

October 2020

BOLT

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Banking & Finance

1. Indian Bank unveils IB-eNote facility

Public sector Indian Bank has unveiled its IB-eNote facility, aimed at providing a paperless working environment and to improve the turnaround time considerably. The initiative is expected to save costs on paper, printing and other administrative expenses. IB also launched Ind Guru, e-learning platform for its employees

2. SBI Card has joined hands with American Express to offer premium benefits, services

SBI Card has joined hands with Amex to offer global benefits and exclusive privileges for consumers in India. Under this agreement, SBI Card's top-end products SBI Card ELITE and SBI Card PRIME will be available on American Express's global network. MD & CEO, SBI Card: Ashwini Kumar Tewari

3. 6 public sector banks excluded from Second Schedule of RBI Act

The RBI has excluded 6 PSBs from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act following their merger with other banks. The six banks are Syndicate Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), United Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, and Allahabad Bank. Scheduled Comm. Bank: Bank mentioned in 2nd Schedule of RBI Act

4. IDBI Bank becomes first bank to enable document embedding feature on SFMS

IDBI has become 1st lender to enable document embedding feature on SFMS managed by Indian Financial Tech. & Allied Services. To further digitise financial transactions & to secure financial comm. system, IFTAS has introduced the feature of doc. embedding. IFTAS is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.

5. RBI fixes Centre's WMA limit at Rs 1.25 lakh crore for second half of FY 2020-21

RBI set the ways and means advances limit at Rs 1.25 lakh cr. for the Union govt for 2nd half of the fiscal year. WMAs are temporary advances given by the RBI to the government to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments. Interest rate on WMA= repo rate; On O/D it is 2% above repo rate

6. SBI signs MoU with HUL for an end to end digital solutions for ecosystem

Digitized solutions for trade partners are created to cater to the distribution & retail ecosystem of HUL. It also aims to make availing of credit easy for channel partners, provides UPI based payment solutions & PoS terminals to retailers & distributors. HUL is an Indian consumer goods company headquartered in Mumbai.

7. SEBI Imposes Rs 6-Crore Penalty on NSE For Multiple Omissions

The market regulator imposed a penalty of Rs 6 crore on the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. for lack of disclosures, getting into areas where it's not allowed, and not seeking prior permission when required. Mr. Vikram Limaye is the Managing Director and CEO of NSE.

8. ICICI Bank Introduces Cardless Cash Withdrawal Using iMobile App

ICICI Bank announced that it has launched for its customers the facility with which they can now use the iMobile app to withdraw cash in a simple and safe mode. The service is now available across 15,000 ICICI Bank ATMs across the country. National Financial Switch is the largest network of shared ATMs.

9. Suryoday Small Finance Bank files IPO papers with Sebi

Suryoday Small Finance Bank has filed draft papers with capital markets watchdog Sebi to float an initial public offering to utilise the net proceeds from the fresh issue towards augmenting its Tier –1 capital base to meet future capital requirements. Suryoday Small Finance Bank HQ: Navi Mumbai.

10. Gross NPAs as a percentage of gross loans outstanding of RRBs marginally declined to 10.4 per cent as on March 2020

Gross NPAs as a percentage of gross loans outstanding of RRBs marginally declined to 10.4 per cent as on March 2020 from 10.8 per cent as on March 31, 2019, as per paper published by the NABARD, based on the data on ENSURE portal. 45 RRBs functioning in 685 districts of 26 states & 3 UTs.

11. Indian Bank's Kisan credit card loan for TN fishermen

Indian Bank has introduced Kisan credit card loan scheme for fishermen in Tamil Nadu. Under this KCC loans of up to ₹2lakh as working capital with low-interest rate will be provided. A RUPAY KCC would be issued for loan provided under Centre's MUDRA scheme Indian Bank HQs: Chennai CEO: Padmaja Chundururu

12. Govt appoints Shashank Bhide, Ashima Goyal and Jayant Verma as new MPC members

Govt. has appointed Shashank Bhide, Ashima Goyal & Jayanth R Varma as independent members to MPC. Panel is chaired by RBI governor. The term of the independent members will be for a period of 4 years or until further order, whichever is earlier. The govt had set up the Monetary Policy Committee in 2016

13. Motilal Oswal Home Finance appoints Arvind Hali as new MD & CEO

Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFS) has appointed Arvind Hali as the new Managing Director & CEO of its housing finance company Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited. It has also appointed Amar Bahl as the Deputy Managing Director & COO of the company. MOFS founded by Motilal Oswal and Raamdeo Agarwal in 1987

14. Axis Bank, Vistara launch co-branded forex card

Vistara & Axis Bank launched a co-branded forex card that can load up to 16 currencies & has emergency assistance services like loss of passport assistance through Trip-Assist & insurance cover of up to Rs 3 lakhs. The card has locked-in exchange rates. Axis Bank CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry HQs: Mumbai

15. Sebi introduces very high-risk category in mutual fund schemes

Markets regulator SEBI revamped product labelling on M.F. schemes under risk-o-meter by introducing a "very high risk" category to warn investors. The existing 5 categories to measure risks are - low, low to moderate, moderate, moderately high, and high. SEBI Founded: 12 April 1992; HQs: Mumbai.

16. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches Indian Bank's business mentoring programme for MSMEs

FM launched 'MSME Prerana', an online business mentoring programme for MSMEs by state-run Indian Bank. The programme, to be made available in local languages, is aimed at empowering entrepreneurs through skill development and capacity building workshops. The initiative is in collaboration with Poornatha & Co.

17. In a first, ICICI Bank offers debit card for customers availing Loan Against Security

ICICI Bank became 1st Indian bank to introduce debit card facility for customers availing LAS from Bank. Debit card is available on Visa platform. It can be used across

all domestic merchant establishments to make seamless POS & online transactions. ICICI HQs: Mumbai; Founded: June 1994.

18. API integration between PM SVANidhi, SBI portal launched

As a part of PM SVANidhi Scheme, Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra launched the Application Programming Interface, integration b/w the PM SVANidhi Portal and SBI's eMudra portal to ease the processing of loan applications. It will benefit street vendors seeking a working capital loan.

19. Repo rate unchanged at 4%; GDP to contract by 9.5% in current FY: RBI

RBI in its bi-monthly Monetary Policy statement has maintained a status quo keeping the key interest rates unchanged. The reverse repo rate remains unchanged at 3.35%, repo rate at 4%. RBI proposed the RTGS system to become 24X7 from Dec. 2020. RBI will extend the scheme for co-lending to all NBFC, HFC.

20. Digital payments grew at 55% CAGR in the last 5 yrs: RBI

RBI revealed that Digital payments have grown at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 55.1% between FY16-FY20. The transactions grew from 593.61 crore in the year to March 2016 to 3,434.56 crore in the year to March 2020. HQs: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935.

21. Axis Bank launches ACE Credit Card, in collaboration with Google Pay & Visa

Axis Bank in collaboration with Google Pay & Visa launched ACE Credit Card with aim of increasing participation of users in digital economy. For essential use cases, including recharges & bill payments made via Google Pay users can earn a cashback of 5%. Axis Bank CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry; HQs: Mumbai; Founded: 1993.

22. RBI to discontinue system-based automatic caution-listing of exporters

To provide flexibility to exporters in realisation of export proceeds, RBI has discontinued the system-based automatic caution-listing of exporters. Export Data Processing & Monitoring System, Caution/De-caution Listing of exporters was automated in 2016. 25th RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das.

23. PM Modi release commemorative ₹75 coin to mark 75th Anniversary of FAO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of ₹75 denominations to mark the 75th Anniversary of Food and Agriculture Organization. PM also dedicate 17 recently developed bio-fortified varieties of 8 crops to the nation. FAO HQs: Rome, Italy; Founded: 16 October 1945.

24. "Bank of Ghana" wins Central bank of the year award 2020

The Bank of Ghana has been presented with prestigious Central Bank of the Year Award by the Central Banking Awards Committee. Mark Carney (Governor of the Bank of England) has won the Governor of the year at the Central bank of the year award 2020. Ghana's Capital: Accra; Currency: Ghanaian cedi.

25. IKEA, Citi & Mastercard Jointly Introduced IKEA Family Credit Card to Redefine Indian Shopping

IKEA, Citibank India (Citi) and Mastercard came together and launched of 'IKEA Family Credit Card by Citi'. This card provides instant in-store card bookings, direct payments via Bharat QR, accelerated reward points and attractive EMIs. Mastercard & Citibank both have HQ at New York, USA.

26. Union Bank of India's CEO Rajkiran Rai appointed as IBA chairman

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) said Union Bank of India's MD and CEO Rajkiran Rai G has been elected as the association's chairman for the term 2020-21. SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara has been elected as the deputy chairman of the association. IBA is an association of banks, financial institutions

27. IDBI Bank launches banking services on WhatsApp

IDBI Bank Limited announced the launch of banking services on WhatsApp for its customers. WhatsApp Banking facility, shall enable IDBI Bank customers to avail various essential banking services such as account balance information, last 5 transactions etc IDBI Bank Ltd CEO: Rakesh Sharma Headquarters: Mumbai

28. HDFC Bank board appoints Sashidhar Jagdishan as its MD & CEO

Board of directors of HDFC Bank has approved appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of bank for 3-year term from October 27, 2020. He was appointed as Chief Financial Officer in the year 2008. He will replace its Founder/CEO Aditya Puri

29. Nabard's NABSAMRUDDHI Finance does its first pooled loan issuance for NBFCs with Northern Arc

Northern Arc Capital has executed Pooled Loan Issuance of ₹50cr with NABSAMRUDDHI Finance for 5 NBFCs: Satya Microcapital, Sonata Microfinance, Kinara Capital, IntelleGrow and Berar Finance to provide credit facilities to individuals & small business. NABARD Founded: 12 July 1982

30. IFSCA releases framework for regulatory sandbox to tap into innovative fintech solutions

International Financial Services Centres Authority introduced a framework for regulatory sandbox enabling entities regulated by watchdog to test their new solutions in live environment & on a limited set of real customers with necessary safeguards. IFSC located at GIFT-City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

31. Bank of Baroda ties up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor for auto finance

State-owned Bank of Baroda announced a tie up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor to enable finance options for the automaker's customers and dealers. Following the pact, BoB will be one of the preferred financiers for the entire range of vehicles sold by TKM. Bank of Baroda Founded: 20 July 1908.

32. SEBI Amends Alternative Investment Fund Rules

SEBI has amended norms relating to alternative investment funds, including defining relevant professional qualifications. Qualification & Exp. criteria of investment team may be fulfilled individually or collectively by personnel of key investment team. SEBI Founded: 12 April 1992; HQs: Mumbai.

33. Paytm to issue 2 million credit cards in next 12-18 months

Paytm in alliance with various card issuers would issue 2 million cards to introduce co-branded credit cards in the next 12-18 months. Next generation credit cards include insurance protection against fraudulent transactions & personalised spend analyser. Paytm Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma; HQs: Noida.

34. SEBI forms committee to recommend policy for securities market data

SEBI has formed a market data advisory committee to recommend appropriate policy for access to securities market data, identify segment-wise data perimeters, data needs and gaps, recommend data privacy & data access regulations applicable to market data. Committee is headed by Madhabi Puri Buch.

35. RBI revises norms for housing finance firms

According to this, Housing Finance Companies, to have at least 60% of their net assets deployed for providing finance for housing by March 31, 2024. HFCs unable to fulfil the criteria as per the timeline to be treated as NBFC –Investment & Credit Companies Home financiers will now be regulated as a category of NBFCs.

36. RBI bars payment system operators from launching any new QR codes

RBI released norms to make QR codes interoperable to aid electronic payments. Firms which use more than one QR code must shift to one or more interoperable QR codes by 31 March 2022. This will allow use of one QR code through which all payments can be made Norms based on the recommendation of Deepak Pathak committee.

37. SEBI comes out with framework for recovery expense fund

SEBI came out with a framework for creation of a Recovery Expense Fund by an issuer company proposing to list debt securities. Creation of such a fund will enable a debenture trustee to take prompt action for enforcement of security in case of a default. The new directions will come into force from January 1.

38. NBFCs approach RBI for inclusion as beneficiaries to on-tap TLTRO

RBI made sectors such as agriculture agri-infrastructure, secured retail, MSMEs and drugs, pharmaceuticals & healthcare, eligible for deployment of funds availed under on tap TLTRO. NBFCs requested to be included as a sector to avail funds under the scheme It will remain operational till March 31, 2021.

39. MCX Launches 'METLDEX,' India's First Base Metals Futures Index

Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), India's leading commodity bourse launched Base Metals Index METLDEX. It will track real-time performance of a basket of MCX Base Metal (near month) futures, viz. zinc (33.06% weightage), copper, nickel, lead, and aluminium. MCX CEO: P S Reddy. Chairperson: Saurabh Chandra.

40. State Bank of India raises Rs 5,000 cr by issuing Basel-III compliant bonds

SBI raised Rs 5000 crore by issuing Basel-III compliant non-convertible, taxable debt instruments. Debentures qualifying as tier II capital of face value of Rs 10 lakh each, bearing coupon of 5.83% aggregating to Rs 5,000 crore allotted to bond subscribers Interest to be paid annually for a tenor of 10 years.

41. CSB Bank partners with IIFL Finance for gold loan origination

Private-sector Bank CSB entered into a partnership with non-banking finance company, IIFL Finance (IIFL) for sourcing and managing retail gold loan assets. IIFL, with its vast branch network, to help bank to penetrate rural areas to increase customer base. CSB Bank HQ: Thrissur CEO: C.VR. Rajendran.

42. RBI asks lending institutions to implement waiver of interest on interest scheme

RBI asked all lending institutions, including NBFCs to implement the waiver of interest on interest for loans up to Rs 2 crore for the six months moratorium period beginning March 1, 2020. Housing loans, education loans are covered under the scheme. Credit card due, MSME loan, Consumer durables loans also covered

43. SBI Raises USD 1 Billion Untied Loan With JBIC, Other Lenders

State Bank of India (SBI) signed a loan agreement amounting to up to USD 1 billion with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to promote the smooth flow of funds for a whole range of business operations of Japanese automobile manufacturers in India. It is the 1st time JBIC & SBI are entering into untied loan.

44. Amazon Pay ICICI Bank credit card fastest to cross 1 million milestones

According to ICICI Bank and Amazon Pay, the credit card has become fastest in the country to cross one million milestones. Amazon Pay & ICICI Bank introduced the co-branded credit card in 2018. Amazon pay ICICI Bank credit card has no joining or annual fee. Amazon Pay launched in 2007.

45. IndusInd Bank first bank to go live on RBI's 'Account Aggregator Framework'

IndusInd Bank announced that it has gone live as a 'Financial Information Provider' (FIP) under the new 'Account Aggregator Framework' of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), making it the first bank in the country to do so. IndusInd Bank commenced operations in 1994.

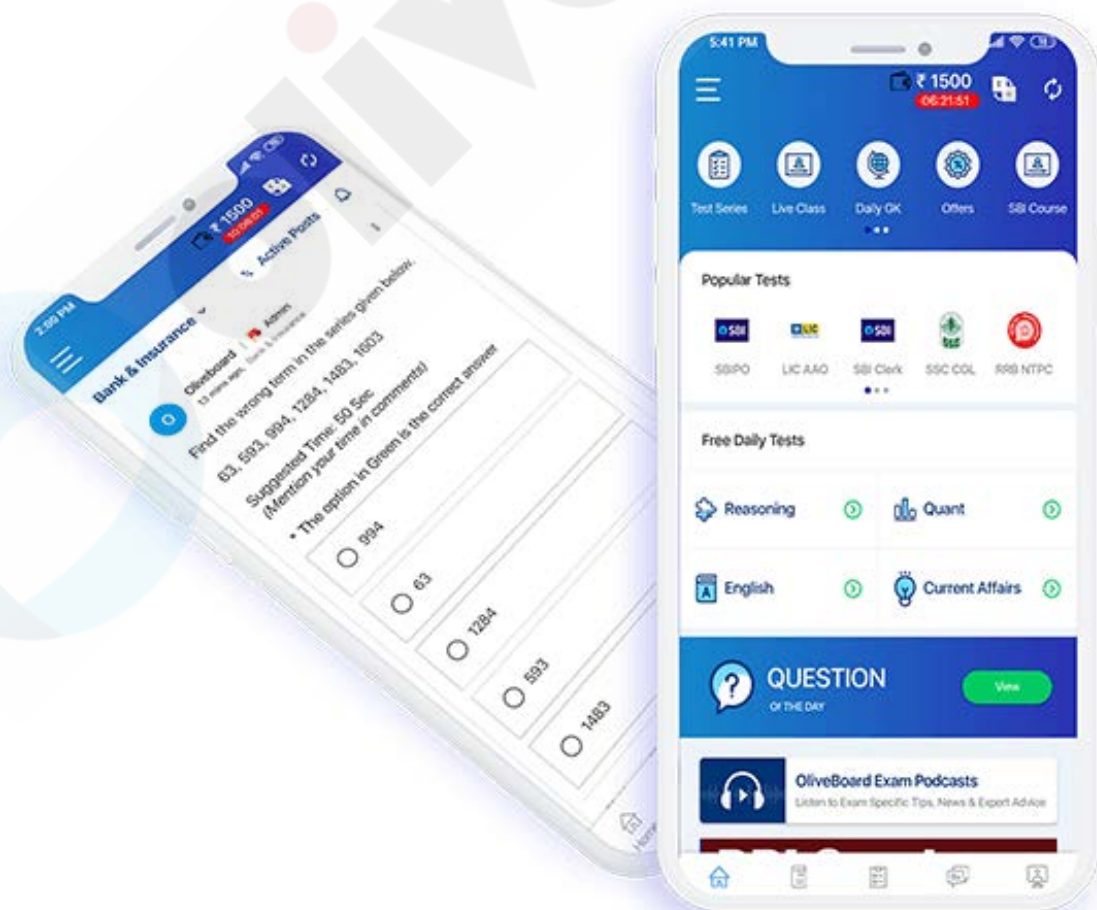
46. DBS named Asia's Safest Bank for 12th consecutive year

DBS Bank has been named the Safest Bank in Asia for the 12th consecutive year by New York-based trade publication Global Finance. DBS' rankings as the 4-safest commercial bank in the world & 14th safest bank globally remains unchanged from 2019 and 2018. KfW (Germany) is ranked as the the world's Safest Bank.

47. RBI imposes monetary penalty on DCB Bank, Jio Payments Bank for rule violations

RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 22 lakh on DCB Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions on marketing/distribution of mutual fund/insurance etc. In the case of Jio Payments Bank, the RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore. DCB and Jio Payments bank are headquartered at Mumbai.

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Economy

1. Govt agrees to waive interest on interest on loans up to Rs 2 crore during moratorium

Centre has informed the Supreme Court that it has decided to waive "interest on interest" on loans up to Rs 2 crore during the 6-month moratorium period, giving a big relief to retail and MSME borrowers. Expert committee on the issue was headed by Rajiv Mehrishi.

2. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to chair 42nd GST Council

FM will chair 42nd GST Council meeting through video conferencing. The meeting will be attended by MoS for Finance & Finance Ministers of States & UTs. In last meeting, Centre had given 2 borrowing options to States to meet GST compensation requirement. GST Council has been constituted under Article 279A.

3. TCS becomes second Indian company to cross ₹10 lakh crore in market cap

TCS became the second Indian firm after Reliance Industries to attain a market valuation of more than Rs 10 lakh crore helped by a rally in its share price. TCS shares jumped over 7% ahead of its board meeting to consider a share buyback proposal. TCS CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan; Founded: 1 April 1968.

4. BRICS Bank approves funds for Delhi-Meerut rapid rail, Mumbai metro

New Development Bank, also known as BRICS Bank, has approved infrastructure projects worth \$741mn. in India. Shanghai-based bank approved a loan of \$500mn for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Project & a loan of \$241mn for the Mumbai Metro Rail II Project. NDB was established by Brazil, Russia, India, China & S. Africa

5. India's GDP expected to contract by 9.6% this fiscal: World Bank

World Bank in its latest South Asia Economic Focus report stated that India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6% this fiscal which is reflective of the national lockdown & income shock experienced by households, firms due to the COVID-19 pandemic. World Bank HQs: Washington D.C., US; Founded: July 1944.

6. India to surpass Japan to become the third largest economy by 2050

Taking 2017 as the base year when India was the seventh-largest economy, the Lancet paper said India will move up to become the fourth-largest economy behind the US, China, Japan by 2030 and subsequently will overtake Japan in 2050. India is currently the 5th largest economy in the world.

7. Nirmala Sitharaman announces fiscally prudent proposals to tune of ₹73,000 cr to boost demand

Finance Minister announced major schemes to boost demands in the country by nearly ₹73,000cr. The new proposals aim at giving a thrust of around ₹36,000cr. to the consumer demands by the Leave Travel Concession Voucher and Festival advance scheme. Interest-free advance of ₹10,000 will be given to govt employees

8. IMF projects India's GDP to contract 10.3% in 2020

International Monetary Fund projected India's GDP to plunge in FY21 by 10.3%, revised down since its June forecast of 4.5% drop, reflecting a severe-than-anticipated contraction in economic activities in the 1st quarter as a result of nationwide lockdown IMF HQs: Washington D.C., U.S; Founded: 27 December 1945.

9. Finance Minister holds 4th review meeting on CAPEX of CPSEs

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs held Video Conference with Secretaries of Ministries of Petroleum & Natural Gas & M/o Coal, along with CMDs of 14 CPSEs

belonging to Ministries, to review capital expenditure (CAPEX) in this financial year. In FY 2019-20 CAPEX target: ₹1,11,672cr.; Achieved: ₹1,16,323cr.

10. India recorded export growth of 4% in Sept: UNCTAD

UNCTAD's new global trade update stated that global trade recorded a 5% drop in 3rd quarter of 2020. India's export growth saw a decline of 6.1% in 3rd quarter of 2020 as compared to last year. However, India recorded export growth of 4% in September. HQs: Geneva, Switzerland; Founded: 30 December 1964.

