity for India & ASEAN to engage at highest level. ASEAN - Association of Southeast Asian Nations HQ: Jakarta.

15. EAM Jaishankar Discusses Bilateral Cooperation With Brazilian Counterpart Ernesto Araujo

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a virtual meeting with his Brazilian counterpart Ernesto Araujo. Both ministers had a range of discussions on bilateral cooperation & global developments. The leaders agreed to strengthen India-Brazil cooperation Brazil Capital: Brasilia. Prez: Jair Bolsonaro.

16. Australia-India Water Centre inaugurated virtually

Australia-India Water Centre was inaugurated virtually through a Webinar, due to pandemic situation. The Water Centre is led by University of Western Sydney from Australia & IIT Guwahati from India along with 21 other partners from India and Australia. Australia Capital: Canberra; Currency: Australian dollar.

17. PM Modi holds virtual summit with Luxembourg PM Xavier Bettel

A Virtual Summit was held between PM Narendra Modi and PM of Luxembourg H.E. Mr Xavier Bettel. This will be the first stand-alone Summit meeting between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades. The Leaders will discuss issues of mutual interest. Capital: Luxembourg Currency: Euro

18. PM Modi launches RuPay Card phase-2 in Bhutan

PM Modi launched phase two of RuPay card in Bhutan with his counterpart Lotay Tshering. The RuPay cards issued by the Bhutan National Bank can be used at ATMs for Rs 1 lakh and for Rs 20 lakh at point-of-sale terminals. Phase I was launched in 2019. India & Bhutan signed framework for Peaceful Usage of Outer Space

19. India Sends Festival Favorite Malayalam-language film 'Jallikattu' to the Oscars

The Malayalam-language film has been a festival favorite around the world having played at Toronto, London, Busan, and Stockholm in 2019 and at Rotterdam in 2020. Pellissery won the best director at the International Film Festival of India, Goa in 2019. Jallikattu, directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery.

20. India announces major commitments at Afghanistan Conference 2020

India announced major commitments towards reconstruction and rehabilitation at the 2020 Afghanistan Conference that was organised in Geneva November 23 and 24 through video conferencing. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar led the Indian delegation. Afghanistan Capital: Kabul; President: Ashraf Ghani.

21. UNDP and Invest India launch the SDG Investor Map for India

UNDP and Invest India have launched the SDG Investor Map for India, laying out 18 Investment Opportunities Areas (IOAs) in six critical SDG enabling sectors, that can help India push the needle forward on Sustainable Development. United Nations Development Programme HQ: New York; Formed : 1965

22. India, Vietnam sign implementation agreement on hydrography

India and Vietnam signed an implementation agreement (IA) on hydrography (involving measurement of depth of water, etc.,) during a bilateral meeting. It took place between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Vietnamese counterpart General Ngo Xuan Lich. Vietnam Capital: Hanoi Currency: Vietnamese dong

23. India and Myanmar hold 7th Joint Trade Committee Meeting

The 7th Joint Trade Committee Meeting between India and Myanmar was held through virtual mode. Both sides reviewed various bilateral issues ranging from trade, investment, banking, connectivity, capacity building and up-gradation of border infrastructure. Meeting Chair: Piyush Goyal & Myanmar Counterpart: Dr Than Myint

24. Australia to temporarily host ISRO satellite tracking facilities

As a part of deepening cooperation in civil space activities, India and Australia were working together to position temporarily Indian tracking facilities in Australia. These include earth observation and data analytics, robotics, and space life sciences. This would help India's human space flight programme, Gaganyaan



Environment

1. Panna (India), Fuvahmulah and Addu Atoll (Maldives) join UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme included Panna in India and Fuvahmulah and Addu Atoll in the Maldives, to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. For India it is the twelfth entry, whereas for Maldives second and third after Baa Atoll. With this, 714 biosphere reserves are present in 129 countries.