11. RBI to buy state bonds in open market for the second time

RBI will aim to purchase Rs 10,000 crore worth of bonds issued by more than a dozen state governments known as State Development Loans in market parlance for the second time. Earlier the RBI conducted the first ever such OMOs on October 22. Selected papers residual maturities fall between 2029-2031.

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National

1. Science and Technology Minister launches CSIR technologies for rural development

Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched CSIR technologies for rural development. This is a joint initiative of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA). The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Founded: 1942

2. National Institute of Nutrition Changes Average Weight, Height Measurements for Indian Men and Women

Average weight for Indian men has been increased to 65kg, while that of Indian women has been changed to 55kg. The new average height for Indian men is 5.8 feet (177 cm), and that for women is 5.3 feet (162 cm). Average body weight for Indians is increased by 5kg.

3. NABARD launches refinance scheme for WASH programme, earmarks Rs 800 cr for FY'21

In a bid to promote a sustainable and healthy lifestyle in rural areas, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced a special refinance facility to support the government's Water, Sanitisation, and Hygiene (WASH) program. NABARD Chairman: G R Chintala.

4. Indian Railways unveils new Tejas locomotives, can run at speed of 160kmph

Indian Railways' electric locomotive manufacturing unit Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) had turned out the First batch of Tejas Express locos for 'push-pull' operations with aerodynamically designed WAP-5 (loco no. 35012 & 35013). The maximum tractive effort of a single WAP5 loco is 260 kN.

5. PM Modi inaugurates 9.02km Atal Tunnel connecting Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Atal Tunnel under the Rohtang Pass that connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley in Himachal Pradesh, which will be available for commuters throughout the year. It is a horseshoe-shaped, single tube double lane tunnel. Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world.

6. PM Modi pays tributes to freedom fighter Shyamji Krishna Varma on his birth anniversary

PM paid rich tributes to revolutionary freedom fighter Shyamji Krishna Varma. He was born in 1857 & had set up revolutionary centre in 'India House', London. He propagated cause of India's independence through the journal called 'The Indian Sociologist'. He was the founder of the Indian Home Rule Society.

7. Govt removes requirement of Minimum Qualifying Service for Defence personnel for Enhanced Family Pension

Govt. scrapped the req. of Minimum Qualifying Service for Enhanced Family Pension w.e.f. 1st Oct 2019. As per existing provision, there is req. of continuous qualifying service of 7yrs for grant of Ordinary Family Pension at enhanced rate to Next of Kin. Enhanced Family Pension is calculated at 50% of last emoluments

8. Piyush Goyal Inaugurates Renaming of Naugarh Railway Station to Siddharthnagar

Railway Minister virtually inaugurated the renaming of Naugarh station to Siddharthnagar station situated at Siddharthnagar district in UP. Naugarh was renamed in view of public aspirations due to the birth of Mahatma Buddha in Lumbini near Naugarh. The name of Naugarh was changed to Siddharthnagar in Dec. 2019.

9. Education Minister virtually inaugurates Gyan Circle Ventures

Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually inaugurated Gyan Circle Ventures, a MeitY funded Technology Business Incubator of IIIT, Chittoor, AP. Gyan Circle Ventures would function as a Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs incubation center. AP CM: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy; Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan

10. Piyush Goyal assigned additional charge of Consumer Affairs ministry

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been assigned additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, following demise of Ram Vilas Paswan. He is currently serving as Minister of Railways & Minister of Commerce and Industry. MoS Ministry of Consumer Affairs: Raosaheb Patil Danve.

11. Rajnath Singh to dedicate to nation 44 Bridges built by BRO across 7 States, UTs through video conferencing

These bridges are built in border areas of Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. The foundation Stone for Nechiphu Tunnel on the road to Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh will also be laid during this event Director General of BRO- Lt Gen Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastava.

12. GJEPC to organize first ever Virtual India International Jewellery Show

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India (GJEPC) will conduct 1st ever Virtual India International Jewellery Show on 12th of October. Near about 350+ exhibitors will showcase their exquisite jewellery collections to the registered visitors. GJEPC Headquarters: Mumbai, formed on: 1966.

13. Hughes India selected to connect remotely located panchayats with satellite broadband

Govt has selected Hughes India to connect 5,000 village panchayats in border & Naxal-affected states and island territories with satellite broadband under BharatNet project. Hughes will enable Internet service using capacity from ISRO's GSAT-19 and GSAT-11 The completion of the project is expected by March 2021.

14. Govt agrees to extend subsidy of 50 % on transportation of notified fruits & vegetables through Kisan Rail trains

Ministry of Food Processing Industries has agreed to extend a subsidy of 50% on transportation of notified fruits & vegetables through Kisan Rail trains, under 'Operation Greens - TOP to Total.' Ministry will initially provide ₹10cr to operate scheme. The Fund will be deposited with South Central Railway.

15. IMD launches impact-based cyclone warning system

India Meteorological Department has launched a dynamic, impact-based cyclone warning system aimed at minimising economic losses and damage to property from cyclones that hit the country's coasts every year. IMD has partnered with NDMA and INCOIS. India Meteorological Department Founded: 1875.

16. Films Division to stream documentary titled 'People's President' on birth anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

Films Division will stream 52-minute English documentary titled People's President on its website & YouTube Channel. Directed by Pankaj Vyas, it is dedicated to Dr Kalam's life & work including Missile Man's pivotal role in success of Indian Aerospace Prog A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has served as the 11th President of India.

17. Nitin Gadkari start ZojiLa Tunnel works with ceremonial blast

Union Road Transport and Highways started ZojiLa Tunnel works with ceremonial blast, at ZojiLa in Kargil district. The tunnel is strategically important for all weather movement of troops on National Highway No. 1 as and when required. It will be India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest tunnel

18. Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurates Innovation & Incubation Center and Sports Complex at IIT Jodhpur

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurated 2 facilities namely Innovation and Incubation Center & Sports Complex in the Campus of IIT Jodhpur that comprises all-important sports facilities such as cricket, football, hockey, basketball, tennis. Focal theme for this center is convergence of AI, IOT, & 5G.

19. FSSAI's new food safety compliance platform to become operational across India from November

Food regulator FSSAI's Food Safety Compliance System will become operational in the entire country from November 1. The system is operational in 9 States/UTs: Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat, Odisha, Chandigarh, Goa, Manipur, Puducherry and Ladakh since June. FSSAI Founded: August 2011; HQs: New Delhi.

20. India takes up cultivation of Heeng for the first time

The CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology has started the cultivation of asafoetida (Heeng) for the first time in India. The first seedling of the spice was planted at a farmer's field in Kwaring village of Lahaul valley in Himachal Pradesh. India imports about 1200 tonnes of raw asafoetida annually

21. MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari launches India's first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear

Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises virtually launched India's first-ever high-quality Khadi Fabric Footwear, designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). These footwears are made of Khadi fabric like Silk, Cotton and Wool. Khadi and Village Industries Commission founded: 1956.

22. CBSE introduces facial recognition systems for accessing digital documents

Using state of the art Facial Recognition System, CBSE will enable students to download their digital academic documents of class X and XII. This computer application matches human face from a digital image already stored in the database. Application is available on Parniaam Manjusha and Digi Locker.

23. AYUSH Minister inaugurates Regional Raw Drug Repository at AIIA

AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik virtually inaugurated the Regional Raw Drug Repository at All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi. It is the second in the series of repositories proposed by the National Medicinal Plants Board. AYUSH: Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy.

24. EC sets up panel to revise expenditure limit for Lok Sabha, assembly polls

Election Commission has set up a committee to examine issue of revising expenditure limit for candidates for Lok Sabha & assembly polls in view of increase in no. of electors & rise in Cost Inflation Index. Committee comprises of Harish Kumar & Umesh Sinha. The expenditure limit for candidates was last revised in 2014.

25. Jitendra Singh addresses 1st ever Ministerial Meeting of G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group

Speaking at the 1st ever Ministerial Meeting of G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (launched on its 10th anniversary year), Minister Jitendra Singh reiterated that India is committed to the policy of zero tolerance against corruption and unaccounted money. Presidency of G-20 for 2020: Saudi Arabia.

26. Govt notifies amendment to motor vehicle rules for ownership details in registration documents

Government notified amendments to the motor vehicle rules for clearly incorporating ownership details in registration documents to help physically challenged persons. Under the amended forms, ownership details will be captured under different categories. Minister of Road, Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari.

27. Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launches "Life in Miniature" project

Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launched Life in Miniature project, a collaboration between National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts & Culture. It uses technologies like machine learning to showcase special arts in a news way. Constituency of Prahlad Singh Patel: Damoh, MP.

28. MoS Muraleedharan Inaugurates Philately Exhibition On 'India And The UN: A Postal History'

On the occasion of the 75th United Nations Day, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan inaugurated a philately exhibition on India and the UN: A Postal History. Govt released a commemorative postage stamp on the 75th anniversary of the UN. UN Secretary-General: Antonio Guterres HQ: New York, USA.

29. PM Modi Inaugurates 4th edition of India Energy Forum

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4th India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK organised by HIS Markit. The theme of this edition is "India's Energy Future in a World of Change". According to PM, India is the 3rd largest & fastest growing market in domestic aviation. Indian carriers to increase their fleet size to 1200 by 2024.

30. Arjun Munda launches Two Centres of Excellence for Tribal Welfare

Arjun Munda launched Strengthening PRIs in 5 districts covering 30 Gram Panchayats and 150 villages of Jharkhand. The second is about training 10000 tribal farmers in Maharashtra on sustainable natural farming based on Go-Adharith farming techniques. Arjun Munda Constituency: Kunti, Jharkhand.

31. Govt sets up high-level committee to commemorate 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur

The centre set up a 70-member committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for planning programmes, supervising & guiding the commemoration of 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur. It includes former PM Manmohan Singh & CMs of many states. Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla to be member secretary.

32. Vice President launches the virtual festival of 'Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music & Dance'

Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu launched the virtual festival of Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance organised by Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations. Natya Tarangini has been organising this for the past 23 years UN HQ: New York, USA Secretary-General: Antonio Guterres.

33. NITI Aayog forms panel under Rajiv Kumar to reform in urban planning education

NITI Aayog has constituted a panel to look into introducing reforms in the urban planning education system headed by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar. Panel to examine the availability, demand and supply of qualified urban planners in the country. It is a 14-member advisory committee.

34. Union Education Minister inaugurated the DST-IIEST Solar PV Hub at IEST, Shibpur

A one-of-its-kind R&D unit set up by Department of Science and Technology & IEST, with world-class facilities in the field of solar energy was inaugurated at IEST Shibpur. It will act as central node for dissemination of knowledge in solar photovoltaics. Shibpur is located in Howrah, West Bengal.

35. Indian Railways launches 'Operation Meri Saheli' for security of women while travelling

An initiative of Railways Protection Force (RPF), the strategy of the entails interaction with women passengers especially those travelling alone by a team of young woman RPF personnel at the originating station. Arun Kumar, Director General, RPF.

36. NITI Aayog, QCI launch 'National Program and Project Management Policy Framework' for infrastructure sector

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari unveiled the Indian Infrastructure Body of Knowledge (InBoK), a book on the practice of program and project management in India and launched the framework. NITI Aayog VC Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant.

37. Cabinet approves Mechanism for procurement of ethanol by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies

The new Price fixed for Ethanol produced from sugar will be Rs. 62.65 per litre, ethanol manufactured from B heavy molasses will be Rs. 57.61 per litre and ethanol manufactured from C heavy molasses will be Rs. 45.69 per litre. Ethanol is a volatile, flammable, colorless liquid.

38. Union Cabinet approves nationwide project for rehabilitation and improvement of dams worth Rs. 10,211 crores

The Union Cabinet approved externally aided DRIP Phase II and Phase III. The programme will fund physical rehabilitation of key dams as well as capacity building of dam operators in order to ensure the availability of trained and skilled manpower. Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP).

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International

1. Trial begins for first hydrogen-powered train in UK

Britain began trial of the country's first hydrogen-powered train that does not emit harmful gases and uses hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity, water and heat. The trials of the HydroFLEX hydrogen train follows nearly two years of development work. The Train is expected to be available by 2023.

2. Argentina becomes 1st nation to approve genetically modified wheat

Argentina has approved HB4 drought-resistant GMO wheat by biotechnology firm Bioceres, making it 1st nation in world to approve a strain of GMO wheat. Argentina said HB4 tech provides seeds that are more tolerant to drought & minimize production losses. Capital: Buenos Aires; Currency: Argentine peso.

3. India, Chile Hold First Joint Commission Meeting virtually

India & Chile held their 1st joint commission meeting & agreed to add new momentum to their relations in a wide range of fields including trade/commerce, agriculture, health/social security, defence/space. Chile has designated India as a priority country. Chile will be opening its Consulate General in Mumbai.

4. Jacinda Ardern wins landslide re-election in New Zealand General elections

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's centre-left Labour Party won a landslide victory in New Zealand's general election. The mandate means Ms Ardern, 40, could form the first single-party government in decades. Capital: Wellington; Currency: New Zealand dollar.

5. Nippon Life Invests in World Bank Sustainable Development Bonds and Highlights Support for Nutrition

World Bank (IBRD) issued a 15-year AU\$150 million Sustainable Development Bond for the 1st time highlighting the importance of good nutrition to build human capital. Nippon Life Insurance Company was the sole investor in this transaction. IBRD offers loans to middle-income developing countries.

6. Pakistan to remain in grey list of global terror financing watchdog- FATF till February 2021

Pakistan to remain on grey list of global terror financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force as it did not fulfil 6 out of 27 mandates to check terror funding. It makes it extremely difficult for Pakistan to get financial aid from IMF, World Bank & EU. FATF HQ: Paris, France. President: Marcus Pleyer. Members: 39.

7. Sudan Becomes Third Arab State to Set Aside Hostilities With Israel This Year

Abdalla Hamdok, the Prime Minister of Sudan, along with Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the head of Sudan's sovereign council, entered into an agreement with the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. Egypt, Jordan, UAE & Bahrain have also normalized ties. Sudan Capital: Khartoum. Currency: Sudanese pound.

8. Indian-origin Wavel Ramkalawan is elected Seychelles President

Seychelles elected an opposition candidate as president for the first time since 1977. Wavel Ramkalawan was elected as the President reaffirmed his pledge to hike the minimum wage after Covid-19 stifled the country. VP: Ahmed Afif. He defeated Danny Faure. Seychelles Capital: Victoria. Currency: Seychellois rupee.

9. Japan to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050

Japan, world's 3rd largest economy & 5th largest emitter of CO2 committed to reaching a target of zero emissions of greenhouse gases and achieving a carbon-neutral society by 2050, with a fundamental shift in policy on coal use. Japan PM: Yoshihide Suga. At least 56% of Japan's energy needs come from fossil fuels.

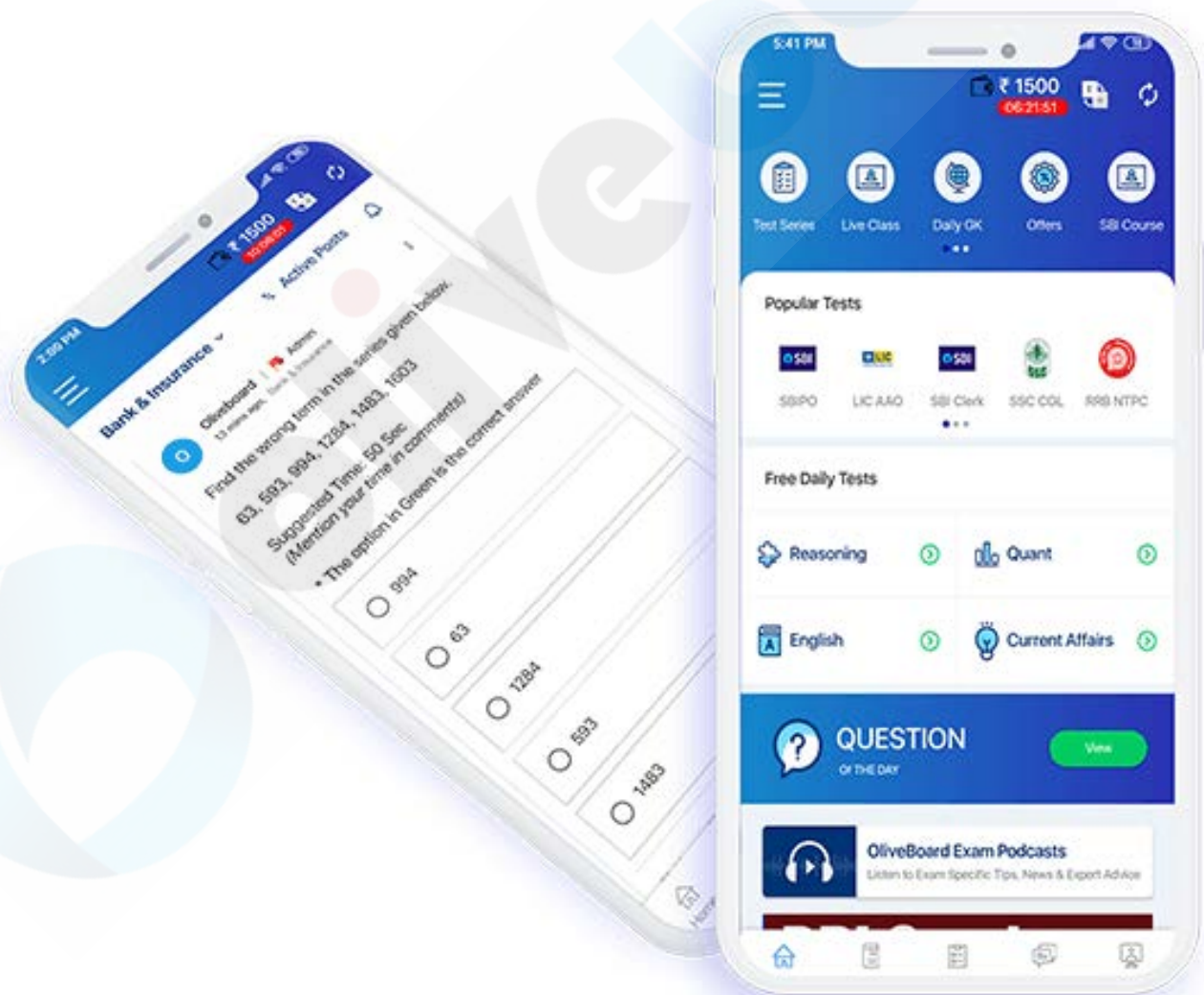
10. Construction of world's longest tunnel, Fehmarnbelt Tunnel, begins

The Fehmarnbelt Tunnel that will connect Denmark and Germany, is scheduled to be opened by 2029. It is built with a budget of more than US\$8 billion. It will have an 18 km extension and built across the Fehmarn Belt, a strait between the Germany & Denmark Travelling to take 7 minutes by train and 10 minutes by car.

11. Luis Arce elected as President of Bolivia

Luis Arce was elected as President of Bolivia in the elections held on October 18. He is the chosen successor of Evo Morales, who was president of the country from 2006 to 2019. Luis Arce is a member of the political party Movement Toward Socialism. Bolivia Capital: La Paz, Sucre. Currency: Boliviano.

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States/UTs

Andhra Pradesh

1. Andhra Pradesh launches Jaganna Vidya Kanuka scheme

Andhra Pradesh CM launched a scheme for students studying in government schools. Scheme would help in improving Government schools' quality and enrolments and would aid in providing kits to Govt school students who are enrolled in class 1 to 10 standards. CM: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy; Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan.

2. Andhra Pradesh launched YSR Bima for BPL families

Andhra Pradesh CM launched 'YSR Bima' scheme under which 1.41crore BPL families possessing white ration-cards will be provided insurance cover for death & permanent disability. The State will pay ₹510crore towards premium every year. AP CM: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy; Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan

Arunachal Pradesh

1. AAI to develop greenfield airport at Hollongi by November 2022

Arunachal Pradesh is poised to feature on the country's aviation map with a greenfield airport at Hollongi. The project includes the development work, construction of airport pavements, air side work, terminal Building, and city side works. Capital: Itanagar; CM: Pema Khandu.

Assam

1. Assam CM presents Anundoram Borooh Award 2020

Assam CM presented the Anundoram Borooh Award 2020 to students who secured 75% or above in matriculation examination in Guwahati. Anundoram Borooh Awards which was started in 2005, has become one of the flagships schemes of the government Capital: Dispur; CM: Sarbananda Sonowal

2. 'Kritagyata', an online portal to expedite disposal of pensions in Assam

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launched a portal 'Kritagyata'. It is the first portal of its kind among all the states in the country that has been designed to bring inexpediency in the disposal of pensions to the retired government employees. Portal has been created in line with 'Bhabhisya' portal of GoI.

3. Assam government launches mobile app, Kisan Rath, to promote buyer-seller network

To promote buyer-seller network in state, Assam has launched a mobile app Kisan Rath. App connects more than 10,000 farmers, 50 farmer-producer & 1,000 verified agricultural traders on its interface. App is available in 3 lang. - Assamese, Hindi & English. Capital: Dispur; CM: Sarbananda Sonowal.

4. Assam launches "Swa-nirbhar Naari: Atmanirbhar Asom" scheme

Assam CM launched Swa-nirbhar Naari: Atmanirbhar Asom, scheme to empower economically disadvantaged women. It aims to create around 3.72 lakh sustainable individual & 822 community assets in 1st phase under MGNREGA with convergence of schemes of State govt Assam's Capital: Dispur; CM: Sarbananda Sonowal.

5. Nitin Gadkari to lay foundation stone for country's first-ever multi-modal logistic park in Assam

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari virtually laid the foundation stone for India's 1st multi-modal logistics park in Assam to be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹694cr. Park

will provide direct connectivity through air, road, rail, and waterways to people. Park will be developed under the ambitious Bharatmala Pariyojna.

6. Assam CM lays foundation stone of Assam Agar International Trade Centre

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of Assam Agar International Trade Centre at Golaghat to promote the business potential of the farmers as well as entrepreneurs associated with agarwood plantation and trade in the state. This trade centre is the first of its kind in the country.

Bihar

1. Election Commission appoints Madhu Mahajan & B. R Balakrishnan as Special Expenditure Observers

EC has appointed Ms. Madhu Mahajan & B. R Balakrishnan as Special Expenditure Observers for the General Election of Bihar, 2020. They will ensure stringent & effective enforcement action based on intelligence inputs & complaints received through C-VIGIL. The Election Commission of India was formed on 25 January 1950.

Goa

1. Goa launches 'DISHTAVO' an online platform for teaching & learning

Giving a further boost to e-learning in higher education for the year 2020-21, Goa has launched a YouTube channel 'DISHTAVO', wherein the students will be able to view recorded lectures. The digital platform was launched by Directorate of Higher Education. Goa's Capital: Panaji; CM Pramod Sawant.

2. Goa becomes first 'Har Ghar Jal' state in country

Goa has become 1st Har Ghar Jal State by providing tap water connection to every rural household. State has provided tap water connection to 2,30,000 houses. State is planning for sensor-based service delivery monitoring system to monitor functionality. Goa's Capital: Panaji; CM: Pramod Sawant.

3. India's First Sand Dune Park to Come Up in Goa

To give a boost to tourism in Goa, it is about to come up with India's first sand dune park. The World Bank accepted the proposal and has sanctioned a sum of Rs 3 crore for the project. Morjim and Galibaga beaches are among the ones to get this feature. Sand dunes are geological deposits formed by the action of wind.

4. NABARD sanctions over ₹ 8504.30 lakh under RIDF scheme to Government of Goa during 2020-21

RIDF was instituted in NABARD with the sole objective of giving low cost support to State Governments & State-owned Corporations for quick completion of projects related to medium & minor irrigation, soil conservation & others forms of rural infrastructure. Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) set up in 1995-96.

Gujarat

1. Gujarat govt to provide subsidised food grain to additional 10 lakh families under NFSA

Gujarat has decided to provide subsidised food grain to additional 10 lakh families under the National Food Security Act. With this, all NFSA benefits will be available to 50 lakh poor citizens. Beneficiaries will get 5kg food grains per month. Gujarat's Capital: Gandhinagar; Governor: Acharya Devvrat

2. Gujarat govt announces Digital Seva Setu Programme for rural areas

Gujarat has announced Digital Seva Setu Programme for rural areas in which citizens will be able to get benefit from public welfare services at Panchayat level. It is initiated

under Bharat Net Project. Phase 1 of Digital Seva Setu will start from 8th Oct. Villages will be connected with 100 MBPS optical fibre network

3. Gujarat to get country's first two Organic Spices Seed parks

First-of-its-kind organic spices seed park will come up at 2 places, Banaskantha (fennel seed) & Patan (cumin seed), in Gujarat with an aim to encourage capacity building & adoption of best practices in the production of seeds, main crops in region. National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development Founded: 1982.

4. Gujarat e-dedicates online e-Sanjeevani OPDs scheme

Gujarat CM e-dedicated online e-Sanjeevani OPDs scheme. The objective of the scheme is to provide online medical facilities to patients for common diseases at their homes. It is a step ahead of telemedicine facilities for diagnosis on the phone. e-Sanjeevani OPDs scheme is the central scheme

5. PM inaugurates cardiac hospital and world's longest temple ropeway

PM e-dedicated India's biggest cardiac hospital at U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology & Research Centre & launched a mobile application for telecardiology at Civil Hospital campus in Ahmedabad. He also launched the world's longest temple ropeway project. Grinar ropeway is of 2.3km length & 900 m height.

Haryana

1. Haryana Government launches 'Gram Darshan'

Haryana CM digitally launched Gram Darshan, a platform making the accessibility of data of 6,197 Gram Panchayats of the state online. Details of completed ongoing & required development projects of every village in Haryana will be digitally available. Haryana CM: Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya

2. PM Modi Launches Kisan Suryodaya Yojana in Gujarat

Farmers in the state will be able to avail power supply from 5 am to 9 pm (total of 16 hours) under the Kisan Suryodaya Yojana every day. A budget of Rs 3,500 crore has been allocated for installing transmission infrastructure under this scheme by 2023. 234 '66 kW' transmission lines to be established under this.

Karnataka

1. BMRCL signs MoU with South Western Railway

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL) signed an MoU with Bengaluru division of South Western Railway (SWR) to provide multi-transit integration facilities. Under this, steps will be taken to integrate Yashwantpur metro station with the railway station. Karnataka capital: Bengaluru CM: B S Yediyurappa

Kerala

1. Rare fish family discovered in paddy fields of Kerala

A new family of bony freshwater fish has been discovered from paddy fields. It is believed that this fish has lineage going back to Gondwanaland & has survived even after the parting away of the Asian & African continents began some 120 million years ago. Fish family is named as Aenigmachannidae.

2. New perennial woody herb species spotted in Kerala

Researchers have reported a new species of perennial woody herb of the genus *Lepidagathis* from the northern laterite plateaus of Kasaragod. Rare plant is found near Ananthapura lake temple hence named as '*Lepidagathis ananthapuramensis*'. Number of species of genus *Lepidagathis* plants in India- 34.

3. Kerala becomes first state to go digital in public education

Kerala is pioneering digital classroom tech and introducing high-tech classrooms in all public schools. State has successfully completed hi-tech smart class project in govt schools with financial aid from KIIFB as part of Public Edu. Rejuvenation Mission. Capital: Thiruvananthapuram; CM: Pinarayi Vijayan.

4. IAV's first phase becomes operational at Thonnakkal

Kerala CM virtually inaugurated the operations of 1st phase of International Institute of Advanced Virology at the life sciences park at Thonnakkal, Thiruvananthapuram. State decided to establish a high-end research facility in virology in 2017. Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan; CM: Pinarayi Vijayan.

5. Kerala first state in the country to fix MSP for vegetables

Kerala govt fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for vegetables, first state to do so. Farmers with a maximum of 15 acres of vegetable cultivation per season would benefit from the scheme. The MSP will be 20% above the production cost of the vegetable. Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram. CM: Pinarayi Vijayan.

Madhya Pradesh

1. PPL tournament to be played in Indore in MP to free city from single use plastic

A unique Plastic Premier League tournament is being played in Indore to free the city from single use plastic. 19 zones of Indore are divided into 4 teams. Team that collects the most single-use plastics in this 45-day competition to be awarded the Trophy Indore has been adjudged cleanest city for 4 consecutive times.

Maharashtra

1. Maharashtra becomes first state to cap prices of masks

Maharashtra has become 1st state to cap the prices of masks. N-95 mask will be available for ₹19 to 50 depending on the type, whereas double & triple layer masks will be available for ₹3 to 4. Companies will have to sell masks at state-prescribed rates. The prices of sanitizers are also being capped.

2. Maharashtra CM announces Rs 10,000 crore aid to flood-hit people

Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray announced Rs 10,000 crore financial assistance to the flood-hit people including farmers. The state is also yet to receive a total of around Rs 38,000 crore from the centre. Heavy rains lashed in Pune, Aurangabad recently. Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari. Capital: Mumbai.

Manipur

1. 124th Birth Anniversary of Jana Neta Hijam Irawat celebrated across Manipur

In Manipur 124th Birth Anniversary of Jana Neta Hijam Irawat was celebrated across the State & various parts of N.E. India. Hijam Irawat was born in 1896 & was a revolutionary social activist who fought against the social evils of society. Manipur, Capital: Imphal Governor: Najma Heptulla

Meghalaya

1. Meghalaya launches 'micro ATM' service in rural areas

Meghalaya CM has launched 'micro ATM' service in rural areas. He distributed handheld devices through which money could be withdrawn to banking correspondent agents. Initiative is being promoted by Meghalaya State Rural Livelihood Society, MRB & NABARD. Meghalaya Capital: Shillong; CM: Conrad Sangma.

Odisha

1. Poet Nityananda Nayak to receive Sarala Puraskar

Noted Odia poet Nityanand Nayak will be conferred prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his poetry work 'Setebelaku Nathiba', published in 2017. This is 41st edition of the literary award, which was instituted by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust in 1979. Sarala Puraskar: Recognised as foremost literary award of Odisha

2. Odisha launches Drink from Tap Mission Sujal

Odisha launched 'Sujal - Drink from Tap Mission', to provide quality drinking water, fit for direct consumption from pipe to over 15 lakh people in 15 towns. In 1st phase, safe & purified tap water will be supplied to 12 pilot areas of Bhubaneswar & Puri. Capital: Bhubaneswar; Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

3. Odisha launches 'Mo Bidyut' portal, app

Odisha CM launched an electricity consumer service portal 'Mo Bidyut' and its mobile app to provide efficient, time-bound and transparent online service to the people. Consumers will be able to avail services pertaining to new power connection up to 5KW. Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal; CM: Naveen Patnaik.

4. Odisha CM Launches 'Sumangal' & Student Scholarship Web Portals

Odisha State Scholarship Portal & Sumangal Portal were launched. The former portal is to help eligible students to avail scholarship benefits in a seamless & transparent manner, while the latter one is to help people avail inter-caste marriage incentives. Married couples can avail ₹2.5 within 60 days of application.

Punjab

1. Punjab CM Launches Phase 2 Of Urban Environment Improvement Programme

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh virtually launched phase two of the Rs 11000 crore Urban Environment Improvement Programme (UEIP). Under this, urban infrastructure and efficient service delivery systems are delivered to the urban population of Punjab Punjab Capital: Chandigarh. Governor: V. P. Singh Badnore.

Rajasthan

1. Rajasthan govt launches month long mass awareness campaign on COVID-19

Rajasthan has launched a month-long mass awareness campaign on COVID 19. The campaign will run till 31 of October as part of the state-wide mass movement against Corona. The state will distribute 1crore masks to protect the public from COVID infection. Capital: Jaipur; CM: Ashok Gehlot; Governor: Kalraj Mishra.

2. ADB approves \$300mn loan to finance water supply, sanitation infrastructure in Rajasthan

India and Asian Development Bank signed a \$300mn loan to finance inclusive & sustainable water supply and sanitation infrastructure & services in 14 towns of Rajasthan. Water supply systems in at least 8 project towns are expected to improve by 2027. ADB HQs: Mandaluyong, Philippines; Founded: 1966.

3. 8000MW renewable park to light up India-Pak border areas in Rajasthan

Rajasthan will soon ink an MoU with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to establish Ultra Mega Renewal Energy Power Park with 8,000 megawatts capacity in India's border areas with Pakistan in Rajasthan. 8000MW park will use wind, solar & power from biomass.

Sikkim

1. ITBP launches cycling expedition from its Pegong base in Sikkim

11th Battalion Indo-Tibetan Border Police launched a cycling expedition from its Pegong base in Sikkim to border villages of the state. Total 218 Kms will be covered by the 18member team of ITBP in the course of 20 days in difficult terrains. ITBP Founded: 24 October 1962; Sikkim's Capital: Gangtok.

Tamil Nadu

1. Tamil Nadu joins 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme

CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami launched One Nation, One Ration Card scheme. Under this, families with Priority Household & Antodaya Anna Yojana ration cards from TN can receive their entitlements in other States, & those from elsewhere can receive them in TN. Scheme will be implemented in 32 districts of Tamil Nadu.

2. Tamil Nadu to set up advanced manufacturing hub in partnership with WEF

TN has partnered with World Economic Forum to establish India's first advanced manufacturing hub in state. AMHUB is one of the 19 platforms designed by WEF. It focuses on engaging regional production ecosystems to identify address regional opportunities. WEF HQs: Cologny, Switzerland; Founder: Klaus Schwab.

3. Tamil Nadu signs 14 MoUs worth Rs 10,000 crores to create 7,000 new jobs

In a move that would help create 7,000 additional direct jobs, Tamil Nadu signed 14 MoUs for investments worth over Rs 10,000 crore, with companies including JSW Renew, Britannia, Apollo Tyres, Li-Energy for EV battery packs, Britannia and Hyundai Wia. The largest of these investments has been committed by JSW.

4. Tamil Nadu implements Smart Black Board scheme

Tamil Nadu has launched the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure better teaching environment. The scheme envisages usage of audio-visual teaching material that can be fed into computer screens in classes using pen drives. Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai; CM: Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

5. 24x7 DPE facility opened at V O Chidambaranar Port in Tuticorin

The Direct Port Entry (DPE) facility was inaugurated by the MoS for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya. It is aimed to reduce logistics cost & increase the velocity of cargo transportation. The port signed MoU with CWC to operate the facility for 30 years. Chairman of VOC Port Trust: T K Ramachandran.

Telangana

1. Telangana govt undertakes door-to-door survey to update non-agricultural property details through NAP app

The program has been taken up to update all current property details to simplify future registrations. The properties are identified on the basis of property tax identification number (PTIN). All properties would be integrated with the Aadhaar of the owner. The app is designed to register 52 details.

Uttar Pradesh

1. PepsiCo to set up greenfield potato chips production unit in UP with investment of Rs. 814 crores

Multi-national food & beverage major PepsiCo is setting up a greenfield potato chips production unit in UP with an investment of ₹814cr. MoU was signed by PepsiCo to set up this project at UP Investors Summit-2018. Unit is being set up in Kosi – Mathura. Uttar Pradesh's Capital: Lucknow; CM: Yogi Adityan.

2. UP government launches 'Mission Shakti'

Uttar Pradesh has launched a 6-month long women empowerment campaign 'Mission Shakti' to raise awareness and tackle crime against women in the state. Campaign was initiated by various ministers, public representatives & senior officials in all 75 districts CM: Yogi Adityanath; Capital: Lucknow; Governor: Anandiben Patel

3. UP govt decides to set up women help desk in every police station

UP CM has ordered to establish women's help desks in each and every police station of the state. The women police personnel deputed on helpdesk will not only listen to the complaints of women but will always be ready to help them anytime. Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India.

4. UP ranks first in disbursing loans under PM SVA Nidhi Scheme

By disbursing loans among 226728 beneficiaries, UP is ranked first among the states under PM SAV Nidhi scheme. 7 cities on the state were ranked in top 10 with Varanasi on top followed by Lucknow. The scheme was launched for street vendors on June 1, 2020 A loan of ₹10,000 is given at subsidised rate of interest.

5. UP emerges as top destination for domestic tourists

According to the Indian Tourism Statistics 2020, Uttar Pradesh earned the top position by attracting 53.6 crore domestic tourists in 2019, leaving Tamil Nadu behind. UP secured 3rd position in attracting foreign tourists inviting nearly 47 lakh foreigners. Tourism Minister of UP: Neelkanth Tiwari.

6. UP Govt to establish anti-human trafficking Police Stations in every district

In a major step towards security of women & children, Uttar Pradesh government decided to establish anti-human trafficking Police Stations in every district. These will be given enough powers to register the case and investigate the matter independently. So far there are 35 anti-human trafficking units in the state.

Uttarakhand

1. Uttarakhand launches Saur Swarojgar Yojana to generate self-employment for youth, migrants

Uttarakhand CM launched Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana. It aims at creating self-employment for youths in state. Co-op banks will grant loans at interest rate of 8% p.a. for 15 yrs to set up the solar plants on private land or on land taken on lease. Beneficiaries will be allocated solar plants of 25 KW each.

2. Uttarakhand launches Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme

Uttarakhand Chief Minister inaugurated Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme (Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana) in the state in partnership with NABARD. This Scheme will help in strengthening the economy of farmers and doubling their income. Uttarakhand Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer).

West Bengal

1. Railway Minister virtually inaugurates Phoolbagan Station of Kolkata's East West Metro corridor

Railway Minister virtually inaugurated Phoolbagan Station of Kolkata's East-West Metro corridor, & flagged off 1st train from there to Salt Lake Sector-V. Entire stretch of corridor, connecting Sector-V & Howrah Maidan, is likely to be completed by 2021. WB CM: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar.

2. West Bengal Launches Pathashree Abhijan Scheme

WB CM launched Pathashree Abhijan, a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads across the state will be repaired. WB has collated a list of roads that

will be repaired after people reached out through the 'Didi Ke Bolo' initiative. WB CM launched 'Didi Ke Bolo' to address public grievances.

Chandigarh

1. App 'Wildlife Rescue' to make wildlife rescue quicker launched in Chandigarh

For the rescue of wildlife entering human habitation or in distress, residents will now be able to approach forest department through an app. Named Wildlife Rescue it monitors rescue, reporting & release of wildlife online. It works on all Android phones. Chandigarh is the capital of Punjab & Haryana.

Delhi

1. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launches anti-air pollution campaign ahead of winter

Delhi launched mega Anti-air pollution campaign YUDH PRADUSHAN KE VIRUDH. Plans have been prepared for 13 identified hotspots. To overcome the problem of stubble burning Pusa Research Institute has prepared a solution that will convert stubble into compost 1911: Capital of India was transferred from Calcutta to Delhi.

2. Delhi govt launches 'first-of-its kind' tree transplantation policy

The Delhi government has launched a "first-of-its kind" tree transplantation policy to prevent felling of trees due to development works in the national capital. Under it trees won't be cut for development projects but will be uprooted and placed elsewhere CM: Arvind Kejriwal; L-G: Anil Baijal.

3. Delhi CM launches campaign 'Red light on, Gaadi off' to tackle air pollution

Arvind Kejriwal launched a campaign 'Red light on, Gaadi off' to tackle air pollution in the national capital. He urged people to switch off their vehicles while waiting on a traffic signal. On average a car spends 15-20 minutes at a red light every day. In 1911, Delhi became the capital of India.

4. NBCC signs MoU with DTC for development of land parcels in national capital

State-owned construction firm NBCC Ltd signed an MoU with Delhi Transport Corporation for development of various land parcels in Delhi. NBCC will work as a Project Management Consultant (PMCI) for developing land parcels on a self-revenue generation model. NBCC – A blue-chip Government of India Navratna enterprise.

5. Arvind Kejriwal launches 'Green Delhi' app to address pollution complaints

Citizens can click pictures/ make a video of pollution causing activities, such as burning of garbage, and upload them on the application. The app will identify the location and the complaint will be automatically forwarded to the concerned department. A 'green war room' has been set up at the Delhi Secretariat.

Jammu and Kashmir

1. J-K Police organises 'Jashn-E-Dal' festival to boost water sports activities, tourism in Valley

Jammu & Kashmir Police have organised a 3day water sports festival 'Jashn-E-Dal' with an aim to boost water sports activities & promote tourism in the valley. Festival was organized under civic action prog. in collaboration with water sports association. 'Jashn-E-Dal' event was last organised in 2017

2. In a first, MHA empowers J&K government to impose property tax

In an order, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla issued a number of amendments within the J&K Municipal Act, 2000 & Jammu and Kashmir Municipal

Corporation Act, 2000 carried by the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Adaptation of State Laws) Order, 2020. The MHA has substituted Sections 72 to 80.

3. J&K: "SAKHI" One-Stop Service Centre for women in Ramban district inaugurated

J&K inaugurated "SAKHI" One-Stop Service Centre for women in Ramban district. It aims to facilitate access to integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid, psycho-social counselling, etc. to women affected by violence. J&K Capitals: Jammu (Winter), Srinagar (Summer).

4. J&K L-G launches mobile app for Vaishno Devi devotees

L-G Manoj Sinha, who is also chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, launched 'Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Mobile App' for cave shrine devotees. Live darshan, aarti and online yatra registration will be available on the app, besides other facilities. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was set up in August 1986.

5. J&K: Adviser Khan inaugurates folk & light music concert 'JASHN-e-HARUD' at Srinagar

The musical concert is organised by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages Kashmir to provide platform to the artists after long gap due to COVID-19 situation. Artists Waheed Jeelani, Muneer Ahmad Mir, Shaziya Bashir & Firdous Ahmad performed. Manoj Sinha is the Lieutenant Governor of J&K.

6. Centre Amends J&K Panchayati Raj Act 1989 To Set Up District Development Councils

Under the new mechanism, each district in Jammu & Kashmir will have 14 territorial constituencies for electing members of the district development councils, which will pave the way for establishing 3-tier Panchayati Raj system in the Union Territory. Only Elected members of constituencies to have the voting rights

7. J&K L-G announces 'My Town My Pride' programme

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor announced 'My Town My Pride' prog, starting from October 19, as a part of public outreach initiative to deliver services at doorsteps to the urban population and strengthen grassroots democracy. J&K Capitals: Jammu (Winter), Srinagar (Summer)

8. Cabinet approves adaptation of J&K Panchayati Raj Act

The Union Cabinet has approved adoption of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Raj Act. It will help to establish all the three tiers of grassroots level democracy in the UT of J&K like in other parts of the country for the first time since Independence. Part IX, 11th Schedule of Constitution deals with Panchayati Raj

9. Cabinet approves procurement of 12 lakh tonne apple in J&K

Cabinet approved extension of a scheme under which National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation will procure 12 lakh tonne apple in J&K during 2020-21 season. NAFED has been allowed to use the Government guarantee of ₹2,500cr for this operation.

J&K Capitals: Jammu (Winter), Srinagar (Summer)

10. J&K has become first UT in country to operationalise PFMS at district level

J&K became first country in India to operationalise Public Financial Management System (PFMS) at the district level with the e-inauguration of 8 district offices. It will result in improved programme administration & accountability in use of public funds. Jammu & Kashmir LG: Manoj Sinha.

11. Accession Day: India celebrates 73rd anniversary of J&K's accession

October 26 marks the successful accession of J&K to India. It is the 73rd anniversary of the day. J&K is observing a public holiday on October 26 for the first time since independence. The Instrument of Accession was signed b/w J&K & India on Oct 26, 1947. The treaty was signed by Maharaja Hari Singh.