2. Lonar Lake in Buldana district of Maharashtra declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'

Lonar Lake in Maharashtra, which was formed by a meteorite impact about 50,000 years ago, has been declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'. It has been declared as the 41st place in the country and 2nd 'Ramsar site' in Maharashtra. Ramsar Convention was signed in 1971.

3. Survey of vulture habitats starts in Madhya Pradesh

Survey of vulture habitats has started in Madhya Pradesh for how many vultures are left and what measures should be taken for their protection. For this work, Van Vihar National Park of Bhopal has been made the nodal agency. National Board for Wildlife, statutory Board constituted in 2003

4. Longest migrating small bird Willow Warbler spotted in Kerala's Punchakkari

Willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), one of longest migrating small bird which breeds throughout northern and temperate Europe and the Palearctic, sighted for the first time in the country at Punchakkari. Warblers are generally difficult to identify. Vellayani - Punchakkari Paddy fields are located in Kerala.

5. India has set target of cutting carbon footprint by 30-35%: PM Modi

PM Modi said that India has set a target of reducing the carbon footprint by 30-35%. He made the statement while addressing the convocation ceremony of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU) here through video conference. Paris Agmt: global temperature rise in the 21st century < 2°C.

6. 23 medicinal plants of Karnataka on IUCN endangered list

23 rare medicinal plants of Karnataka are listed as endangered on International Union for Conservation of Nature list. The red-listed rare medicinal plants include sandalwood, wild clove, red sanders, wild jamun & other species endemic to Western Ghats. Karnataka Governor: Vajubhai Vala; CM: B. S. Yediyurappa.

7. India's 1st moss garden has been developed at Khurpatal, Uttarakhand

India's 1st moss garden has been developed at Khurpatal, Nainital to conserve various species of moss & bryophytes & to make people aware of its significance. 2 moss species found here Cement Moss & Brachythecium Buchanani – figure in IUCN's red list. Moss are the first plants to grow on rocky land.

8. India has emerged as fourth largest producer of renewable energy in world: PM Modi

India's renewable power capacity is the 4th largest in the world and it is growing at the fastest speed among all major countries. The renewable energy capacity in India is currently 136 Giga Watts, which is about 36 percent of the country's total capacity Germany: largest producer of renewable energy in the world

9. Mysterious New Mushroom Species Glow Like The Northern Lights In Meghalaya Forests

A mushroom documentation project in the forests of Northeast India has revealed a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom - named *Roridomyces phyllostachydis*. It was first sighted in Meghalaya's Mawlynnong in East Khasi Hills district. Major hills in Meghalaya:- Garo, Khasi, Jaintia hills



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Apps & Portals

1. IIT Bombay launches self-el website Bandhu to enhance emotional well-being of students

Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre launched Bandhu. It addresses challenges like adjustment to college life, academic stress, & mental health. It has curated reads, motivational alumni journeys, expert podcasts and tools for self-exploration. Project Bandhu was initiated by alumni of the Class of 1992.

2. Twitter launches ArtHouse in India to help brands create better content

Twitter India has introduced ArtHouse, a suite of services to assist brands in creating and optimising Twitter-first content. ArtHouse is a 'fully integrated' service that connects brands with the 'creative capital' of influencers, artists and editors. Twitter CEO: Jack Dorsey; Founded: 21 March 2006.

3. Ravi Shankar Prasad launches an international version of UMANG App

Ravi Shankar Prasad launched UMANG's international version in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs for select countries. It will help Indian international students, NRIs and Indian tourists abroad, to avail Government of India services, anytime. UMANG- Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance.

4. Indian Railway launches digitised online Human Resource Management System (HRMS)

Human Resource Management System (HRMS) is a high thrust project for Indian Railways to leverage improved productivity & employee satisfaction. Launched HRMS modules of Employee Self Service, PF Advance and Retirement Settlement. Chairman and CEO of Railway Board: Vinod Kumar Yadav

5. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launches India Climate Change Knowledge Portal

The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address the climate change issues. With regard to climate actions after Paris Agreement, India has practically achieved its pre-2020 action plan. Agreement came into force: 2016; It is an Initiative of UNFCCC.