12. Government notifies new rules that allow any Indian citizen to buy land in Jammu & Kashmir

Union Home Ministry notified that Real Estate Act, 2016 in J&K have been repealed. The centre omitted the phrase "permanent resident of the state" from Section 17 of the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, which deals with disposal of the land in the UT. Article 35A prohibited non J&K citizens from buying land in J&K.

13. Advisor to J&K Lieutenant Governor Kewal Kumar Sharma appointed as State Election Commissioner

KK Sharma, an advisor to J&K LG Manoj Sinha, resigned from his post & was appointed the State Election Commissioner. Sharma, a 1983-batch IAS officer of the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa & Mizoram UTs cadre, was appointed advisor to the LG in 2019 November. He also served as secretary in the HRD Ministry.

Puducherry

1. Puducherry airport becomes AAI's first 100% solar-powered airport

Puducherry airport has become the Airports Authority of India's (AAI) first entirely solar-powered airport in the country with the commissioning of 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant at a cost of Rs 2.8 crore. Puducherry was a French colonial settlement in India until 1954.

Ladakh

1. NDDDB signs MoU with Ladakh to promote dairying and rural livelihoods

To promote dairying & rural livelihoods National Dairy Development Board & Ladakh has signed an MOU for conducting benchmark survey. NDDDB proposes to enumerate all households present in identified villages irrespective of their dairy animal holding status. National Dairy Development Board HQs: Gujarat; Founded: 1965.

2. Ladakh LG launches 100-day campaign to provide potable water supply in schools, Anganwadi centres

Ladakh Lt Governor R K Mathur launched 100-day campaign to provide assured potable water supply to schools & Anganwadi centres. He also inaugurated drinking water quality testing labs for the public under the Jal Jeevan Mission's Har Ghar Jal project. Hemis National Park is situated in Ladakh.

3. LG R K Mathur flags off Ultimate Ladakh Cycling Challenge

Ladakh Lt Gov R. K. Mathur flagged off Ultimate Ladakh Cycling Challenge, at an altitude of 17,000 feet. Cyclists peddle a total of 263 km in the event. Later, they have to climb world's 3rd highest Taglang La and the highest motorable road Khardung La. Cycling Federation of India General Secretary: Maninder Singh.

Sports

1. Visnu Shivaraj Pandian wins gold in 10-meter air rifle event of International Online Shooting Championship

Visnu Shivaraj Pandian won the 10m air rifle event at the 5th edition of the International Online Shooting Championship. 2nd place was won by world no. 27 Etienne Germond of France while Olympic quota winner Martin Strempl of Austria took the 3rd place. International Shooting Sport Federation HQ: Brussels, Belgium.

2. Dhoni becomes the only Indian with no duck in 100 consecutive T20 innings

MS Dhoni became the first Indian to play 100 consecutive T20 innings without getting out on a duck. The last time Dhoni scored a duck in T20 cricket was in 2015. Chris Gayle holds the record for the most innings (145) without a duck in T20 cricket. In cricket, a duck is a batsman's dismissal with a score of zero

3. Swiatek wins French Open, becomes first Pole to win Grand Slam singles title

19-year-old Iga Swiatek became 1st Polish player to win a Grand Slam singles title when she beat American Sofia Kenin in the French Open final. She is the youngest winner since Monica Seles lifted the Suzanne Lenglen Cup in 1992. French Open is the only Grand Slam tournament to use clay courts

4. India's Nihal Sarin Wins Junior Speed Chess Championship

Young Indian player Nihal Sarin emerged winner in Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship, beating Russia's Alexey Sarana in final. It enabled him to qualify for 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final which will feature world's best players. Chess is believed to be derived from the Indian game chaturanga.

5. Rafael Nadal beats Novak Djokovic to win his 13th French Open Men's Singles title

Rafael Nadal beat Novak Djokovic to win his 13th French Open and equal Roger Federer's record of 20 Grand Slam titles. In Women's doubles, Timea Babos & Kristina Mladenovic retained their French Open title defeating Alexa Guarachi & Desirae Krawczyk. Iga Swiatek won the Women's Singles defeating Sofia Kenin.

6. Babos and Mladenovic retain French Open women's doubles title

Kristina Mladenovic and Timea Babos won 2020 French Open women's doubles title. It's the pair's 4th Grand Slam title in 3yrs & 2nd in 2020 after winning the Australian Open. Babos & Mladenovic are 1st doubles team to win 2 majors in a season since 2018. The first French Open was played in 1891

7. Hamilton wins Eifel Grand Prix, equals Schumacher's record of 91 victories

Lewis Hamilton equalled Michael Schumacher's all-time record 91 Formula One wins with an Eifel Grand Prix victory that catapulted the Mercedes driver closer to a seventh world championship. Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished second. Formula1, governed by Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile.

8. LA Lakers become NBA champions for first time since Kobe's final title a decade ago

LA Lakers defeated Miami Heat to win the NBA finals in six games. This is LA Lakers' first NBA title win since late Kobe Bryant's final title with them a decade ago. LeBron James was named Most Valuable Player of the NBA finals for a fourth time. NBA Commissioner: Adam Silver; Founded: 1946.

9. Pakistan fast bowler Umar Gul announces retirement from all forms of cricket

Pakistan speedster Umar Gul has announced that he will retire from all forms of cricket after the end of the ongoing National T20 Cup. The 36-year-old Gul had played his last match for Pakistan - an ODI - in 2016. From 47 Test matches, Gul took 163 wickets at an average of 34.0

10. Facilities in 7 states and 2 UTs to get upgraded to Khelo India State Centre of Excellence

Indian sports ministry has approved upgradation of sports centers in 7 states & 2 UTs to Khelo India State Centre of Excellence under Khelo India scheme & will be provided assistance in the form of better sporting equipment, coaches, sports scientists etc Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju

11. Nozomi Okuhara clinches Women's Singles title at Denmark Open

In Badminton, Japan's 2017 world champion Nozomi Okuhara clinched the Denmark Open title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin in women's singles. She secured her first tournament victory since the 2018 Hong Kong Open. Badminton World Federation HQs: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

12. Elavenil wins gold at the Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle

World number 1, Elavenil Valarivan of India won gold at the Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship organised by Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation. Shiori Hirata won silver while Indonesian Vidya Toyyiba won bronze. Shahu Tushar Mane bagged a silver in the men's event

13. Lewis Hamilton overtakes Michael Schumacher's record after 92nd Grand Prix win

World champion Lewis Hamilton became the most successful F1 driver of all time in terms of race wins with a 92nd career victory at the Portuguese Grand Prix. Runaway leader Hamilton is also set to equal Schumacher's record 7 championships this season. He also has the most pole positions & podium finishes.

14. Tanmay Srivastava announces retirement

Uttar Pradesh batsman Tanmay Srivastava, the highest run-getter in the 2008 U19 WC announced his retirement from the game just at the age of 30. He scored 262 runs in 6 matches in U19 WC. In his 14-year-long career, Srivastava played 90 first-class games. President of BCCI: Sourav Ganguly. HQ: Mumbai.

15. MoU signed between SAI and Arunachal Pradesh government

In order to develop the sports infrastructure at the National Centre of Excellence in Itanagar, an MoU was signed between the Sports Authority of India and Arunachal Pradesh government. SAI is the apex national sports body of India, established in 1982. Union minister for sports & youth affairs- Kiren Rijiju.

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Agreements & MoUs

1. NITI Aayog, Embassy of Netherlands ink pact to support decarbonization & energy transition agenda

NITI Aayog & the Netherlands have signed a Statement of Intent to support decarbonization & energy transition agenda for accommodating cleaner & more energy.

SoI seeks to create a platform that enables a comprehensive collaboration among stakeholders. The Netherlands, Capital: Amsterdam; Currency: Euro

2. NHPC signs MoU with Power Ministry detailing targets for the 2020-21

In MOU for NHPC, generation target under Excellent rating has been set as 27500 MUs as against last year target of 26000MUs. Excellent Targets for Revenue from Operations (Net) has been kept as Rs 8900cr & PAT/ Average Net Worth has been kept as 10.50 %. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation CMD: AK Singh.

3. Tata Steel and CSIR sign MoU to collaborate in the area of Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage

As part of this strategic MoU signed between Tata Steel Limited and the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, the teams from Tata Steel and CSIR will work towards accelerating development and deployment of CCUS technologies in the steel industry. CSIR plans to set up National facility on CCUS at Nagpur.

4. First ever India-Russia Webinar on Use of Natural Gas as a Motor Fuel organized

1st ever India-Russia webinar on the use of natural gas as motor fuel was organized under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas & Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation to assist in collective efforts to use natural gas as a fuel. GAIL is largest state-owned natural gas processing company.

5. IIT Madras, MIT collaborate to create framework for proper utilisation of industrial, agricultural by-products

IIT Madras Researchers are working with Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S, to develop a novel framework for high volume usage of by-products in structural materials. This will be a major step forward towards a sustainable future. IITs are governed by the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.

6. ISLRTC & NCERT to ink MoU to make education materials accessible for Deaf children

An MoU signed b/w Indian Sign Language Research & Training Center & NCERT to make education materials accessible for Deaf children in their preferred format of communication. Edu. print materials will be converted into Indian Sign Language in Digital format It ensures educational standardization of Indian Sign Language.

7. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs enters into MoU with Swiggy to take street food vendors online

MoHUA has entered into an MoU with Swiggy to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform. It aims at giving street food vendors online access to consumers & help them grow businesses. Arrangement has been facilitated under PM SVANidhi Scheme. PM SVANidhi was launched on June 01, 2020

8. Arunachal inks MOUs with three firms to set up palm oil extraction factories

Arunachal Pradesh had signed MoUs with 3 companies – Siva Sai, 3F & Ruchi Soya for setting up oil extraction factories and buy back oil palm fruits from farmers under the scheme. Oil Palm Cultivation is central scheme under National Food Security Mission AP Capital: Itanagar; CM: Pema Khandu

9. IBM to set up AI CoE with GeM

Global technology firm IBM will set up an Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence with the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to bring in transparency, usability, efficiency, and cost savings in the public procurement process. IBM CEO: Arvind Krishna; Founder: Charles R. Flint; Founded:1911

10. WB govt inks MoU with IIM-C wing to set up technology development centre

West Bengal entered into an MoU with IIM Calcutta-run Entrepreneur & Innovation Park to set up a Technology Development and Adaptation Centre (TDAC). TDAC will build technologies which will address need-based, location specific problems. Indian Institute of Management Calcutta was the first IIM

11. IFFCO, Prasar Bharati sign MoU to promote new agriculture technology & innovations

Prasar Bharati & IFFCO have signed an MoU to broadcast & promote new agriculture technology and innovations. DD Kisan will broadcast various innovative tech. being adopted in agriculture field through 30minutes program series for the benefit of farmers. IFFCO's innovations will be shared by DD Kisan in 25 episodes.

12. Amazon India partners IRCTC to offer reserved train ticket bookings

Amazon India has partnered with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation to provide their customers with the facility to book reserved train tickets on its platform. Customers will be able to check PNR status for ticket booked through its platform. IRCTC Founded: 27 September 1999

13. FLO, Women's Wing of FICCI signs MoU with National Skill Development Corporation for empowering women through skill training

FLO signed an MoU with NSDC for empowering women through skill training to enhance their employability & promote entrepreneurship. Collaboration b/w the two will support empowerment of women to create sustainable economic possibilities at diff. levels FICCI Founded: 1927 HQs: New Delhi

14. Cabinet Approves MoU Between Zoological Survey of India and International Barcode of Life

Union Cabinet apprised an MoU signed b/w ZSI & iBOL, a Canadian NPO corp. ZSI & iBOL allied to further efforts in DNA barcoding, a methodology for rapidly & accurately identifying species by sequencing a short segment of standardized gene regions. Zoological Survey of India founded: 1 July 1916; HQs.Kolkata.

15. AYUSH ministry body signs MoU with Amity University to promote research in Ayurvedic sciences

For promoting & developing AYUSH systems of healthcare, AIIA, AYUSH ministry has inked an MoU with Amity University. MoU envisages collaboration to ensure quality & standardisation of Ayurvedic drugs & in PhD prog in natural product chemistry & pharmacy. AYUSH- Ayurveda, Yoga&Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy

16. Bangalore Metro Rail Corp Ltd inks MoUs with corporate companies to develop metro stations

BMRCL has signed MoUs with corporate companies to develop upcoming metro stations under their CSR funds. Infosys to fund ₹200cr. for construction of Konappana Agrahara metro station and Biocon Foundation will be funding ₹ 65cr. for Hebbagodi Metro station Karnataka Governor: Vajubhai Vala; CM: B. S. Yediyurappa.

17. Zurich firm signs agreement with Uttar Pradesh government

UP govt has signed the concessionaire agreement with Zurich Airport to start development of Greater Noida's Jewar Airport. The agreement grants Zurich Airport the license to design, build and operate Noida International Airport for a period of 40 years. Zurich won bid for building greenfield airport in Nov 2019.

18. MCGM, Google collaborate to mark Containment Zones in Mumbai on Google Maps

Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai & Google have collaborated to mark Containment Zones in the city on Google Maps. Availability of this information on Google Maps will further make it easy to access for Mumbaikars while on the move. Google's Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin; Founded: 1998.

19. IBM, Dept of S&T collaborate to promote STEM career opportunities

1st collaboration involves DST's Vigyan Jyoti program, which aims to create a level-playing field for meritorious girls from grade 9-12 to pursue STEM in their higher education. 2nd collaboration is with Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous organisation of DST. 2nd collaboration will build 'Engage with Science' platform.

20. NIT Tiruchirappalli signs MoU with C-DAC Pune for installing state of art supercomputer

NIT, Tiruchirappalli has signed an MOU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing for installing a state-of-the-art supercomputer in process of becoming part of National Super Computing Mission (NSM) of Government of India. 10 Centrally Funded Institutions have been inducted into NSM.

21. Microsoft and AICTE collaborate to skill students and educators in next generation technologies

Microsoft has partnered with All India Council for Technical Education to empower learners and educators in new-age technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), data science, and cloud computing. AICTE Founded: November 1945; HQs: New Delhi.

22. Mastercard partners with Signzy for global rollout of video KYC

Mastercard announced a partnership with Signzy, a RegTech startup, to enable video-based KYC solutions for its banking customers. This will allow Mastercard to provide a completely paperless, remote, and secure onboarding solution for end-users. Mastercard CEO: Ajaypal Singh Banga; HQs: New York, US.

23. Gujarat govt announces setting up of world's biggest Zinc Smelter project in Dosawada

Gujarat govt has signed an MoU with Vedanta Group and announced the setting up of the world's biggest Zinc Smelter project in Dosawada in Tapi district. Project with investment of 10,000 Cr. will also have a State-of-the-art Research and Development Centre Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar; CM: Vijay Rupani.

24. Atal Innovation Mission collaborates with CGI to promote innovation across schools

AIM, NITI Aayog, has signed a Statement of Intent with CGI India in order to promote innovation across schools. As part of SoI, CGI has agreed to adopt 100 schools with ATLS across Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Mumbai to promote and train students. NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015.

25. MoU between India and Australia to promote cooperation in sustainable groundwater management

Union Cabinet approved an MoU between India and Australia to promote cooperation in surface and groundwater training, education and research to achieve water security for agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental purposes. The MoU was signed in October 2019.

26. GreenBase, Tamil Nadu sign MoU to set up industrial, logistics park

GreenBase has signed an MoU with Tamil Nadu to set up an industrial and logistics park at Vadakkuppattu, Oragadaman at an investment of ₹750cr. Park envisages development of built-up area for companies planning to set up manufacturing & logistics units. Capital: Chennai; CM: Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

27. Indian Bank inks MoU with Ministry, SIDBI for street vendors

Indian Bank has signed an MoU with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs & SIDBI for payment of subsidy to street vendors under Centre's SVANidhi Scheme. PM SVANidhi was introduced to provide loans to vendors & hawkers, among others. Indian Bank MD and CEO: Padmaja Chundurur.

28. J&K Govt inks MoU with Flipkart to provide platform for local artisans, craftsmen, weavers

To promote the rural economy & to boost the sale of genuine products of Jammu & Kashmir, the JK Government signed an historic MoU with online store Flipkart to provide a platform for local artisans, craftsmen, weavers to reach customers across the globe. For the first six months, Flipkart will not charge any fee.

29. Hindustan Zinc, Gujarat govt sign MoU for Rs 10,000 cr greenfield smelter

Hindustan Zinc Ltd signed a MoU with Govt of Gujarat for a greenfield zinc smelter project in Tapi in South Gujarat. HZL will invest upto Rs 10,000 cr for setting up of 300 kilo-tonnes per annum greenfield zinc smelter in Doswada industrial estate. It will use modern zero discharge technology and automation.

30. Tata Motors ties up with HDFC Bank for financing of passenger vehicles

Tata Motors has collaborated with HDFC Bank for financing of its passenger vehicles. Through the partnership, the company said it has introduced 2 new schemes--'Gradual Step Up Scheme' & 'TML Flexi Drive Scheme' with festive season around. HDFC Bank HQ: Mumbai.

31. Odisha to sponsor national rugby teams till 2023

Odisha & Indian Rugby Football Union signed an agreement to sponsor the Indian national rugby team (men & women) participating in international events for the next three years and facilitate high-performance training and conditioning of the players. Odisha's Capital: Bhubaneswar; Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

32. CRPF, IIT-Delhi and DRDO sign MoU

CRPF has signed an agreement with the IIT-Delhi and Defence Research and Development Organisation. The aim is to build capacity for optimal utilisation of police

technologies and to integrate requirements of the force with their research labs. CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force.

33. GOI, ADB inks \$177mn loan pact to upgrade 450kms of state highways & major district roads in Maharashtra

Asian Development Bank and GoI signed a \$177mn loan to upgrade 450km of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra. Project will upgrade two major district roads and 11 state highways to two-lane standard across seven districts of Maharashtra. ADB HQs: Mandaluyong, Philippines; President: Masatsugu Asakawa.

34. Tech Mahindra signs agreement to form joint venture with Sumitomo Corp

IT company Tech Mahindra has signed an agreement with Japan-based Sumitomo Corporation for setting up a joint venture to provide engineering service to the automotive sector. Both companies will hold an equal stake in the joint venture.

Tech Mahindra Ltd Founder: Anand Mahindra; Founded: 1986.

35. BSE signs MoU with Telangana Govt and GlobalLinker to help MSMEs in raising equity funds

Bombay Stock Exchange has signed an MoU with Telangana and GlobalLinker to address vital challenge of access to finance & increasing credibility of MSME. BSE will provide intellectual & manpower support to create awareness about the benefits of listing. Established in 1875, BSE is Asia's oldest stock exchange.

36. Bank of Baroda enters into an MoU with Mahindra & Mahindra for Tractor Finance

To push agriculture finance, Bank of Baroda has entered into a pact with Mahindra & Mahindra for tractor finance business. MoU will give a boost to agri business and will help farmers in availing hassle-free credit facilities for buying tractors. BOB HQs: Alkapuri, Vadodara; Founder: Sayajirao Gaekwad III.

37. FICCI to be national industry partner of third edition of 'Make in Odisha'

Odisha signed an agreement with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry as its national industry partner for 3rd ed. of 'Make in Odisha' conclave. Agreement was signed virtually for investment promotion and investor outreach activities. FICCI Founded: 1927; HQs: New Delhi.

38. Cabinet approves MoU between ICAI and CPAs, Papua New Guinea

Cabinet approved an MOU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India & Certified Practising Accountants, Papua New Guinea, to work together in capacity building & strengthening Accounting, Financial and Audit Knowledge base in Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea Capital: Port Moresby; Currency: Guinean kina.

39. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Nigeria on space cooperation

The Union Cabinet apprised the MoU signed between India and Nigeria on cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes. The MoU was signed by ISRO and the National Space Research and Development Agency, Nigeria. Nigeria Capital: Abuja; Currency: Nigerian naira.

40. EIF and UNDP to strengthen cooperation for sustainable finance

United Nations Development Programme & European Investment Fund signed an MOU to develop joint initiatives for sustainable finance and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, risk management, socio-economic & environmental impact assessments. UNDP HQs: New York, United States; Founded: 22 November 1965.

41. IIT in Partnership with TCS Sets New Trends in India's Advanced Manufacturing Sector

Prof. Surjya K Pal of IIT Kharagpur developed novel Industry 4.0 technology for remotely controlled factory operations & real-time quality correction during industrial production, jointly with TCS to set a new trend in India's advanced manufacturing sector TCS CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan. HQ: Mumbai.

42. IIT Jodhpur Signs MoU With NHAH To Improve National Highway Design & Infrastructure

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur has joined hands with National Highway Authority of India (NHAH) to improve highway infrastructure and design. Under this, IIT Jodhpur's UG & PG students can undertake paid internships in multiple domains. Chairman of NHAH: Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.

43. IIT Kanpur and ASI sign MoU with Italian institutes for restoration of monuments

IIT-Kanpur & the Archaeological Survey of India signed an agreement with two institutions Ca'Foscari University of Venice, Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti E Paesaggio, Venice from Italy, seeking restoration and protection of historical monuments. Italy Capital: Rome President: Sergio Mattarella Currency: Euro

44. India Post, US Postal Service sign agreement for electronic exchange of customs data

Department of Posts & US Postal Service USPS entered into an agreement for electronic exchange of customs data related to postal shipments. It will enable to transmit & receive electronic data of international postal items prior to their physical arrival World Post Day is observed every year on 9th October.

45. NTPC Ltd. enters into foreign currency loan agreement under GREEN initiative

India's largest power producer NTPC entered into foreign currency loan agreement with Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC)' for JPY 50 billion under Global Action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation initiative (GREEN). JBIC to provide 60% of the amount, balance by commercial banks.

46. Cabinet approves the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Cambodia on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine

The bilateral MoU will encourage cooperation between the two countries through joint initiatives and technology development in the health sector. The MoU shall become effective on the date of its signature and shall remain in force for a period of 5 yrs. Khmer is the official language of Cambodia.