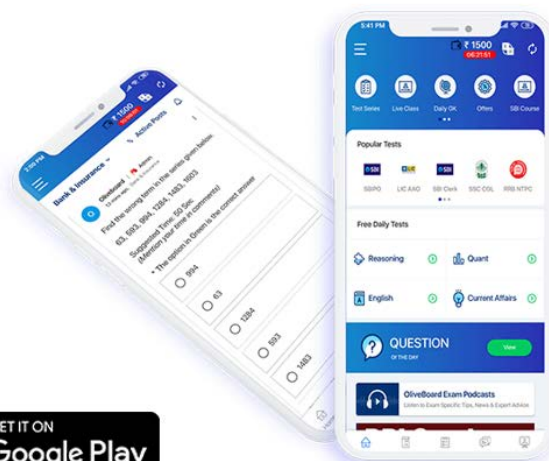
6. Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launched national portal of transgender people

Union Minister launched National Portal for Transgender People & inaugurated Garima Griha: A Shelter for Transgender Persons. The portal will help a transgender person apply for ID Card digitally. Garima Griha to be run in partnership with Lakshmana Trust. Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment: Thaawarchand Gehlot.

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Acquisitions & Mergers

1. CCI approves acquisition of General Insurance Business of Bharti AXA by ICICI Lombard

Competition Commission of India approves acquisition of General Insurance Business of Bharti AXA by ICICI Lombard under Section 31(1) of Competition Act, 2002. Bharti AXA is a joint venture held by Bharti General Ventures Pvt Ltd & Societe Beaujon. ICICI Lombard Founded: 2001; CEO: Bhargav Dasgupta; HQs: Mumbai.

2. Bengaluru-based Manipal Hospitals to acquire Columbia Asia for Rs 2,100 cr

Private entity Manipal Hospitals to acquire Columbia Asia. The combined entity will have a presence of 27 hospitals across 15 cities, with 7,300 beds, 4,000 doctors, and 10,000 employees, making it the second-largest hospital chain in India, after Apollo. Manipal Education & Medical Group Chairman: Dr Ranjan Pai.

3. Pidilite Industries completes acquisition of Huntsman Group's Indian subsidiary for Rs 2,100 cr

Pidilite Industries, the manufacturers of Fevicol brand of adhesives completed the acquisition of 100% stake in the US-based Huntsman Group's Indian subsidiary. Huntsman Advanced Materials Solutions Private Ltd (HAMSPL) manufactures and sells adhesives. Pidilite CEO: Bharat Puri. Head Office: Mumbai.

4. TCS to acquire 100% shares of Postbank Systems from Deutsche Bank

TCS Netherlands BV (a subsidiary of TCS) will acquire 100% shares of Postbank Systems AG from Deutsche Bank AG. PBS has been the internal IT provider for Postbank AG in Germany. The transaction is subject to customary regulatory and governmental approvals Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan.

5. CCI approves acquisition of 7.73% equity share capital of Jio Platforms Limited by Google International LLC

CCI approved acquisition of 7.73% equity share capital of Jio Platforms Limited by Google International LLC (GIL) under Section 31(1) of Competition Act, 2002. GIL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Google LLC. JPL is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd. Google International LLC is a Delaware ltd liability company.

6. CCI approves transfer of 100% shareholding SinoChem and ChemChina to Central SASAC

CCI approves transfer of 100% shareholding of SinoChem Group Company Limited & China National Chemical Corporation Limited to a new company wholly owned by China State-owned Assets Supervision & Administration under Section 31(1) of Competition Act, 2002. SinoChem and ChemChina are headquartered in China.