47. JK Tyre join hands with ITC's Choupal for rural market

JK Tyre and Industries has announced a collaboration with the e-Choupal network operated by ITC in the rural areas. According to the pact, JK Tyre will leverage the network of Chaupal Sagar in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh. Largest internet-based intervention in rural India, e-Choupal.

48. Tech giant IBM, Indian Oil Corporation collaborate for digital services

Around 12,400 IOCL distributors covering about 130 million consumers can now use the IndianOil One mobile app and portal, developed by IBM Services. The IndianOil One mobile app and portal are part of Indian Oil's Project ePIC. IOC Chairperson: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya.

49. European Commission, ICSSR Sign New Implementing Arrangement to enhance Scientific Cooperation

The European Commission and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) signed a new implementing arrangement to enhance scientific cooperation. European Research Council (ERC) was formed in the year 2007. Ambassador of the European Union to India- Ugo Astuto.



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Schemes

1. Social Justice and Empowerment Minister launches Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission

Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission under Venture Capital Fund for SCs, with a view to promoting innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions. Aim: To provide concessional finance to SC entrepreneurs

2. Jal Shakti Minister launches 100-day campaign to provide potable piped water in Schools and Anganwadi Centres

Under Jal Jeevan Mission States & UTs are to ensure that during the campaign, Gram Sabhas are convened at the earliest to pass a resolution for providing safe water in schools, anganwadi centers, other public institutions in the village in the next 100 days. Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on August 15, 2019.

3. PM Modi to launch physical distribution of Property Cards under SVAMITVA Scheme

PM will launch physical distribution of Property Cards to transform rural India. SVAMITVA is a Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj that aims to provide record of rights to village household owners in rural areas & issue Property Cards. SVAMITVA Scheme was launched in April 2020.

4. Union Health Minister launches 2nd phase of "Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna"

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister virtually launched 2nd phase of "Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna" for the underprivileged Thalassemic patients. Scheme has been extended to cover Aplastic Anaemia patients for a total of 200 such patients from this year. World Thalassaemia Day is observed on every 8th of May.

5. Union Education Minister virtually launches 'KAPILA' Kalam Program

Union Education Minister launched 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy & Awareness. Students pursuing education in higher educational institutions will get info. about correct system of application process for patenting their invention
Union Education Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.

6. Agriculture Minister launches AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme

Narendra Singh Tomar has launched AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme. Scheme is a unique way to assist cooperatives to play an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country. AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme has been formulated by the NCDC National Cooperative Development Corp. Founded: 13 March 1963

7. RPF launches 'Meri Saheli' initiative in Amaravathi Express

Railway Protection Force launched 'Meri Saheli' initiative in Amaravathi Express between Vijayawada-Hubli. The aim of 'Meri Saheli' initiative is to provide a safe and secure environment to lady passengers travelling in trains throughout their journey. Emergency helpline Number: 182

8. Dr Harsh Vardhan launches DST initiative SERB – POWER for women scientists

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare launched a Scheme titled 'SERB-POWER' (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research), designed exclusively for women scientists. Scheme has two components: Fellowship & Research Grants.

Appointments & Resignations

1. Bengal Peerless ropes in former cricket captain Sourav Ganguly as brand ambassador

Bengal Peerless Housing has roped in Sourav Ganguly as brand ambassador. The former national cricket team captain & current president of the BCCI, Ganguly will primarily lead the campaign of the company's residential project Avidipta II on EM Bypass. WB CM: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar.

2. RBI appoints three-member committee of directors in Dhanlaxmi Bank

The Committee of Directors will be constituted with G Subramonia Iyer as Chairman and G Rajagopalan Nair and PK Vijayakumar as Members. At the AGM, over 90 percent of the votes were polled against CEO Sunil Gurbaxani's appointment. Dhanlaxmi Bank, headquartered in Thrissur City, Kerala.

3. SBI appoints Charanjit Attra as CFO

State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra as a chief financial officer. Before joining the country's largest public-sector lender, Attra was a Partner at EY India and senior executive at ICICI Securities. Dinesh Kumar Khara is set to replace SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar.

4. Devyani Khobragade appointed India's next Ambassador to Cambodia

Indian Foreign Service officer Devyani Uttam Khobragade has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Cambodia. In her nearly 21-year career, Khobragade has served in Indian missions in Berlin, Islamabad, Rome, and New York. Cambodia, Capital: Phnom Penh; Currency: Cambodian riel.

5. Govt appoints Dinesh Kumar Khara as State Bank of India chairman for 3 years

The Government appointed Dinesh Khara as the chairman of State Bank of India for 3 years. Khara will replace SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar. The country's largest lender, SBI, is headed by a chairman with four managing directors to assist. SBI HQs: Mumbai; Founded: 1 July 1955

6. M A Ganapathy appointed as Director-General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)

Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of M A Ganapathy as the DG, BCAS, for tenure up to his superannuation on Feb 29, 2024 or until further orders. Post of BCAS chief fell vacant after Rakesh Asthana was appointed as the DG, BSF. BCAS was set up in Jan 1978 on the recomm, of Pande Committee.

7. Govt appoints M Rajeshwar Rao as new deputy governor of RBI

The Centre appointed M Rajeshwar Rao as new deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India. He is currently an executive director at the banking regulator. He will oversee the regulation department, which sets rules and regulations for the financial sector. The position fell vacant since March after Vishwanathan resigned

8. Uday Shankar quits as Star & Disney India Chairman

Uday Shankar, chairman of Star & Disney India and president, The Walt Disney Company APAC has decided to step down. Shankar, one of the top media and entertainment executives from India, will remain at Disney till 31st Dec.2020 to identify his successor. He is currently the senior vice president of FICCI.

9. J Venkatramu appointed MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank

J Venkatramu has been appointed the MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). He is presently working as the chief digital officer at Equitas Small Finance Bank. Venkatramu has been appointed to the post for a period of three years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched IPPB in 2018.

10. RBI extends CMD R. K. Chhibber's tenure by further six months at Jammu & Kashmir Bank

RBI has extended term of R. K. Chhibber, Chairman & MD of Bank by a further period of 6 months w.e.f. 10th Oct 2020 or till appointment of MD & CEO, whichever is earlier. In June 2019, RBI had appointed Chhibber as interim CMD on removal of Parvez Ahmed. J&K Bank HQs: Srinagar; Founded: 1 Oct 1938.

11. Nilesh Shah re-elected as Chairman of AMFI

Nilesh Shah has been re-elected as Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India. Earlier elected as Chairman for 2019-20 would continue to hold the office till the conclusion of next AGM. AMFI is dedicated to developing the Indian Mutual Fund Industry AMFI was incorporated on August 22, 1995

12. Amit Banerjee is appointed as the New Director at BEML

Amit Banerjee assumed charge as the Director (Rail and Metro Business) and Member on the Board of BEML Limited. A graduate in Mechanical Engineering from IIT (BHU), Varanasi, Banerjee had joined BEML as an assistant engineer in 1984. BEML Ltd was established in May 1964.

13. Kyrgyzstan Parliament approves Sadyr Japarov as new Prime Minister

The members of the Kyrgyzstan parliament unanimously approved the appointment of Sadyr Japarov as new the Prime Minister of the country. This comes amid a political crisis in the nation after the parliamentary elections were declared invalid. Capital: Bishkek; Currency: Kyrgyzstani som.

14. Srikant Datar named second Indian-descent dean of Harvard Business School

Srikant M Datar, an alumnus of Mumbai University & IIM Ahmedabad, has been named the head of Harvard University's business school. Datar will succeed Nitin Nohria, another Indian American, and will be the 2nd dean of Indian origin in Harvard University. Datar will be the 11th dean of the prestigious school.

15. ICICI Securities appoints Subhash Kelkar as Chief Technology & Digital Officer

Following the superannuation of Yagnesh Parikh, ICICI Securities has appointed Subhash Kelkar as the Chief Technology & Digital Officer. ICICI Securities Limited (I-Sec) is a subsidiary of ICICI Bank Ltd. The company began its operation in May 1995. MD & CEO of ICICI Securities- Vijay Chandok.

16. NSDL e-Governance appoints Suresh Sethi as new CEO & MD

NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd., India's leading technological infrastructure provider, announces that Suresh Sethi has taken charge as its Managing Director & CEO-Designate. He was earlier the Founder, CEO & MD of India Post Payments Bank. Suresh Sethi will succeed Gagan Rai.

17. R. Balasubramaniam appointed to SEBI committee

SEBI has inducted R. Balasubramaniam, founder and chairman of GRAAM, Mysuru, as a member of the Technical Group on Social Stock Exchange (SSE). The committee has

been formed to develop guidelines for setting up the Social Stock Exchange in India. The committee is chaired by Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.

18. India gets re-elected as President of International Solar Alliance

India has been re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and France as the Co- President for a term of two years. Four new Vice-Presidents were also chosen to represent the four regions of ISA. ISA HQs: Gurugram, India; Founded: 30 November 2015.

19. Vishal V Sharma appointed India's next permanent representative to UNESCO

Vishal V Sharma has been appointed as next permanent representative of India to United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. He has succeeded J. Ashraf. He will only be 3rd political appointee among Indian ambassadors around the world UNESCO HQs: Paris, France; Founded: 16 November 1945.

20. Suzlon Group has announced the appointment of Ashwani Kumar as Group CEO

Clean energy solution provider Suzlon Group has appointed Ashwani Kumar as its group chief executive officer. Kumar, who has over 3 decades of experience in projects, business development & finance at leading Indian power/Infra companies. Suzlon Group Chairman & Managing Director: Tulsi Tanti

21. International Weightlifting Federation appoint Michael Irani as interim president

International Weightlifting Federation has appointment Michael Irani as its interim president. Irani is chair of IWF Medical Committee & former chair of IWF Anti-Doping Commission. He has extensive experience against doping & safeguarding athlete welfare. IWF HQs: Budapest, Hungary; Founded: 1905.

22. Ghanshyam Jha appointed Chairman J&K Water Resources Regulatory Authority

In exercise of powers conferred by Section 139 of J&K Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2020, the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir has appointed Ghanshyam Jha as Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority. Lieutenant Governor of J&K: Manoj Sinha.

23. Lt. General N K Sahoo takes charge as of DG, Dental Services & Colonel Commandant of ADC

Lt. Gen Nanda Kishore Sahoo appointed as DG, Dental Services and Colonel Commandant of Army Dental Corps. He is an internationally acclaimed author, teacher and winner of KS Master silver medal. He is a recipient of 5 Commendations and Presidential Award. He was also awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal.

24. Essar appoints Stein Ivar Bye as chief executive officer

Essar Oil UK Ltd, the firm that owns the Stanlow refinery in the UK appointed Stein Ivar Bye as its new CEO. Stanlow produces 16 per cent of the UK's road transport fuels and the refinery processes 10 million tonnes of crude and feedstocks annually. Essar Energy is headquartered in Port Louis, Mauritius.

25. India gets Chairmanship of ILO Governing body after a gap of 35 years

After 35 years, India assumed the Chairmanship of the Governing Body of ILO. Labour Secretary Apurva Chandra has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO for the period October 2020-June 2021, a position of international repute. ILO HQ: Geneva, Switzerland. Head: Guy Ryder. ILO has 187 members.

26. Ministry of Education Appoints Shashi Kiran Shetty As The Chairman Of NITIE's Board Of Governors

Shashi Kiran Shetty, Chairman, Allcargo Logistics and Gati appointed as the Chairman of the Society and Board of Governors of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, India's institution offering post graduate courses in Industrial Engineering. He is appointed for a period of four years.

28. Facebook India's controversial policy chief Ankhi Das resigns

Ankhi Das senior Facebook executive who was caught in controversy recently over allegations of political bias in the running of Facebook & WhatsApp in India quit the social media giant. She was in charge of public policy & government initiative for India. Fb CEO: Mark Zuckerberg. HQ: California, USA.

29. Rajesh Nambiar appointed Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India

Rajesh Nambiar replaces Ramkumar Ramamoorthy. Nambiar is the chairman & president of networking systems & software firm Ciena India. Ursula Morgenstern was appointed as the new president Global Growth Markets (GGM). Manoj Mehta to lead global IoT practice. Cognizant HQ: New Jersey, USA. CEO: Brian Humphries.

30. Banks Board Bureau recommends Siddhartha Mohanty for LIC MD post

Banks Board Bureau has recommended Siddhartha Mohanty's name for the position of MD in LIC of India. The Board has also put Mini Ipe's name on the reserve list. Mohanty started his career as a direct recruit officer with the corporation in 1985. M R Kumar, Chairman, LIC of India.

31. Yashvardhan K. Sinha appointed new Chief Information Commissioner

His predecessor Bimal Julka completed his tenure as Chief Information Commissioner on Aug. 26. Centre also cleared the name of senior journalist Uday Mahurkar as information commissioner. With the latest appointments, it has six commissioners now out of 10. The Central Information Commission Founded in 2005.

32. Sudhakar Rao Desai re-elected as Indian Vegetable oil Producers' Association (IVPA) President

Sudhakar Rao Desai, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Emami Agrotech Ltd, has been re-elected unanimously as the President of the Indian Vegetable oil Producers' Association (IVPA). Vipin Gupta has been re-elected unopposed as the Vice-President of IVPA. The IVPA was established in 1977.

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Awards

1. Indo-American Chamber of Commerce presents lifetime achievement award to Ratan Tata

The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has presented the lifetime achievement and Global Excellence award to business icon Ratan Tata at a closed-door meeting, owing to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis as part of its recent global leadership awards. R. Tata received Padma Bhushan in 2000 & Padma Vibhushan in 2008.

2. 2020 Nobel: Three scientists share Prize in Physiology or Medicine

Harvey J Alter, Charles M Rice & M. Houghton were awarded Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology for discovery of hepatitis C virus. Trio's work helped explain major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by hepatitis A & B viruses. Will of Alfred Nobel established the five Nobel prizes in 1895.

3. Three share Physics Nobel for their discoveries about black holes

Roger Penrose won half of prize for discovery that black hole formation is robust prediction of general theory of relativity, Reinhard Genzel & Andrea Ghez received second half of prize for discovery of supermassive compact object at center of our galaxy. In 1915, Einstein developed the theory of general relativity.

4. Piyush Goyal releases results of first edition of National Startup Awards

Commerce and Industry Minister released the results of 1st edition of National Startup Awards. Awards were given in 12 diff. sectors which include Agriculture, Education, Enterprise Technology, Energy, Finance, Food, Health, Industry & Urban Services. India boasts the 3rd largest Startup Ecosystem in the world.

5. U.S.-French duo win Nobel Chemistry Prize for gene editing tool

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to French researcher Emmanuelle Charpentier & American Jennifer A Doudna for developing the tools to edit DNA. The duo discovered one of gene technology's sharpest tools, the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors. 1st Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Jacobus Henricus van 't Hoff.

6. American Poet Louise Gluck Awarded 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature

Louise Gluck has won 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal. Prof at Yale University, Glück made her debut in 1968 with her collection titled 'Firstborn'. She is prominent poet in American contemporary literature

7. Nobel Peace Prize 2020 awarded to World Food Programme

Nobel Committee has awarded 2020 Nobel Peace Prize to World Food Programme for its efforts to combat hunger, contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas & for efforts to prevent use of hunger as weapon of war & conflict. From 1901 to 2019, 100 Nobel Peace Prizes have been awarded.

8. Indian Navy Ships Sahyadri and Kora adjudged as Best Ships in FAF 2020

Fleet Award Function 2020 was organised to mark successful culmination of Operational Cycle of Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam. Best Ship were awarded to INS Sahyadri amongst Capital ships & INS Kora amongst Corvettes ships. INS Airavat & Kiltan jointly bagged 'Best Spirited Ship'

9. Economics Nobel awarded to Paul R. Milgrom, Robert B. Wilson for their work on auction theory

Paul Milgrom & Robert Wilson won 2020 Nobel Economics Prize for work on commercial auctions, including for goods & services difficult to sell in traditional ways. Duo was honoured for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats. It was not originally chosen in 1895 & was created in 1968.

10. Prince William and Sir David Attenborough launches Earthshot Prize for environmental solutions

Prince William & Sir David Attenborough has launched Earthshot Prize, which offers £50m in funding for solutions to environmental & climate crises. Aim of the prize is to provide an incentive to find solutions to repair the planet over the next decade. 5 £1m prizes will be awarded every year.

11. Indian-origin philanthropist Harish Kotecha wins lifetime achievement award in US

Harish Kotecha has been awarded the prestigious Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work in the US for meeting needs of children & youth experiencing homelessness. He is founder & president of Hindu Charities for America. The lifetime achievement award by NAEHCY.

12. Seema Gupta wins 2020 Stevie Awards for Women In Business

Seema Gupta, Director, Power Grid Corp, has been named winner of GOLD Stevie Award in LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT- BUSINESS category in 17th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business. Stevie Awards have been hailed as the world's premier business awards. Power Grid Corp of India Ltd, a PSU under the Ministry of Power.

13. Aishwarya Sridhar becomes first Indian woman to win at Wildlife Photographer of the Year awards

Aishwarya Sridhar, 23, has become the first Indian woman to win at the Wildlife Photographer of the Year awards. Her image titled 'Lights of passion' was captured using one of Canon's premium DSLRs -- EOS-1DX Mark II & has won the 'Highly Commended' award. Announcement was made at Natural History Museum in London.

14. Billboard Music Awards: Post Malone and Billie Eilish win best artist awards

Top female artist: Billie Eilish

Top male artist: Post Malone

Top duo/group: Jonas Bros.

Top R&B artist: Khalid

Top country artist: Luke Combs

Top rock artist: Panic! at the Disco

Top Hot 100 song: "Old Town Road," Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus Event was held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

15. Dr Jajini Varghese, Indian origin oncoplastic surgeon honored Outstanding Young Person 2020

Dr. Jajini Varghese, a UK-based Indian-origin plastic surgeon, has been named an 'Outstanding Young Person of the World 2020' by a non-profit NGO for her incredible scientific contributions to diagnosing and treating breast cancer.

She has been recognised in the "Medical Innovation" category.

16. GHE wins UN award for efforts to fight climate change amid Covid-19

The Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) which solar electrified more than 131 villages is among the winners of 2020 UN Global Climate Action Award. It is one of the first organisations using tourism and technology to bring solar energy to remote communities UN Climate Change Executive Secretary - Patricia Espinosa.

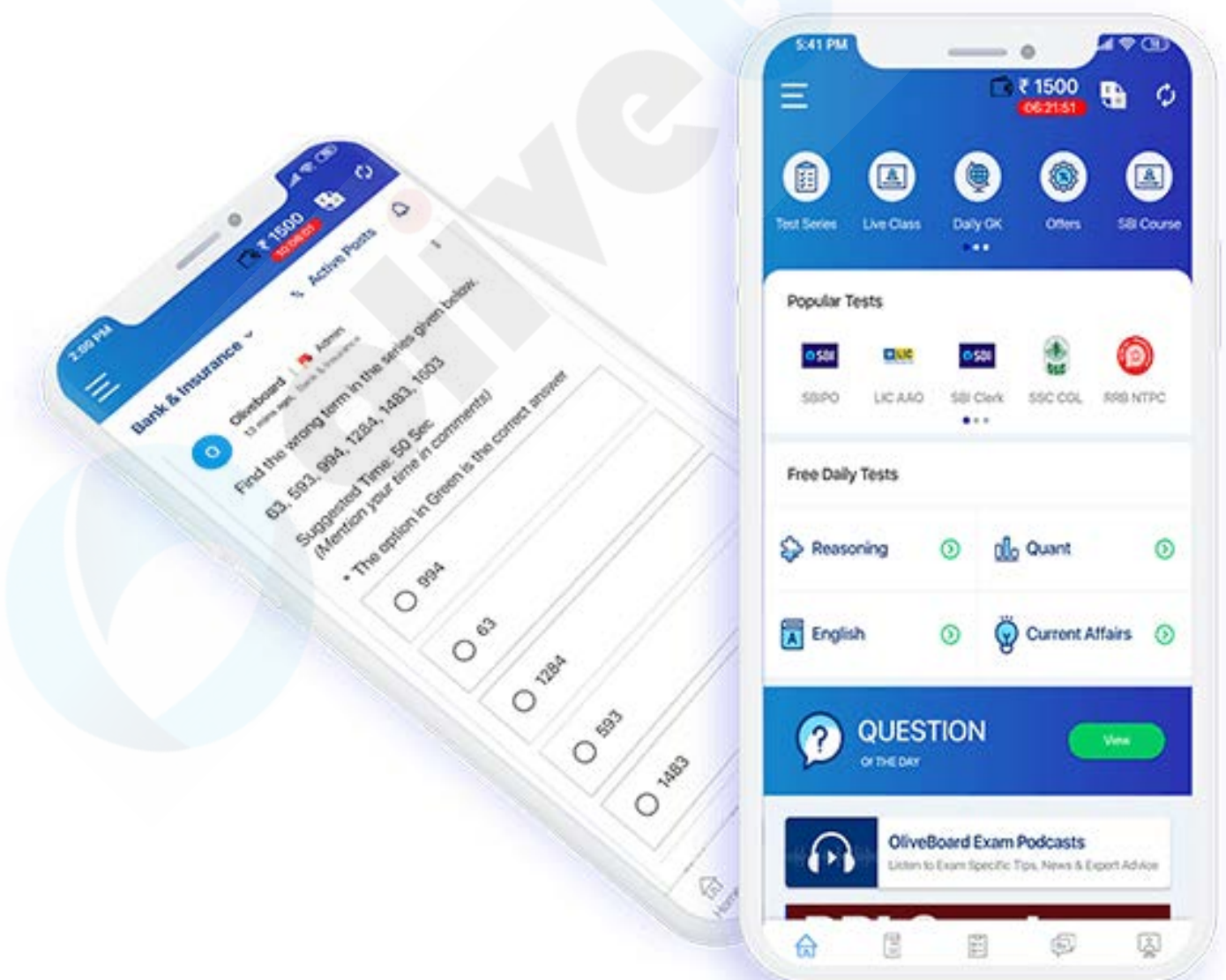
17. CSIR-CDRI Scientist, Dr Satish Mishra bags Dr Tulsi Das Chugh Award-2020

Orations & Awards Committee of National Academy of Medical Sciences selected Dr Satish Mishra, Principal Scientist Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, CSIR-CDRI for Dr Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020 for his work on Malaria parasite's life cycle The award carries Scroll, Commemorative Medal & Cash Incentive.