7. CCI approves acquisition of Orix Wind SPVs by GEH from ORIX Corporation & equity stake in GEH by Orix

The Competition Commission of India approved the acquisition of Orix Wind SPVs by Greenko Energy Holdings (GEH) from ORIX Corporation (Orix) & equity stake in GEH by Orix. Hyderabad-based GEH is the holding company of the Greenko group of companies. Japan-based Orix offers a wide variety of financial services.

8. IRDAI gives final nod for merger of HDFC ERGO Health with HDFC ERGO General Insurance

Insurance regulator IRDAI has given the final nod for the merger of HDFC ERGO Health Insurance with HDFC ERGO General Insurance. As per the scheme of

amalgamation through a share swap deal, there will be dissolution of HDFC ERGO Health without winding up. IRDAI Founded: 1999; HQs: Hyderabad.

9. TCS Acquires Pramerica Services Unit from USA based Prudential

India's Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. will acquire the employees and select assets of Pramerica Systems from insurance giant Prudential Financial Inc., helping the insurer cut costs to counter low-interest rates and the coronavirus fallout. Tata Consultancy-Asia's biggest exporter of software services.

10. Reliance Retail acquires home-products online retailer Urban Ladder

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. (RRVL) has acquired 96% share in Urban Ladder in an all cash transaction for Rs 182 crore. Reliance Industries Ltd. announced that it would invest an additional Rs 75 crore in the online furniture retailer by December 2023. Reliance Industries Limited Founder: Mukesh Ambani; HQs: Mumbai

11. IBM To Acquire Solution Provider TruQua In SAP Channel Play

With the acquisition of Chicago-based TruQua, IBM is getting a leader in SAP-based transformations in financial, planning & analysis business. TruQua works with customers' CFOs & controllers to help them implement and optimize financial-focused technology. IBM CEO: Arvind Krishna HQ: New York, USA.

12. Bharti Infratel, Indus Towers merger complete; Vodafone Idea sells Indus stake for ₹3,760 cr

The merger of Bharti Infratel and Indus Towers to create a mega tower company has been completed, and Vodafone Idea has received ₹3,760.1 crore cash for its 11.15 per cent holding. Vodafone will hold 28.12%, Airtel 36.7% stake in the merged entity. Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal Headquarters: New Delhi

13. Bharti Airtel to Buy Stake In Avaada Energy's Subsidiary In All-Cash Deal

Bharti Airtel Ltd. will acquire 5.2% stake in solar power company Avaada MHBuldhana Pvt. Ltd. in an all-cash deal. Avaada MHBuldhana is building a captive solar power plant in Maharashtra that will become operational by March 2021. Bharti Airtel Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal; CEO: Gopal Vittal.

14. CCI Approves Acquisition by Reliance Retail Ventures of Retail of Future Group

The Competition Commission of India approves acquisition by Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, Retail & Fashion Lifestyle Limited of the retail and wholesale undertaking and the logistics & warehousing undertaking of Future Group under Competition Act 2002. RRVL a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd, is an unlisted one

15. ICICI Lombard gets in-principle approval from IRDAI approval to acquire Bharti AXA General Insurance

Earlier, Competition Commission of India (CCI), BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited approved the proposed acquisition. ICICI will issue 1.82 cr equity shares to Bharti General Ventures Private Limited. ICICI Lombard: India's largest private non-life insurer.



Agri-Business

1. BASF-Bosch Joint Venture to Accelerate Digital Innovations in Agricultural Sector

Bosch and BASF Digital Farming have signed a 50:50 joint venture agreement to globally market and sell smart farming solutions from a single source in the future. The JV agreement will be followed by the founding of a new company based in Cologne. Cologne is the fourth largest city in Germany.

2. Honey FPOs will help in achieving the goal of increasing income of small farmers: Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar

The Honey FPO Programme of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd was inaugurated by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. Beekeeping in India is predominant in the unorganized sector among the rural and tribal population. NAFED Founded: 1958; HQ: New Delhi

3. APEDA holds Virtual Buyer Seller Meet with Germany

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, continued its endeavour to promote export of agricultural products through the virtual medium. It shows the strength of Indian agricultural products grapes, fresh fruits & vegetables.