18. Late actor Om Puri honoured at the third India International Film Festival of Boston this year with a Lifetime Achievement Award

Other big winners of the night were Malayalam film Kaanthy, which won the Best Feature Film Award. The Best Actor Male was won by Victor Bannerjee for playing a priest in Josef: Born In Grace. The best Actor Female went to Shylaja Ambu for Kaanthy. Film festival was held virtually this year, based in Boston USA.

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Ranks & Reports

1. Economic crimes on rise in Maharashtra, Mumbai tops metropolitan cities

According to the NCRB reports, Maharashtra registered an increase in economic offences in 2019 from 14,854 cases registered in 2018 and 13,941 cases logged in 2017. Rajasthan topped the list for economic offences with 26,920 cases registered in 2019. Mumbai (5556 cases) is followed by Delhi (4817 cases).

2. Mukesh Ambani ranks as India's richest for 13th year in Forbes list

Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani was named the richest Indian by Forbes for the 13th year with a net worth of \$88.7 billion. Despite the coronavirus crisis, the 100 richest Indians got richer by 14 per cent at \$517.5 billion, according to Forbes. 2nd richest Indian: Gautam Adani; 3rd richest Indian: Shiv Nadar

3. One stillbirth occurs every 16 seconds, according to first ever joint UN estimates

Almost 2 million babies are stillborn every year- or 1 every 16 seconds- according to the first ever joint stillbirth estimates released by UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank Group and the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Report- A Neglected Tragedy: The Global Burden of Stillbirths.

4. India's health budget spends fourth lowest globally: Oxfam report

According to DFI & Oxfam's 2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index, India spent 4% of its budget on health going into the pandemic, 4th lowest in world. Just 26 of 158 countries were spending recommended 15% of their budgets on health pre-pandemic. India ranked 129 out of 158 countries.

5. Prolonged closure of schools may cost India \$400 billion: World Bank

According to World Bank report titled 'Beaten or Broken? Informality and Covid-19 in South Asia', prolonged closure of schools in India could cost \$400bn in future earnings. Report stated that around 55 lakh students may drop out of the education system. World Bank's HQs: Washington D.C., US; Founded: July 1944.

6. Climate change to blame for doubling of disasters: UN

UNDRR in its report entitled "The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019" stated that Climate change is largely to blame for a near doubling of natural disasters in past 20 yrs. The Report did not touch on biological hazards & disease-related disasters. 7,348 major disaster events had occurred between 2000 and 2019

7. Tuberculosis notifications in 2020 down by 25% in India: WHO

A drop of around 25-30 per cent in tuberculosis case notifications was reported in three high-burden countries - India, Indonesia and the Philippines - between January and June 2020, compared to the corresponding period in 2019, according to a WHO report. Indonesia capital: Jakarta; Currency: Indonesian rupiah.

8. India Ranks 94 Out Of 107 Nations In Global Hunger Index

According to Global Hunger Index 2020, India has the highest prevalence of wasted children under 5yrs in world, which reflects acute undernutrition. India ranks 94 in the Index, lower than neighbours such as Bangladesh and Pakistan. India is in the 'serious' hunger category.

9. Indian spends 3.5% of average daily income on food: UN WFP's Report

According to "Cost of a Plate of Food" report released by UN's WFP, on average, an Indian spends 3.5% of his daily income for a plate of food as compared to 0.6% by a New Yorker. India stands at 28th position out of 36 countries as per % of money.

Most expensive plate of food is of South Sudan

10. India world No. 2 in migrations to OECD nations: International Migration Outlook 2020

According to International Migration Outlook 2020, India is second only to China in terms of number of migrants going to the countries from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and acquiring citizenship in these countries. OECD is an association of 37 developed countries.

11. Asia Power Index 2020: India ranked as 4th most powerful country

According to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index for 2020, India stands as the fourth most powerful country in Asia -Pacific following the US, China and Japan. India's power score dipped 1.3 points to 39.7 in 2020 as compared to 41.0 in 2019 On defence networks, India (7th) has improved by one place.

12. India gained decade of life expectancy since 1990: Lancet study

The study, published in Lancet journal, noted that life expectancy in India has risen from 59.6 years in 1990 to 70.8 years in 2019, ranging from 77.3 years in Kerala to 66.9 years in UP. It states that 58% of total disease burden in India is due to NCDs. It assessed causes of death & disease in more than 200 countries

13. Global Wealth Report 2020, Wealth of Indian adults rises marginally amid CoVID outbreak: Credit Suisse

Wealth per adult in India rose 0.6% to USD 17,420, despite covid-19. Personal debt per adult was reduced to USD 1,080. Population with wealth below USD 10,000 fell from 78% to 73% & proportion of adults with wealth above USD 100,000 rose from 1.8% to 2.3%. Credit Suisse research -based on estimates from Karvy Pvt Wealth

14. NITI Aayog, Rockefeller Foundation & Smart Power India Launch Electricity Access & Utility Benchmarking Report

Based on a primary survey conducted across 10 states representing about 65% of total rural population of India & with sample size of more than 25000 including households, commercial enterprises & institutions, the report assesses 25 distribution utilities. The hours of supply improved to nearly 17 hours per day.

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Important Days

1. World vegetarian day: 1st October

World vegetarian day is celebrated annually on Oct 1. It is celebrated to create awareness about benefits of a vegetarian lifestyle & encourage others to make the switch. The Day was founded in 1977 by the NAVS & endorsed by Int. Vegetarian Union in 1978. International Vegetarian Union Founded: 1908

2. International Day of Older Persons: 1st October

International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 every year. In 1990, the United Nations designated Oct 1 as the International Day of Older Persons to focus on the well-being and special needs of the elderly people. Theme - "Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?"

3. 2 October: International Day of Non-Violence

The International Day of Non-Violence is marked on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. This day was marked in 2007 by the UN. 2020 theme of the day: 'Shaping Peace Together'.

4. World Animal Welfare Day | October 4th

World Animal Welfare Day is observed on October 4th across the world every year. The international day is very significant in terms of caring, protecting, and spreading awareness through the support and involvement of individuals, groups and organizations. World Day for Laboratory Animals observed on 24 April.

5. World Teachers' Day: 5th October

Held annually on 5 Oct. since 1994, World Teachers' Day provides occasion to celebrate teaching profession & draw attention to the voices of teachers. UNESCO's World Teachers' Day is co-convened in alliance with UNICEF, ILO & Education International. 2020 Theme- "Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future".

6. World Habitat Day: 5 October (1st Monday of Oct.)

In 1985 UN designated 1st Monday of Oct. every year as World Habitat Day. Idea is to reflect the state of our towns & cities and basic right to adequate shelter. Intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for future of human habitat. 2020 Theme: Housing for All - A Better Urban Future.

7. Smriti Irani launches first ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton on World Cotton Day

Minister of Textiles launched 1st ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton on World Cotton Day. It would be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton trade. It will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness & Indianness. WCD observed globally on 7th October since 2019.

8. 88th Indian Air Force Day

Indian Air Force Day is celebrated every year on Oct 8. On the occasion, a scintillating air display by various aircraft will be the hallmark of the Air Force Day Parade cum Investiture Ceremony at Air Force Station Hindan, Ghaziabad. The IAF was founded on October 8, 1932

9. World Post Day: 9 October

World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. It was

declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. The highest post office in world is at Hikkim, Himachal Pradesh.

10. Indian Foreign Service Day: 9th October

Indian Foreign Service Day is observed on Oct 9 to mark the creation of this branch this day in 1946. PM greeted the IFS officers and said that the efforts of officers during the Vande Bharat Mission & other COVID related assistance have been noteworthy. The IFS Day is celebrated on 9 October every year since 2011.

11. World Mental Health Day: 10 October

World Mental Health Day, a programme of the World Federation for Mental Health, is observed on 10 Oct every year, with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. Theme 2020: 'Mental Health for All: Greater Investment – Greater access.

12. World Migratory Bird Day: 10th October (second Saturday of October)

World Migratory Bird Day is an annual awareness campaign highlighting need for conservation of migratory birds. It raises awareness of threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance & need for international co-op to conserve them. 2020 Theme: Birds Connect Our World.

13. International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October

1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing, countries unanimously adopted Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Beijing Declaration is 1st to specifically call out girls' rights. On Dec 19, 2011, UN declared Oct.11 as International Day of Girl Child. 2020 Theme: My Voice, Our Equal Future.

14. 12 October: World Arthritis Day

Arthritis is inflammation of the joints which affects movement. The objective of the World Arthritis Day is to create awareness among the people about rheumatic disorders as well as to sensitise government and policy makers about the disease. World Arthritis Day (WAD) was established in 1996.

15. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction: 13 October

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was started in 1989 by UN to promote a global culture of risk-awareness & disaster reduction. Held every 13 Oct, it celebrates how people & communities of the world are reducing their exposure to disasters. 2020 theme: "Disaster risk governance".

16. World Standards Day: 14th October

Each year on 14 October, members of IEC, ISO & ITU celebrate World Standards Day for paying tribute to the collaborative efforts of thousands of experts worldwide who develop the voluntary technical agreements that are published as International Standards 2020 Theme: Protecting the planet with standards

17. International Day of Rural Women: 15 October

UN International Day of Rural Women celebrates & honours the role of rural women on Oct 15 each year. It recognizes rural women's importance in enhancing agricultural and rural development worldwide. It was first observed in the year 2008. Theme: Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19

18. Global Handwashing Day: 15 October

Each year on October 15, Global Handwashing Day founded by the Global Handwashing Partnership highlights the importance of handwashing with soap and water at home, in the community, and around the world. The first Global Handwashing Day was held in 2008. 2020 Theme: Hand Hygiene for All

19. World Students' Day: 15 October

World Students' Day is celebrated every year on October 15. It marks the birth anniversary of former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam popularly known as the 'Missile Man of India'. The United Nations declared October 15 as World Students' Day in 2010. 2020 Theme: Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace.

20. World Food Day 2020: 16th October

UN's Food & Agriculture Organisation marked Oct 16 of every year as World Food Day in 1979. Day was launched to create awareness about food shortage & reviving food systems across globe. Theme: Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together. Our actions are our future. World Food Day 2020 also marks the 75th anniversary of FAO

21. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: 17 October

This year marks the 27th anniversary of the declaration by UN General Assembly, in 1992, of celebrating 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. 2020 Theme: Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all. SDG Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

22. World Statistics Day: 20th October

Started in 2010, on October 20, the United Nation's World Statistics Day is celebrated at an interval of every five years. World Statistics Day is a global collaborative endeavour, organized under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission. 2020 Theme: "Connecting the world with data we can trust."

23. Police Commemoration Day: October 21

Police Commemoration Day is observed on October 21 every year to remember and honour the brave policemen who have laid down their lives in the line of duty. Since 1959, 21 Oct has been observed as Police Commemoration Day. PM inaugurated 1st National Police Memorial in 2018 at New Delhi

24. International Stuttering Awareness Day: October 22

October 22 was designated International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) in 1998. The day is observed to raise awareness about the issue of stuttering faced by millions of people. ISAD conducts online events from October 1 to 22 for people who stutter. 2020 Theme: "Journey of Words – Resilience and Bouncing Back"

25. International Snow Leopard Day: 23rd October

International Snow Leopard Day is observed annually on 23rd October. Committed to raising awareness for the plight of an iconic species, 12 Asian countries that are home to the cat have declared October 23rd, 2014, to be International Snow Leopard Day. Snow leopards are categorized as 'Vulnerable' in IUCN's Red List

26. United Nations Day: 24 October

October 24 is observed as the United Nations Day since 1948. Since it was established in 1945, 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of UN Day. The theme for 2020 is 'The Future We Want; the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism'. UN Secretary-General - Antonio Guterres. HQ: New York, USA.

27. World Polio Day: 24 October

World Polio Day is observed on 24 October to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, American virologist who helped create the world's first safe and effective polio vaccine. Polio is a deadly infectious disease caused by poliovirus that causes paralysis. Polio virus can spread from person to person.

28. World Development Information Day: 24 October

The United Nations General Assembly in 1972 established World Development Information Day to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them. The UN was founded after the Second World War.

29. International Day of Diplomats: October 24

Celebration of International Day of Diplomats started in Brasilia by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K. and since then diplomats of several countries celebrate it annually. It aims to bridge the gap in perception and reality of diplomat's life among the public. The first edition of the day was celebrated on October 24, 2017

30. World Audio-visual Heritage Day: October 27

The World Day for Audio-visual Heritage (WDAH) takes place every 27 October. This day was chosen by UNESCO in 2005 to raise general awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audio-visual documents. Theme for 2020: Your Window to the World.

31. Disarmament Week: 24-30 October

UN Disarmament Week is observed every year to promote awareness and a better understanding of disarmament issues and their cross-cutting importance. The week was first established in 1978. UN Office for Disarmament Affairs is headquartered in New York. It will be observed from Oct 24 to Oct 30.

32. Vigilance Awareness Week to be observed from October 27

Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 will be observed from Oct 27th till the 2nd of November. This year the theme is - Satark Bharat, Samridh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India). CBI is hosting a 3-day national conference on vigilance and anti-corruption. CBI DG: Rishi Kumar Shukla. HQ: New Delhi.

33. 74th Infantry Day celebrated

Indian Army celebrates October 27 each year as Infantry Day. On this day in 1947, an infantry company of the 1st Battalion, The Sikh Regiment, was air-lifted from Delhi to Srinagar to hold off invading tribals backed by the Pakistan military in Kashmir. This action was ordered after the Instrument of Accession.

34. 31 October: National Unity Day

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is observed on 31st of October. The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He is known as the Iron Man of India and as one of the founding leaders of the Republic of India. Government of India introduced Rashtriya Ekta Diwas in 2014.

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Summit & Conferences

1. UN Biodiversity Summit: India to restore 26mn hectares of deforested land by 2030

Addressing the UN summit on Biodiversity, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said that India aims to restore 26 million hectares of degraded and deforested land, and achieve land-degradation neutrality by 2030 UN HQs: New York, US Founded: 24 Oct. 1945

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed an international webinar on textile traditions organized by ICCR

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) & UP Institute of Design organized the webinar on the theme "Weaving Relations: Textile Traditions." in the context of Gandhiji's 151st Birth Anniversary. PM said that textile sector is key to self-reliant India. ICCR was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

3. Embassy of India in Kathmandu today marked the 56th anniversary of the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Day

Embassy of India in Nepal marked the 56th Anniversary of the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Day-2020 through a Webinar on "Sharing Knowledge & Experiences on COVID-19 Management". ITEC is India's flagship capacity building assistance initiative. Nepal Capital: Kathmandu Currency: Nepalese rupee.

4. Prime Minister Modi inaugurates the artificial intelligence 'RAISE 2020' Summit

PM inaugurated the Summit RAISE 2020 - Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020. MeitY & NITI Aayog are co-organizing the Virtual Summit on AI from 5th to 9th Oct. Summit will discuss cross-sector subjects like Leveraging AI for Pandemic Preparedness. National Institution for Transforming India was formed in 2015

5. 12th BRICS Summit to be held virtually on November 17

12th BRICS Summit will be held on 17th Nov 2020 via video conference. Theme of Meeting of BRICS countries which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa is "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth". Since 2009, the BRICS nations have met annually at formal summit

6. Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurates "International conference on Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19"

Union Minister inaugurated virtual "International conference on Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19". C. Jeffrey, Director, Australia-India Institute co-chaired conf. It had 5 sessions wherein experts touched upon issues like multicultural mental health Australia Capital: Canberra; Currency: Australian dollar.

7. India hosts virtual Summit of Ministers of Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Law & Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad highlighted initiatives taken by Indian Govt for providing affordable and easy access to justice for all. During COVID19 pandemic over 25 Lakh hearings have taken place through video conference at various courts Tele-Law services were initiated in 2017.

8. FM Nirmala Sitharaman participates in 102nd meeting of World Bank Development Committee Plenary

The items on the agenda included Leaning Forward to Save Lives, Scale-up Impact and Get Back on Track: World Bank Group COVID-19 Crisis Response and Update Joint

IMF-WBG Staff Note: Implementation and Extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative. World Bank Head: David Malpass HQ: Washington D.C., USA

9. Science-Society-Setu webinar series initiated to strengthen S&T capacity of NGOs & Communities

Science-Society-Setu for AatmaNirbharBharat (S34ANB) is a web clinic series organised by Dept of Science & Technology covering 4 broad sectors, namely: 'agriculture & allied sectors, MSME & economic sector, social infrastructure, & cross-sector. Union Minister of Science & Technology: Dr. Harsh Vardhan

10. 9th Session of India-Oman Joint Commission Virtual Meeting held

9th Session of the India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting was held virtually. It was co-chaired by Hardeep Singh Puri & Qais bin Mohammed of Oman. The meeting was attended by representatives of various government departments/ministries from both sides. Capital: Muscat; Currency: Omani rial.

11. Prime Minister to inaugurate National Conference on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption on Oct 27

PM to inaugurate the National Conference on Vigilance & Anti-Corruption, based on the theme Vigilant India, Prosperous India. Central Bureau of Investigation organizes this coinciding with Vigilance Awareness Week, observed every year from Oct 27 to Nov 2. Central Vigilance Commissioner: Sanjay Kothari.

12. FM participates in 10th India-UK Economic & Financial Dialogue on Global Responses to coronavirus

UK Research and Innovation and India's Department of Biotechnology to jointly invest up to £8 million for research to address the severity of coronavirus. India & UK to contribute to antimicrobial resistance via the WHO with an initial amount of £600,000. UK capital: London. Currency: Pound sterling. PM: Boris Johnson.

13. India hosts 19th Meeting of SCO Ministers of Foreign Economy & Foreign Trade

Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in his opening remarks said the current crisis due to Covid-19 is a clarion call to the SCO countries to leverage the economic strength and explore partnerships that enhance trade and investment in the region. SCO HQ: Beijing, China. Secretary-General: Vladimir Norov.

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Science & Technology

1. ISRO to launch its Venus mission in 2025, France to take part

ISRO is scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025 & France will participate in it. VIRAL instrument co-developed with Roscosmos and LATMOS atmospheres, environments and space observations laboratory attached to CNRS has been selected by ISRO. VIRAL: Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker

2. NASA lifts off SS Kalpana Chawla cargo spacecraft

A commercial cargo spacecraft bound for the International Space Station (ISS) has been launched carrying the name of deceased NASA astronaut Kalpana "K.C." Chawla, the first Indian-born woman to enter space, for her key contributions to human space. She died with her 6 members aboard space shuttle Columbia(2003).

3. IIT Kharagpur Launches Telemedicine System iMediX for Corona Care

IIT Kharagpur researchers have launched a telemedicine system 'iMediX' to help patients receive assistance from doctors without having to go to hospitals or clinics. The technology basically integrates homecare with healthcare services from the hospital. iMediX can be accessed by any standard internet browser.

4. IIT Kharagpur Develops Robotic Solution for Plant Disease Identification and Pesticide Use

IIT KGP has designed robotic system capable of identifying plant diseases through camera-captured image analysis & spraying pesticide. It is a tracked mobile manipulator aims to achieve conflicting objectives of increased productivity, improved quality. IIT KGP is the first of the IITs to be established in 1951.

5. Trial run of India's first hydrogen fuel cell car successfully conducted by CSIR, KPIT

CSIR & KPIT successfully ran trials of India's 1st Hydrogen Fuel Cell prototype car running on indigenously developed fuel cell stack. Fuel cell is low temperature PEM type Fuel Cell that operates at 65-75 °C, which is suitable for vehicular applications. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research established: 1942

6. Researchers identify 24 potentially 'superhabitable' planets more than 100 light years away

In a study led by Washington State University scientist Dirk Schulze-Makuch, scientists have identified 24 superhabitable planets where life can thrive better than on earth. A planet whose size is 10% more than earth is likely to have more habitable land. Study has been published in the journal Astrobiology.

7. In a world first, iodine sanitisers to hit Indian market soon

India would be the manufacturing hub for supplying the iodine sanitiser, which will be named as I2Cure, said Anil Kejriwal, Global President of the Singapore-based biotechnology firm I2Pure, which holds the patents for this molecular iodine-based product. I2 in the name stands for molecular iodine.

8. IISc Bengaluru develops non-invasive bandage with magnetic nanofibers to treat skin cancer

The researchers at the Centre for biosystems Science and Engineering & Department of Molecular Reproduction, Development and Genetics have developed a bandage with a unique blend of magnetic nanoparticles fabricated using a method called electro spinning. Skin cancer is the abnormal growth of cells in the epidermis.

9. Microsoft alerts Android users of new ransomware

Microsoft issued an alert for all Android users, stating it has found a new mobile ransomware called MalLocker.B. Ransomware freezes the screen and demands ransom to gain access and is known for masquerading as popular apps, cracked games, or video players. Malware is any software intentionally designed to cause damage.

10. Developed sustainable antimicrobial food wrapper: IIT Madras

IIT Madras have developed a sustainable antimicrobial wrapping material that can prevent packaged food contamination by bacteria and is biodegradable. Films developed by an IIT team were made with polymeric blends containing starch, polyvinyl alcohol, etc. At present, there are 23 IITs in India.

11. IIIT Hyderabad and NMDA Develop Rapid Visual Screening RVS Primer to Mitigate Earthquake Risks

IITH Hyderabad and National Disaster Management Authority have developed a Rapid Visual Screening Primer for better insight into structural safety in the wake of earthquake risks. It will assess and estimate the possible damage during an earthquake. National Disaster Management Authority Founded: 30 May 2005.