APEDA: Apex body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry,

4. Govt approves subsidised loans worth Rs 3,971.31 cr for micro-irrigation projects

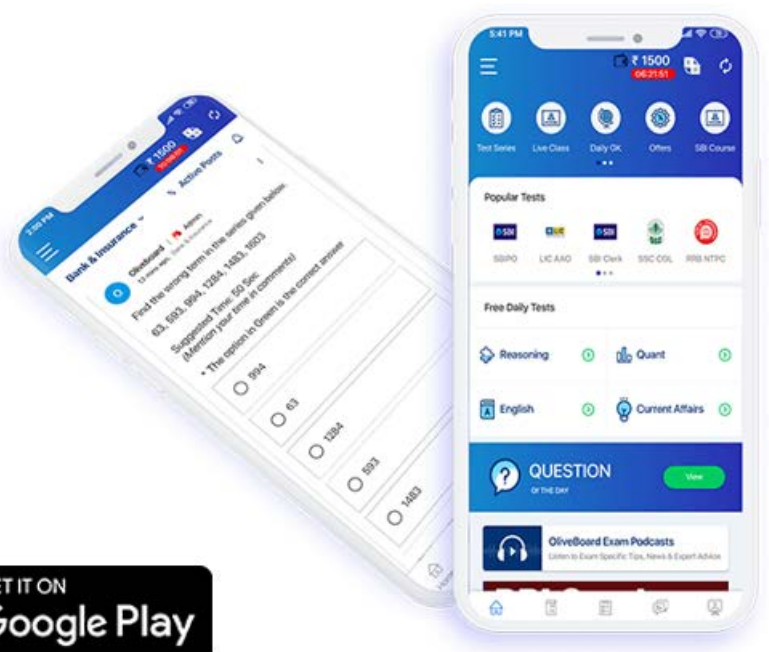
The interest subvented loans are being offered under Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) created with NABARD. An objective to facilitate states in availing subsidised loans for expanding coverage of micro irrigation. Maximum loan has been approved for Tamil Nadu

NABARD: 1982 HQ: Mumbai

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FinTech

1. Freecharge joins hands with Safe Gold to launch digital gold offering

Freecharge, a digital payment platform inked a partnership with Safe Gold in order to launch its digital gold offering for its customers. With this, customers can easily buy gold online without the fuss related to transparency, security and storage of gold. Freecharge CEO - Siddharth Mehta. Founder: Kunal Shah

2. Visa partners with DigitSecure and HDFC Bank for live deployment of PCI certified Tap to Phonecard acceptance solution

Visa announced the deployment of a PCI certified Tap to Phonecard acceptance solution along with DigitSecure & HDFC Bank. It enables merchants to securely accept contactless card payments in seconds through an app on their NFC-enabled Android smartphones. DeliveryPlus - 1st merchant to go live with HDFC Bank as acquirer

3. WhatsApp gets nod from NPCI to launch payments platform

WhatsApp Inc., the Facebook-owned messaging platform got the nod from NPCI to roll out payments feature for users across the country. It will join an already crowded market of payment services offered via the UPI network. Google Pay, PhonePe and Paytm. It will be available in 10 Indian regional languages.

4. Mobikwik launches first credit card with AmEx named Mobikwik Blue American Express Card

India's largest digital credit platform Mobikwik became the 1st non-bank company to become a member of American Express network and issue Cards. The Card provides amazing value to the user in the form of ₹10,000 in credit limit, 1% Super Cash on purchases. Mobikwik CEO: Bipin Preet Singh.

5. Marg ERP and Paytm launches MargPay to resolve MSMEs payment issue digitally

Enterprise solutions provider Marg ERP with Paytm launched a new integrated payment solution MargPay which facilitates seamless transactions for MSMEs. It reconciles payments in a cost-effective manner & keeps track of all receipts & payments made by MSMEs. Marg ERP CEO: Krishnan Raju. Head Office: New Delhi.

6. Paytm launches Payout Links for small businesses

Payout Links was launched to process pay-out transactions easily. It will allow businesses to send incentives to the customers' accounts. It is aimed at helping small businesses in sectors like gaming, retail, export, manufacturing and e-commerce. This feature is a new addition on the Paytm Payout feature.

7. AGS Transact, Utimaco partner to provide cyber-defence technology for digital payments

Global IT security solutions provider Utimaco and AGS Transact Technologies, an end-to-end cash and digital payment solutions provider, have entered into a partnership to provide security solutions for payment and automation solutions. NPCI enables digital payments and settlement systems in India.

8. Canara Bank, Axis Bank, Indian Bank and South Indian Bank buy 6.67 per cent stake each in IBBIC

Canara Bank, Axis Bank, Indian Bank & South Indian Bank have acquired 6.67% stake each in IBBIC. IBBIC Pvt Ltd is proposed to be incorporated for providing a platform for exploring, building & implementing DLT solutions for Indian financial services sector. Indicative time for completion of acquisition is Dec, 2020.

9. YES Bank in Partnership with Worldline launches 'SMS Pay' on POS Terminals for Merchants to accept remote payments

Private sector lender YES Bank launched SMS Pay that would enable merchants to accept contactless and remote payments from their customers. This functionality on POS terminals was launched in partnership with Worldline. Worldline: A French payment and transactional services company.

Legal

1. CJI S A Bobde inaugurated the first ever e-resource centre Nyay Kaushal at Nagpur

Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde, along with Justice D.Y. Chandrachud of the Supreme Court inaugurated 1st ever e-resource centre and virtual court for traffic and transport to enable speedy justice for litigants, called Nyay Kaushal, at Katol in Nagpur. It can provide easy way of filing court matters using technology

2. Home Ministry amends Foreign Contribution Regulation Act rules, 2011

Ministry of Home Affairs has relaxed norms for farmer, student, religious & other groups who aren't directly aligned to any political party to receive foreign funds if groups aren't involved in active politics. Ministry notified new rules under FCRA, 2010. FCRA come into force: 29th April 2011.

PSUs

1. Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Seismic Survey Campaign by Oil India Ltd

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister inaugurated the Seismic Survey Campaign by Oil India Limited. The survey under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy, OALP, will be undertaken in 5 blocks of 8 districts of Odisha in the Mahanadi basin and nearby areas. Oil India Limited founded: February 18, 1959.

2. First Leg Of Kochi-Bengaluru GAIL Pipeline To Be Ready By January 2021

National gas major Gail (India) Ltd. will complete 1st leg of the Kochi-Bengaluru line in January. 1st leg of 620km long Kochi-Bengaluru gas pipeline begins from Kuttanad in Palakkad and extends up to Valayar, which is on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border. GAIL CEO: Shri Manoj Jain; Founded: 16 August 1984.



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Bank Rate	4.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	3.0%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.0%

ECONOMY

ORGANIZATION/ PARAMETERS	RATE/ FIGURES
World Bank report	Remittances to India to drop by 9% in 2020
Fitch Solutions	India's Fiscal Deficit Forecast To 7.8% (FY21)
Moody's	-10.6% for FY2021 (Growth Forecast)
Oxford Economics	4.5% for 2020-25 (India growth forecast)

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Harpreet A De Singh	CEO of Alliance Air
Rajiv Jalota	Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust
PVG Menon	CEO of Electronics Sector Skill Council of India
Anand Selva	Global head of consumer banking, Citigroup
Duarte Pacheco	President of Inter Parliamentary Union
Jagbir Singh	Vodafone Idea CTO
Dilip Rath	Elected to International Dairy Federation board
Gyanendro Ningomban	Hockey India president
Vidisha Maitra	Elected to UN Advisory Committee
A K Singh	Head, Petronet LNG
Aloke Singh	Air India Express CEO
Navneet Munot	MD and CEO, HDFC Mutual Fund
Kris Gopalakrishnan	Chairman, RBI innovation hub
D K Thakur	Lucknow police commissioner
GC Murmu	External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union
Achyuta Samanta	President of Volleyball Federation of India