12. NITI Aayog to establish Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre with AWS

First of its kind in India, NITI Aayog announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre with Amazon Web Services. It will help in piloting state-of-the-art, cloud-centric digital innovations by leveraging emerging technologies. NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015; CEO: Amitabh Kant.

13. Govt launches development of indigenous software solution for VTS and VTMS

Shipping Minister e-launched the development of Indigenous Software solution for Vessel traffic services & Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems. Made in India VTS & VTMS software will pave the way for 'Make for the world' vessel traffic management systems. Shipping Minister MoS (I/C): Mansukh L. Mandaviya.

14. IIT Kharagpur's 'COVIRAP' gets ICMR certification

'COVIRAP', the diagnostic technology developed by researchers at IIT, Kharagpur, has been successfully validated for its efficacy in COVID-19 detection by the Indian Council of Medical Research. It implements the molecular diagnostic procedure. 'COVIRAP' can produce results within one hour.

15. Ministry of Earth Sciences dedicates Flash Flood Guidance services for South Asian countries

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched a dedicated Flash Flood Guidance services that will help warn about flash floods in advance. It is the first of its kind in South Asian countries shared by India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal & Bhutan. It warns threats 6 hours in advance & risks 24 hours in advance.

16. NASA's SOFIA Discovers Water on Sunlit Surface Of Moon

Nasa's SOFIA telescope confirmed the presence of water on the moon's surface. It indicates that water may be distributed across the surface and not limited to cold, shadowed places. The ice-rich areas have been found near the moon's north & south poles. SOFIA - Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy.

17. ISRO to launch Earth Observation Satellite EOS-1 and 9 Customer Satellites

India would launch its latest earth observation satellite EOS-01 and nine international customer spacecraft onboard its PSLV-C49 rocket from the spaceport of Sriharikota. EOS-01 is intended for applications in agriculture, forestry, & disaster management. ISRO Chairman- K. Sivan.



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Defence

1. India successfully test-fires BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

India successfully test-fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missile with several indigenous features. Test firing was carried out by DRDO from Balasore, Odisha. BrahMos features indigenous Booster & Airframe Section along with other Made in India sub-systems. BrahMos is a surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile.

2. US approves \$90 million sale of spares, support for C-130J Super Hercules aircraft to India

The Pentagon has approved India's request to buy USD 90 million worth of equipment, spare parts and logistical support for its fleet of C-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft. India is one of the 17 countries to whom the US has sold its C-130J Super Hercules. The Pentagon, Architects: George Bergstrom, David J. Witmer.

3. India Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) in Bay of Bengal

3rd edition of India Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) follows the bilateral naval exercise Bongosagar between India & Bangladesh which was held in Northern Bay of Bengal. Exercise upholds vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region). Admiral Karambir Singh is the current Chief of Naval Staff.

4. India successfully test-fires new version of nuclear-capable Shaurya Missile

India has successfully test-fired a new version of nuclear-capable Shaurya missile off the coast of Odisha, which can strike targets at around 800 kms. India also successfully test-fired the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. Shaurya missile moves at hypersonic speeds.

5. India successfully tests Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo

Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo, SMART was successfully flight tested from Wheeler Island. It is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for Anti-Submarine Warfare operations far beyond Torpedo range. Wheeler Island is an island off the coast of Odisha

6. Naidu greets RAF personnel on force's 28th raising day

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu greeted personnel of the Rapid Action Force on the organisation's 28th raising day. The Rapid Action Force is part of the Central Reserve Police Force created specially to deal with riots and riot-like situations. CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force.

7. Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Vigraha' launched to enhance coastal security

7th offshore patrol vessel of ICG, 'Vigraha' was unveiled at Kattupalli. Vessel built by L&T is last in series of 7 OPVs contracted to the company. It was for 1st time a private sector shipyard has undertaken design & construction of offshore patrol vessel ICG Founded: 18 August 1978; HQs: New Delhi.

8. India successfully test fires anti-radiation missile 'Rudram' from Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft

India successfully test fired its first tactical anti-radiation missile Rudram 1. The supersonic-capable missile can be launched at speeds ranging from 0.6 mach to 2 mach, i.e., twice the speed of sound. IT can be launched from a height of 500m to 15 km. Rudram-1 is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile.

9. PM greets NSG on its raising day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the National Security Guard (NSG) on its raising day. A central agency, the NSG is an elite counter-terrorist force which is used in exceptional circumstances. NSG personnel are referred to as The Black Cats. The NSG was established in the wake of 1984 Operation Blue Star.

10. ADTL To Build, Run ₹753 cr. MiG-29 Simulator Centre For IAF

Bengaluru based Alpha Design Technologies Ltd. (ADTL) said it has signed the first of 2-phase defense contracts, worth ₹753 crores, with the Ministry of Defence & Russia's RAC MiG to build, own & maintain 2 types of simulators for fighter aircrafts Training on simulators can save up to 75% of the cost of fuel

11. Supersonic Cruise Missile, BrahMos successfully test fired from INS Chennai

BRAHMOS, the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired from Indian Navy's indigenously built stealth destroyer INS Chennai. The highly versatile BRAHMOS has been jointly designed, developed and produced by India and Russia. DRDO Founded: 1958; Chairman: Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy.

12. Indian and Sri Lankan navies to conduct their annual exercise SLINEX

8th annual joint exercise between Indian & Sri Lankan navies SLINEX-20 will begin off Trincomalee coast. 3-day exercise will continue till Oct 21. It aims to enhance interoperability & improve mutual understanding for multi-faceted maritime operations. Indigenously built Kamorta & Kiltan will represent Indian Navy.

13. India successfully test-fires SANT missile with 'Lock-on After Launch' & 'Lock-on Before Launch' capabilities

India test-fired the Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) missile off the coast of Odisha. Defence Research and Development Organisation is developing the missile for Indian Air Force and it will have both Lock-on After Launch and Lock-on Before Launch capabilities. Chief of the Air Staff: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

14. India successfully testfires Prithvi-2 ballistic missile

India successfully test-fired the over 250 km strike range Prithvi-2 ballistic missile off the coast of Balasore, Odisha. The DRDO-developed Missile is already the part of the Strategic Forces Command, which is the custodian of India's nuclear arsenal. Prithvi was India's 1st indigenously developed ballistic missile

15. Indigenously built ASW stealth corvette INS Kavaratti to be commissioned into Navy

Stealth ASW Corvette, Kavaratti is indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata. It takes her name from erstwhile INS Kavaratti which was an Arnala class missile corvette It will be commissioned into Navy as a combat-ready platform.

16. DRDO successfully conducts final trial of Nag anti-tank guided missile

India successfully carried out the final trial of the DRDO-developed Nag anti-tank guided missile with a warhead. The test was carried out at the Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan. The Nag anti-tank missile is ready for induction in the Indian Army Nag Missile Launch platform: NAMICA.

17. Indian Navy gets first batch of women pilots for Maritime Reconnaissance missions

Indian Navy got its first batch of women pilots for Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) missions on Dornier aircraft. Lieutenant Shubhangi Swaroop, Lt Divya Sharma and Lt

Shivangi were operationalised by the Southern Naval Command. Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.

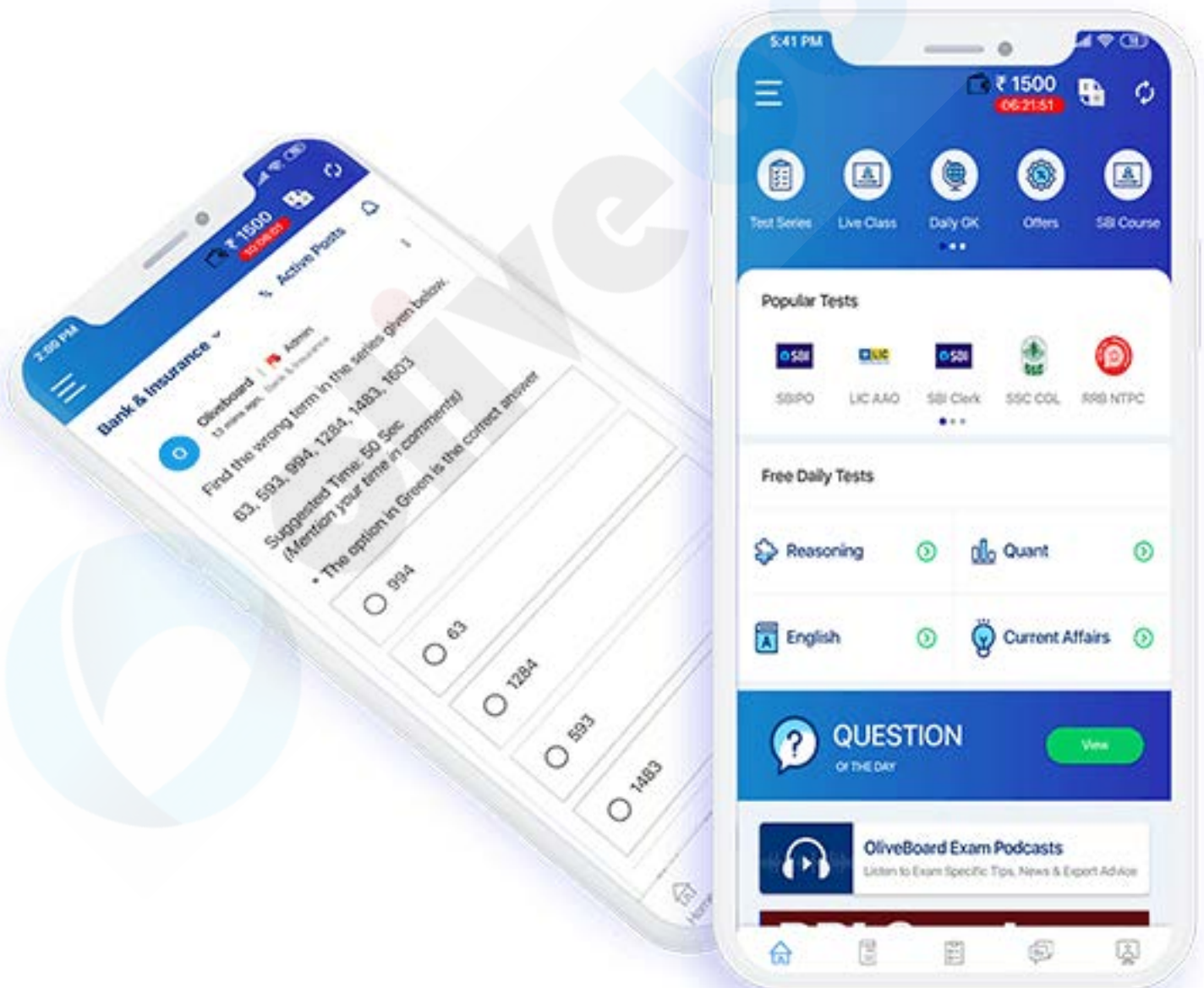
18. Indian Navy Missile Corvette INS Prabal launches anti-ship missile

The Indian Navy shared a video showing an anti-ship missile (AShM) launched by its Missile Corvette INS Prabal landing home on with deadly accuracy at maximum range and sinking the target ship. The targeted ship is a decommissioned Frigate. Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.

19. Indian Navy operationalises first batch of 3 women pilots on Dornier Aircraft at Kochi

Indian Navy operationalized its 1st batch of women pilots on Dornier Aircraft by SNC. Lt. Divya Sharma, Lt. Shubhangi Swaroop & Lt. Shivangi are the three women pilots of the first batch. They graduated as Fully operational Maritime Reconnaissance Pilots. Southern Naval Command (SNC) is headquartered in Kochi.

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Books & Authors

1. Manish Sisodia Launches Book 'Bapu - The Unforgettable' On Gandhi Jayanti

On the occasion of the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Dy. Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia launched a coffee-table book "Bapu - The unforgettable". The book can certainly make us think, give us ideas, give us a glimpse of his philosophy. Anil Baijal is the 21st Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

2. Dr Jitendra Singh releasing Coffee Table Book titled ' Discovering the Heritage of Assam'

Union Minister of State DoNER, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy & Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh released a Coffee Table Book on "Discovering the Heritage of Assam", with a foreword by Amitabh Bachchan and published by Penguin. The book is authored by Padampani Bora.

3. GBS Sidhu unravels the path to 1984 in his book 'The Khalistan Conspiracy'

A former intelligence officer with the RAW, GBS Sidhu has written how pro-Khalistan sentiments and Sikh extremism 'were deliberately encouraged and then crushed with a heavy hand to draw political mileage', in his upcoming book 'The Khalistan Conspiracy'. RAW was formed in 1968 to handle external intelligence affairs.

4. PM Modi release autobiography of Dr. Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

PM released the autobiography of Dr. Balasaheb Vikhe Patil titled 'Deh Vechwa Karani' which means dedicating one's life for a noble cause & renamed the Pravara Rural Education Society as Loknete Dr. Balasaheb Vikhe Patil Pravara Rural Education Society. Pravara Rural Education Society was established in 1964.

5. Pradeep Goorha authored the Book "Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank the Dragon"

Pradeep Goorha authored his second book "Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank the Dragon". Book, though fiction is inspired by reality revolving around developing story on India's northern borders along with neglected Pakistan's illegal occupied territory. Other Book: Survival Redux, historical fiction published in 2016

6. Shashi Tharoor authored the book 'The Battle Of Belonging'

Shashi Tharoor authored the book titled 'The Battle Of Belonging: On Nationalism, Patriotism, And What It Means To Be Indian', the book is about nationalism, patriotism, citizenship, belonging and what they really mean. It will be published by Aleph. He is a Member of Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

7. Portraits of Power: NK Singh's new book traces origin and growth of the PMO

N K Singh has released his autobiography 'Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside'. It recalls his stints over decades starting from 1964 when he joined IAS, serving the government before taking a political plunge with Rajya Sabha term. He is currently the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission.

8. Suman Dubey debut novel: "The Fixer"

The Fixer is a gripping story of 40-year-old failed cricketer Neil Upadhyay, a cricketer-turned-fixer, who finds himself up against the wall when his family business takes an unfortunate turn. The thrilling tale is set to hit the stands on October 26. The book is published by Rupa Publications, India.

9. Author Sarbpreet Singh's latest book - Night of the Restless Spirits

Night of the Restless Spirits' author Sarbpreet Singh's recounts the Sikh massacre of 1984. The book is a fictionalised version of real happenings comprising just eight chapters. It shows the events of 1984 through the prism of many lives & impact on Sikhs. Night of the Restless Spirits is published by Penguin.

10. World's first scientoon book "Bye Bye Corona" on Coronavirus released by Governor of UP, Ms. Anandi Ben

World's 1st scientoon book entitled "Bye Bye Corona", written by 'scientoonist' Dr Pradeep Srivastava, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow was released. It is further planned to make a 3D version of the book. The book has been published by Vigyan Prasar.

Miscellaneous

1. Google removes 17 Android apps infected with Joker malware

Google has removed 17 apps that were infected with Joker malware from Play Store. Joker, a malicious software which can steal user data, device info & sign up users for premium services without consent. They were mostly scanner, messaging & editing apps. Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin; Founded: 1998

2. TCS overtakes Accenture to become world's most valuable IT services company

Tata Consultancy Services became the world's most valuable IT services company overtaking Accenture in market capitalisation, with IBM at 3rd place. TCS is the second most valued company across sectors in India, just behind Reliance Industries. TCS CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan; Founded: 1968.

3. Walmart Vriddhi starts Digitally Enhanced Learning Process to train MSMEs

With Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Program, India's MSMEs now have an opportunity to embark on interactive online training experiences and personalised mentoring, with access to resources and experts to support growth. Walmart Vriddhi Program was launched in December 2019.

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Obituary

1. KC Sivasankar, illustrator of famous Vikram and Vetala series passes away

KC Sivasankar who had contributed over 5 decades in creating cartoons, passed away. He primarily contributed to the magazine, Chandamama. Sankar is the artist behind the signature painting of the Vikram & Vetala series. Mag. Chandamama, A.K.A. Ambulimama was published in 12 dialects.

2. Senior BJD leader Pradeep Maharathy passes away

Former minister of the Government of Odisha, Pradeep Kumar Maharathi, a veteran BJD leader passed away. He was 65. A 7-time MLA, Mr Maharathi had been representing the Pipili assembly constituency of the state. Odisha's Capital: Bhubaneswar Governor: Ganeshi Lal

3. Social activist Pushpa Bhave passes away

Veteran social activist Pushpa Bhave passed away due to prolonged illness. She was 81. She has been associated with Rashtra Seva Dal & democratic movements. She was also an academician and an intellectual, who fought for the rights of common citizens. Maharashtra's Capital: Mumbai Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

4. Veteran Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav passes away

Mulayam Singh Yadav, former MLC of Samajwadi Party, passed away. He was 92. He was elected sarpanch of his village at the age of 21 in 1949. He was a three-time member of the Legislative Council and also the block chief of Auraiya's block twice. Samajwadi Party Founder: Mulayam Singh Yadav.

5. Ex-Gujarat HC Acting Chief Justice AS Dave passes away

Former Acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court Justice Anantkumar Surendraray Dave passed away at the age of 62. He was appointed as Add. Judge of the Gujarat High Court on Oct 8, 2004 and confirmed as a permanent Judge on Sept 25, 2006. Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar; Governor: Acharya Devvrat

6. Veteran Actor Vishal Anand Passes Away

Bollywood's veteran actor Vishal Anand who is known for his role in 1976's Chalte Chalte, passed away due to prolonged illness. Vishal's real name was Bhishmam Kohli. A few of Vishal Anand's films are Hamara Adhikar, Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Pa, Taxi Driver, Intezaar. Vishal Anand directed Mithun Chakraborty-starrer Kismet in 1980.

7. Justice KK Usha, first woman chief justice of Kerala HC from the bar, passes away

Justice K K Usha, former Chief Justice of Kerala HC, passed away. She was 81. When She was appointed Chief Justice of the Kerala HC from 2000-2001, Justice Usha became the 1st woman to join the High Court Judiciary from the Bar and became a Chief Justice. Kerala's Capital: Thiruvananthapuram; CM: Pinarayi Vijayan.

8. Former Union minister, veteran leader Rasheed Masood passes away

Former Union minister and veteran leader Qazi Rasheed Masood passed away. He was 73. He had been an MP 9 times while he was associated with different political parties. He had also served as the Union minister of state for health (IC) in the VP Singh govt. He was candidate of UNP Alliance for VP's post in 2007.

9. Legendary rock guitarist Eddie Van Halen passes away

Eddie Van Halen, considered one of rock music's greatest guitar players, passed away. He was 65. Van Halen is among the top 20 best-selling artists of all time and his band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007.

R.S. magazine put him at No 8 in list of 100 greatest guitarists

10. Former CBI director Ashwani Kumar passes away

Former Governor of Manipur and Nagaland and ex-Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Ashwani Kumar passed away. He joined the Indian Police Service in 1973. He was sworn-in as the Governor of Nagaland, and as Governor of Manipur in 2013. CBI Founded: 1963

11. Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan passes away

Union minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan passed away. He was 74. He was elected to Lok Sabha eight times and also held the record of winning his constituency, Hajipur, with the highest margin for several years. He was the founder of Lok Janshakti Party.

12. Mario Molina, the only Mexican scientist to be honored with a Nobel Prize passes away

Mario Molina, only Mexican scientist to be honored with Nobel Prize in chemistry, 1995 passed away. He was 77 years old. He won prize along with F.S. Rowland of US & P. Crutzen of the Netherlands for their research into climate change. Mexico's Capital: Mexico City; Currency: Peso.

13. Veteran Marathi actor Avinash Kharshikar passes away

Veteran Marathi actor Avinash Kharshikar passed away due to heart attack. He started his career in Marathi industry in 1978 with a role in movie Bandiwan Me Ya Sansari. He also has worked in plays like Saujanya Aishi Taishi & movies like Lapva Chapavi. Maharashtra's Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari; Capital: Mumbai.

14. Veteran Director Vijay passes away

Veteran film-maker B. Vijaya Reddy of the Kannada film industry passed away. He is most remembered for his collaboration with Dr. Rajkumar to deliver some of his super-hit films. He has directed several films including Naa Ninna Bidalare, Auto Raja, Deva. His debut film was Rangamahal Rahasya.

15. Music composer Rajan of famed duo passes away

Noted music composer Rajan (of the Rajan-Nagendra musical duo fame) passed away after a cardiac arrest in Bengaluru. He was 87. Rajan, along with his brother Nagendra, had created a niche for themselves for decades, and have given innumerable hits. The duo together composed music for 400 films.

16. Former India football captain Carlton Chapman passes away

Former India football captain Carlton Chapman, who had formed a deadly trio in club football with Bhaichung Bhutia and IM Vijayan in the 1990s, died in Bengaluru. He was 49. A creative midfielder, Chapman played for India between 1995 and 2001. India won the 1997 SAFF Cup under his captaincy.

17. Nagaland environment minister CM Chang passes away

Nagaland's incumbent environment minister CM Chang passed away. He was 78. Chang serving as the Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Justice & Law minister in the state cabinet, was a member of Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party since 2018. Nagaland's Capital: Kohima; CM: Neiphiu Rio.

18. Former Odisha Speaker Sarat Kar passes away

Former Odisha Assembly Speaker Sarat Kumar Kar passed away at the age of 81. Sarat Kar, a veteran leader & eminent writer, was elected to State Legislative Assembly thrice from Mahanga. He was Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly from 2000 to 2004. Capital: Bhubaneswar; Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

19. Former Chairman and CEO of Karnataka Bank Ananthakrishna passes away

Ananthakrishna, Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Karnataka Bank Ltd. passed away. He was 74. He was the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the bank from 2000 till 2009 and thereafter had continued as Non-Executive Chairman of the Bank. Karnataka Bank HQs: Mangalore; Founded: 18 February 1924.