Sunil Mittal	Chairman of OneWeb
N. Ramesh	Deputy MD of Exim Bank
Greg Barclay	ICC chairman
Vijay Sinha	Speaker of Bihar assembly
Lt Gen Harpal Singh	Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army
Rajnish K Jenaw	CMD, National Schedule Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)
SM Vaidya	VP of the World LPG Association
Roch Marc Christian Kabore	President , Burkina Faso

AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
Paul Zacharia	28th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram of Kerala
HDFC Bank Ltd	'Most Outstanding Company - Financial Sector' in India by Asiamoney
Dr Susanta Kar	Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award-2020
Sangli sampatrao Pawar	Ministry of Water Resources awardee
Dr. Dinesh Katre	2020 Emmett Leahy Award
S Hareesh	JCB Prize for Literature 2020
Ruskin Bond	Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020
K S Subramanian	Fertiliser Association of India Golden Jubilee Award
Sadat Rahman	International Children's Peace Prize
Kerala Tourism	'Highly Commended' Award by World Travel Mart London
Douglas Stuart	Booker prize 2020
Queen Mother of Bhutan and HelpAge India	2020 UN Population Award
Ramesh Pokhriyal	Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award
Naseeruddin Shah	Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar
Indo-Japan cooperation	OECD MAP 2019 award



IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
2 November	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists	"Protect Journalists. Protect The Truth".
November 5	World Tsunami Awareness Day	"Strengthening disaster risk governance".
6 November	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	NA
November 7	National Cancer Awareness Day	NA
November 8	World Town Planning Day	NA
November 8	International Day of Radiology	Radiologists and radiographers supporting patients during COVID-19
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development	Science for and with Society
November 11	National Education Day	NA
November 12	Public Service Broadcasting Day	NA
November 12	World Pneumonia Day	NA
November 13	Ayurveda Day	Ayurveda for Covid-19
14 November	World Diabetes Day	The Nurse and Diabetes
15 November	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	NA
November 15 to 21	National New-born Week 2020	Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere.
16 November	International Day for Tolerance	NA
16 November	National Press Day	NA
November 17	National Epilepsy Day	NA
November 17	International Students' Day 2020	NA
18 November	Naturopathy Day	Nurturing Vitality Through Naturopathy.

November 19	World Toilet Day 2020	Sustainable sanitation and climate change
November 18	World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day 2020	Living Well with COPD - Everybody, Everywhere.
19 November (Third Thursday of November)	World Philosophy Day	The importance of philosophy in times of crisis
November 19	International Men's Day 2020	Better Health for Men and Boys.
20 November	World Children's Day	Reimagine a better future for every child.
20 November	Africa Industrialization Day	Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the AfCFTA era
18 – 24 November 2020	World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2020	United to preserve antimicrobials.
19th to 25th November	World Heritage Week	NA
20th November	Awaas Diwas	NA
21 November	World Television Day 2020	NA
November 21	World Fisheries Day	NA
November 16 to 22	National Pharmacy Week 2020	Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals.
November 23 - 29	World Investor Week	NA
23 - 27 November	Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020	Raise awareness on Aviation Safety
25 November	International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women	Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!
November 25	Indian Army's Rajputana Rifles celebrates its Remembrance Day	NA
26 November	Constitution Day or Samvidhan Diwas	NA
November 27	Indian Organ Donation Day	NA
November 29	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	NA
November 29	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	NA

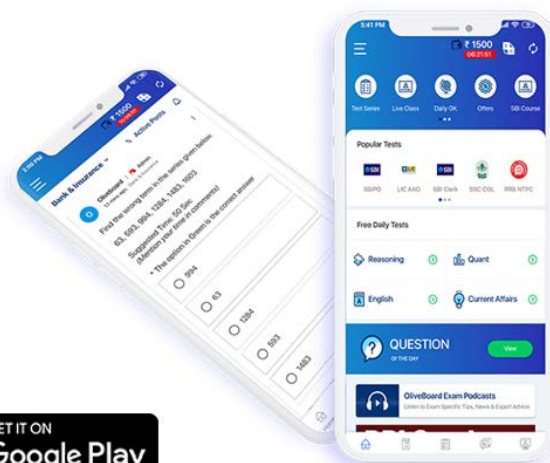
OBITUARY

Tamil Nadu **Agriculture Minister** *R. Duraikannu*
 Former **James Bond actor** *Sean Connery*
Violin maestro *TN Krishnan*
Religious guru *Ramrao Maharaj*
Bihar's shortest-serving CM *Satish Prasad Singh*
 Former **International Hockey Umpire** *Susanta Kumar Dey*
Veteran author & Gujarati columnist *Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ*
 Former India **footballer** *Satyajit Ghosh*
Former Sikkim CM *Sanchaman Limboo*
Bahrain's longest serving PM *Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa*
Japanese Nobel-prize-winning neutrino pioneer *Masatoshi Koshiha*
 Senior **BJP leader** *Kailash Sarang*
 Former **Pondicherry Lt Guv** *Chandrawati*
Actor *Asif Basra*
Legendary Bengali actor *Soumitra Chatterjee*
Rajasthan Cabinet Minister *Master Bhanwarlal Meghwal*
Ray Clemence, former Liverpool, Tottenham and **England goalkeeper**
Former Goa Governor & veteran BJP leader *Mridula Sinha*
Sahitya Academy Award Winner Poet *Alokeranjan Dasgupta*
YM Deosthalee, **former chairman of L&T Finance**
'Elephant Man' *Ajay Desai*
Former Assam Chief Minister *Tarun Gogoi*
Prominent Islamic scholar *Kalbe Sadiq*
Senior Congress leader *Ahmed Patel*
Argentina football legend *Diego Maradona*
FC Kohli, **first CEO of TCS and father of Indian IT industry**
James D. Wolfensohn, **Former World Bank Chief**
 Legendary **Bangladeshi actor, Liberation War fighter** *Aly Zaker*
Sudan's former prime minister *Sadiq al-Mahdi*

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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	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Devvrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Satyadev Narayan Arya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Draupadi Murmu
Karnataka	Bengaluru	B S Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Anandiben Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Uddhav Thackrey	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
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 TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

Union Territory	Lt. Governor & Administrator
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	V.P. Singh Badnore (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Anil Baijal (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Dineshwar Sharma, IPS, (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Kiran Bedi, IPS, (Retd.) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Radha Krishna Mathur (Lieutenant Governor)



UNION MINISTERS, PORTFOLIO & CONSTITUENCY

Union Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
Narendra Modi	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions	Varanasi, UP
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence	Lucknow, UP
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways & Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises	Nagpur, Maharashtra
DV Sadananda Gowda	Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers	Bangalore North, Karnataka
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Rajya Sabha
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution (Additional Charge)	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
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
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Additional Charge)	Morena, M. P
Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Ministry of Social justice and empowerment	Rajya Sabha (M.P)
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)
Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Ministry of Human Resource Development	Haridwar, Uttarakhand
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Khunti, Jharkhand
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and child Development & Ministry of Textiles	Amethi, UP
Dr Harsh Vardhan	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Science and Technology & Ministry of Earth Sciences	Chandni Chowk, Delhi
Prakash Javadekar	Ministry of environment, forest and climate change & Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise	Rajya Sabha (M.P)

Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Ministry of Steel	Rajya Sabha (M.P)
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Ministry of Minority Affairs	Rajya Sabha (Jharkhand)
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of coal & Ministry of Mines	Dharwad, Karnataka
Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Chandauli, UP
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Animal Husbandry, dairying and fisheries	Begusarai, Bihar

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