20. Renowned Indian-origin South African human rights lawyer Priscilla Jana passes away

Renowned Indian-origin South African human rights lawyer Priscilla Jana who represented many anti-apartheid political leaders, including Nelson Mandela, has passed away at 76. In 2017, Jana received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Woza Awards. Jana served as S.A. Ambassador in the Netherlands & Ireland.

21. Kaumudi Munshi, The Nightingale Of Gujarat Passes Away At 93

Kaumudi Munshi, leading singer of Gujarati Sugam Sangeet, known as the "Nightingale of Gujarat", passed away at the age of 93. Munshi was trained under legendary thumri exponent, Siddheshwari Devi. For 5 years, she trained for ghazals under Taj Khan.

Sarojini Naidu is known as the Nightingale of India.

22. Bihar Minister Vinod Singh passes away

Bihar Minister for Backward and Extremely Backward Classes Welfare Vinod Singh passed away. Mr. Singh, 50, was BJP MLA from Pranpur Assembly constituency of Katihar district in northeast Bihar. He has been elected MLA thrice from the constituency. Bihar CM: Nitish Kumar; Capital: Patna.

23. Padma Shri awardee and renowned Kuchipudi exponent Shobha Naidu passes away

Renowned Kuchipudi dancer, Dr Shobha Naidu, 64, passed away. Naidu was awarded civilian honour of Padma Shri in 2001. She also won other awards like Nritya Choodamani & Sangeet Natak Akademi award. She has served as principal of Kuchipudi Art Academy, Hyd. Kuchipudi is one of the classical styles of Indian dance.

24. India's first Oscar winner Costume designer Bhanu Athaiya passes away

India's 1st Oscar winner Costume designer Bhanu Athaiya passed away. She won Oscar for her work in 1983 epic film "Gandhi" jointly with John Mollo. In 2012, Athaiya returned her Oscar to Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences for safekeeping. Athaiya won two National Awards -Lekin and Lagaan

25. Renowned Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passes away

Renowned Malayalam poet & Jnanpith laureate Mahakavi Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passed away. He was 94 years old. Recently, he was conferred with Jnanpith award, highest literary award in the country. The poet was also a social reformer, journalist. He was honoured with Padmashri in 2017.

26. Former New Zealand all-rounder John R Reid passes away

John Richard Reid, former New Zealand and their oldest surviving Test player passed away at the age of 92. Reid made his debut for New Zealand against England in Manchester in 1949. He played 58 Test matches and scored 3,428 runs before retiring in 1965. New Zealand Capital: Wellington; PM: Jacinda Ardern.

27. Renowned cricket commentator and sports writer Kishore Bhimani passes away

In 1980s/90s, Bhimani was one of the most prominent & popular voices of cricket on television and radio, and one of the most respected and well-loved writers of the game. He breathed his last in a private nursing home in Kolkata at the age of 80. In 1976 he wrote a book titled India's Caribbean Adventure.

28. Centenarian Yakshagana artist H Gopal Rao passes away

Yakshagana artist and freedom fighter Hiriyaadka Gopal Rao, popularly known as 'Maddale Mantrika', a maestro in playing the maddale, a percussion instrument, passed away at his residence in Ontibetti near Hiriyaadka in Udupi on Saturday. He was 100. He served as principal of Yakshagana Kendra & taught as well

29. Joseph Mar Thoma, head of Kerala's Malankara Mar Thoma Church, passes away

Joseph Mar Thoma, the head of the Malankara Mar Thoma Church, passed away. He was 90. Consecrated as the Supreme Head of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church on October 2, 2007, Joseph Mar Thoma was known for his compassion and vision. Kerala's Capital: Thiruvananthapuram; CM: Pinarayi Vijayan.

30. Bihar Minister Kapil Dev Kamat passes away

Prominent Janata Dal-United leader Kapil Dev Kamat, Minister of Panchayati Raj, passed away. He was 69. Before joining the JD-U, he was in the Congress party where he became a convenor in 1990 when Jagannath Mishra was the Chief Minister of Bihar. Bihar Governor: Phagu Chauhan; Capital: Patna; CM: Nitish Kumar.

31. Bengali elocutionist Pradip Ghosh passes away

Veteran Bengali elocutionist Pradip Ghosh who gave a new dimension to the recitation of famous poet Rabindranath Tagore passed away at the age of 78. He was a pioneer in popularising the recitation of poetry in public. Ghosh was the recipient of Kazi Sabyasachi Puraskar in 2017.

32. Vijayalakshmi Ramanan, The First Woman Officer of Indian Air Force Passes Away At 96

1st woman officer of Indian Air Force, Wing Commander (retd) Dr Vijaylakshmi Ramanan passed away at 96. Also, a renowned gynaecologist, Dr Vijaylakshmi Ramanan had served in the Army Medical Corps in 1955. She was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 1977. IAF HQs: New Delhi; Founded: 8 October 1932.

33. Senior Congress leader Gurupada Nanda passes away

Senior Congress leader Gurupada Nanda passed away. Nanda joined Congress in 1972 and won the assembly election from Rourkela constituency in 1980. He served as government chief whip. He was president of Cuttack District Congress Committee. INC Founded: 1885; Founder: Allan Octavian Hume.

34. Renowned economist Dr Jayanta Madhab passes away

Renowned economist from Assam, Dr Jayanta Madhab passed away. He worked as financial adviser to Calcutta Metropolitan Development Corp and has served as director at the ADB. He was the founder chairman of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. Assam's Capital: Dispur; CM: Sarbananda Sonowal.

35. Former Telangana home minister Nayani Narsimha Reddy passes away

Former Telangana home minister and senior TRS leader Nayini Narsimha Reddy passed away. He was 76. He served as MLA from Musheerabad assembly constituency

thrice and was Member of Legislative Council. He was the first home minister of Telangana. Telangana Capital: Hyderabad; CM: K. Chandrashekar Rao.

36. Singer and actor Zero Babu passes away

Playback singer, music director and actor K J Mohammed Babu, popularly known as 'Zero' Babu passed away. He was 80. He was a recipient of the Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award. He has sung in nearly 90 films and various plays. His first movie was the 1964 film 'Kudumbini'.

37. Jaya Suvarna passes away

Former chairman of Bharat Cooperative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd. and founder-president of Rashtriya Billava Mahamandala Jaya C. Suvarna passed away. He was 74. He was also the honorary president of Kudroli Gokarnanatheswara Temple Development Committee, Mangaluru. Bharat Cooperative Bank Ltd. founded: 1978.

38. Lee Kun-Hee, force behind Samsung's rise, dies

South Korea's Lee Kun-Hee, the ailing Samsung Electronics chairman who transformed the small television maker into a global giant of consumer electronics died. Samsung became the world's largest maker of smartphones, televisions & memory chips. Samsung HQ: Seoul, South Korea.

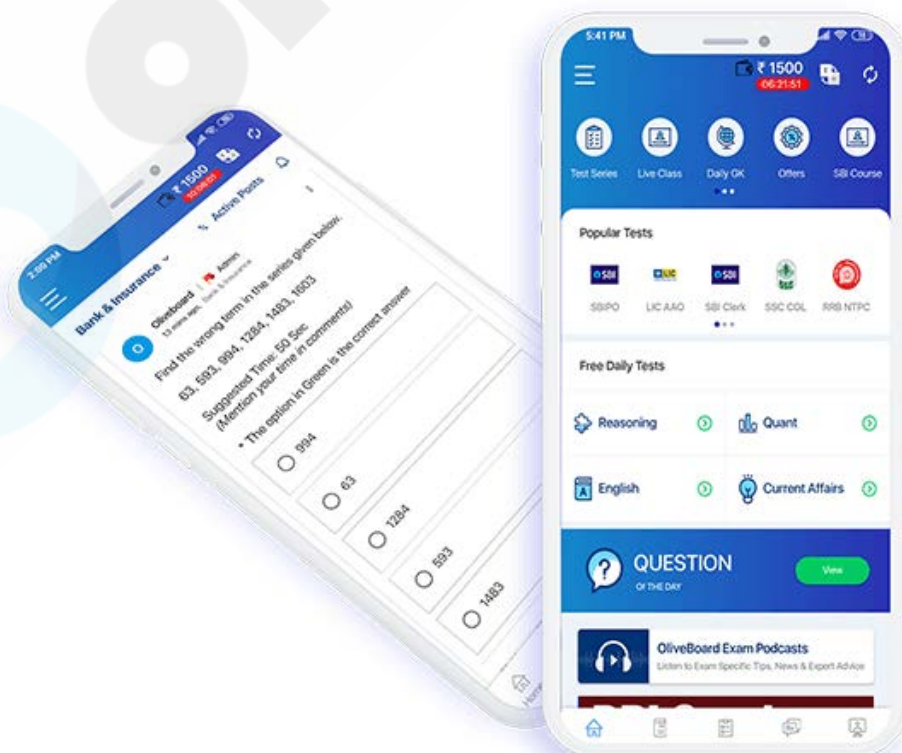
39. Veteran Gujarati Singer Mahesh Kanodia passes away

Veteran Gujarati film musician, singer & former Lok Sabha MP from Patan constituency Mahesh Kanodia passed away. He was known for singing in 32 different voices including female voices. He was awarded Best Music for the Gujarati films Jigar ane Ami, etc., Chief Minister of Gujarat: Vijay Rupani.

40. Former Gujarat CM Keshubhai Patel passes away

The BJP veteran was Gujarat's chief minister in 1995 when the party came to power for the first time and again during 1998-2001. Prime Minister Narendra Modi succeeded him as Gujarat chief minister in October 2001. Vijay Ramniklal Rupani current Chief Minister of Gujarat.

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Person in news

1. HDFC Bank's Ravi Santhanam in Forbes list of world's most influential CMOs

Ravi Santhanam, CMO HDFC Bank has been recognized in the Forbes list of 'The World's Most Influential CMOs'. Ranked at No. 39, he is the only CMO of an Indian company to be featured in the illustrious list which includes marketing heads of Apple, BMW, etc. HDFC Bank: India's Most Valuable Brand for 7 consecutive yrs.

2. Ubon ropes in Rana Daggubati as brand ambassador

Gadget accessory & consumer electronics brand Ubon has roped in Rana Daggubati as its brand ambassador to tap into Southern market. With the association, the company aims to leverage the massive appeal the actor enjoys across the southern part of nation. Ubon was incorporated in the year 1999.

3. Ajinkya Rahane signed as brand ambassador of Hudle

Indian batsman Ajinkya Rahane has been appointed as the brand ambassador and advisor of Hudle. Apart from being the face of the brand, he will also guide with strategic inputs through his experience in professional sport. Founder and CEO, Hudle: Suhail Narain.

4. Myntra introduces Bhuvan Bam as its first digital brand ambassador

Myntra roped in Bhuvan Bam as its 1st digital brand ambassador to engage with tech-savvy customers. Myntra & Bhuvan will co-ideate & create content that effectively communicates brand's proposition that goes beyond the traditional forms of communication. Myntra CEO: Amar Nagaram Founded: February 2007

5. CWG medallist shuttler Chetan Anand named brand ambassador of homegrown brand 'Transform'

Commonwealth Games medallist shuttler Chetan Anand, a former world no.10 and the men's singles bronze medal winner at the 2006 Melbourne CWG, was roped in as the face of the homegrown equipment brand 'Transform' along with his academy in Hyderabad. Anand, who was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2006.

6. PM pays tributes to Bhai Taru Singh on his 300th Birth Anniversary

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Sikh martyr Bhai Taru Singh, on his 300th birth anniversary. Born in 1720 in Amritsar, Bhai Taru Singh was martyred protecting Sikh values. He died in 1745. A 3D-animated film about him was released globally in 2018.

7. PM Modi to release Rs 100 commemorative coin in honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia

One of the founder members of BJP, Vijaya Raje Scindia is popularly known as the Rajmata of Gwalior. The coin is being released in celebration of birth centenary of Vijaya Raje Scindia. Vijaya was elected to Lok Sabha 7 times and twice to the Rajya Sabha. The commemorative coin was minted by the Finance Ministry.

8. East Bengal appoint ex-Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler as coach

Former England and Liverpool footballer Robbie Fowler was appointed as the head coach of SC East Bengal on a two-year deal. Apart from the national side and Liverpool, the 45-year-old also played for Manchester City and Leeds United. Indian Super League was started in 2014.

9. Cello Group signs Amitabh Bachchan as brand ambassador

Household product manufacturer Cello Group has roped in actor Amitabh Bachchan as its brand ambassador to enhance and build consumer connect across different markets. Actor will be seen endorsing brand's products across social media platforms. Amitabh Bachchan was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2015

10. Parle agro ropes in Priyanka Chopra Jonas as brand ambassador

Parle Agro has roped in Priyanka Chopra Jonas as the national brand ambassador to maximise reach and awareness of its fruits plus fizz portfolio 'B-Fizz'. The campaign will be aggressively promoted across IPL on Hotstar and YouTube. Parle Agro CEO: Schauna Chauhan; HQs: Mumbai.

11. Vega ropes in Rohit Sharma as brand ambassador

Beauty accessories brand, Vega has announced the signing of Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador. Sharma will be endorsing the brand's men's personal grooming electronics range under the 'Vega Men' brand and will feature in the upcoming digital campaign. Director, Vega Industries: Sandeep Jain.

12. LG signs Lewis Hamilton as ambassador of LG Signature

LG Electronics has named six-time Formula One World Champion Lewis Hamilton as global ambassador for its home solutions brand, LG Signature. Hamilton, the epitome of skill, style and precision will be seen communicating the brand's philosophy. LG HQs: Seoul, South Korea; Founder: Koo In-Hwoi.

13. Indian & US Patents for Electric Vehicle Technology Awarded To First Indian Law Student

Devansh Manoj Jalan has received Indian & US Patents for 'Method and System for Managing the Usage of a Plurality of Battery Units to Power an Electric Vehicle'. Technology aims to make usage of EVs more practical, flexible & economical in India. Devansh received the US Patent in September 2020.

14. Dr Neena Malhotra appointed as Ambassador to Republic of San Marino

Indian diplomat Dr Neena Malhotra, 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, appointed as next Ambassador to Republic of San Marino. She will have a residence in Rome. Presently, she is serving as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Italy. Republic of San Marino Capital: San Marino; Currency: Euro.

15. Indian diplomat Sushil Kumar Singhal appointed as next Ambassador to Solomon Islands

Sushil Kumar Singhal, a 2000-batch IFS officer, has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Solomon Islands. He is presently serving as the High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. Solomon Islands Capital: Honiara.

16. Dabur Honey appoints Ritabhari Chakraborty as its Brand Ambassador

Dabur Honey has unveiled a new campaign "Aaj theke shudhu, chini noy, madhu", featuring Ritabhari Chakraborty with famous Bengali song by Asha Bhonsle "Jaabo ki jaabo na". The campaign aims to create awareness about importance of Honey for health. Dabur Founder: S.K. Burman; Founded: 1884.

17. Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports appoints Bimal Julka as chairman

The Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports, the self-regulatory industry body for fantasy sports has appointment Bimal Julka, former chief information commissioner of the Govt. of India, as its chairman. Julka is taking over from John Loffhagen. FIFS Formed in 2017; HQs: Gurugram, Haryana

18. Play ropes in Sonu Sood as brand ambassador

Smart wearables and acoustic accessories brand, Play has announced the signing of popular Indian film actor, producer, and humanitarian Sonu Sood as its brand ambassador. Sood has also launched two new wireless neckband earphones, PLAYGO N82 & PLAYGO T20. Sonu Sood launched Pravasi Rojgar app to find jobs.

19. Rohit Sharma named brand ambassador of Dr Trust

Senior India cricketer Rohit Sharma was on Wednesday named brand ambassador of healthcare company Dr Trust. It manufactures monitoring devices, which help in tracking vitals like blood pressure, blood oxygen levels, respiration rate, pulse rate and others. CEO of Nureca Ltd which owns Dr Trust - Aryan Goyal.

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Insurance

1. Reliance General Insurance partners with SatSure Analytics for satellite-based crop monitoring and predictive analytics

RGICL a 100% subsidiary of Reliance Capital, has partnered with SatSure Analytics for satellite-based crop monitoring and predictive analytics support for better risk management and improving the efficiency of its Crop Insurance business operations. RGICL Founded: 17 August 2000; CEO: Rakesh Jain.

2. IRDAI to launch 'colour codes' for health insurance policies

Every health insurance product offered by general and health insurance companies will use green, orange, & red colours to indicate the complexity of the products. Green will signify that the product offered is a simple one, easy to understand & comprehend. Red- Product is complex and needs to be understood properly.

3. Insurance companies to offer a standard term life policy, 'Saral Jeevan Bima' from January 1

All life insurance companies have to mandatorily come out with a standard, individual term life insurance policy called 'Saral Jeevan Bima' from Jan 1, 2021. IRDAI has shared guidelines with all such companies on standard individual term life insurance. It will allow a maximum maturity age of 70 years.

4. Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance Launches Invest 4G plan with multiple saving options, protection cover

Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has launched a new Unit Linked insurance plan titled 'Invest 4G'. It is an individual life insurance savings plan which can be customized as per the goals and changing requirements of the individual. It offers 3 options: Life Option, Care Option & Century Option

5. IRDAI sets up panel to examine need for standard cyber liability insurance product

IRDAI has set up a panel, headed by P Umesh, to explore possibility of basic standard product structure to provide insurance cover for individuals & establishments to manage their cyber risks. General liability policies do not cover cyber risks.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority founded: 1999

6. Acko partners with Finserv MARKETS to offer car and bike insurance

General insurance provider Acko has partnered with Finserv MARKETS, a fintech aggregator to offer two and four-wheeler insurance policies. Acko offers value-added services like three-day assured claim servicing and One-year repair warranty. Acko Founder: Varun Dua; HQs: Mumbai.

7. Govt set to divest 10% in GIC Re, New India Assurance

The government is set to offer 10% shares in the country's largest non-life insurance company New India Assurance through an offer for sale to the public. The government had divested close to 15% stakes in both New India and GIC in 2017. The New India Assurance Co. Ltd is based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

8. ICICI Lombard, FreePaycard offer bite-sized, convenient health insurance solutions

ICICI Lombard in partnership with Freepaycard has launched Group Safeguard Insurance. The plan will be offered to the members of Freepaycard, allowing them to receive an assured amount in case of any injury or hospitalization for treatment. Freepaycard is an online pre-paid card trading platform.

India & World

1. Google India launches campaign to drive demand for small businesses

Google India launched its nationwide 'Make Small Strong' campaign to help support small businesses and drive demand through customer support. The new initiative is based on feedback from SMBs as part of a research by Google in collaboration with Kantar. Zoho, Instamojo, Dunzo and Swiggy partnered with Google.

2. NDB approves \$500m loan for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS

The New Development Bank (NDB) has approved a \$500m loan for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project. The funds will be used by the National Capital Region Transport (NCRTC), for the construction of the rapid rail system. The rapid rail system will feature 25 stations.

3. Navies of India, Bangladesh To Hold Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar

This exercise will be followed by the third edition of IN-BN Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) in Northern Bay of Bengal from October 4-5, wherein IN and BN units will undertake joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). It will be the 2nd edition of the IN-BN Bilateral Exercise.

4. India, Israel agree to continue & advance bilateral cooperation in fight against coronavirus

India & Israel agreed to continue and advance bilateral co-op. in fight against coronavirus with emphasis on technological co-op. & tests. PM Modi and his Israeli counterpart agreed to hold a digital conference on innovation in the field of solar energy. Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel PM: Benjamin Netanyahu

5. Foreign Ministers of all Quad countries to meet in Tokyo

Foreign ministers of Quad countries will meet in Tokyo. FMs will discuss post-COVID international order, need for coordinated response to challenges emerging from pandemic, regional issues & affirm importance of maintaining free & inclusive Indo-Pacific. Quad countries- India, US, Japan, Australia.

6. India, Myanmar to work towards operationalization of Sittwe Port

India & Myanmar have agreed to work towards the operationalization of the Sittwe port in Rakhine state in 1st quarter of 2021. Both agreed to strengthen their partnership in bordered security connectivity projects, capacity building, power and energy. Myanmar's Capital: Naypyitaw; Currency: Burmese kyat.

7. Union Cabinet approves signing of Memorandum of co-op. in field of cyber-security between India & Japan

Cabinet gave its approval for signing MoC in field of cyber-security between India & Japan. MoC includes capacity building in area of cyberspace, co-op. in emerging tech, sharing info on cyber security threats & malicious cyber activities, etc. Japan's Capital: Tokyo; Currency: Japanese Yen.

8. India, China to hold seventh round of military level talks for de-escalation of tension along LAC

The talks will take place in Chushul on the Indian side of the LAC. Lt Gen Harinder Singh and his successor in 14 Core Lt Gen PGK Menon are leading the Indian delegation. The talks mainly focus on disengagement of forces from several friction points. India considers the Line of Actual Control to be 3,488 km long.

9. India donates 1.8 million N95 masks to Philadelphia city in US

India has donated 1.8 million N95 masks to Philadelphia, the largest city in the United States of America's state of Pennsylvania, to help in its fight against COVID-19, setting another example of a robust Indo-US partnership in the health sector. India's Ambassador to USA- Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

10. 7th Justice Ministers' Meeting of SCO Member States to be hosted by Ravi Shankar Prasad

7th Meeting of Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States will be virtually hosted by Union Minister of Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad. India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan will participate in the meeting. SCO HQs: Beijing, China; Founded: 15 June 2001.

11. Exim Bank extends USD 400 million soft loan to Maldives for financing connectivity project

Export-Import Bank of India on behalf of GOI has extended a Line of Credit of \$400mn soft loan to Maldives to finance a connectivity project in the nation of islands. Exim Bank has extended 3 LoCs worth a cumulative \$1.2bn to Maldives on behalf of India. Maldives Capital: Malé; Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa.

12. India contributes 1 million dollars to UNRWA for Palestine Refugees

India has contributed 1 million dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Near East. This aid will support the Agency's programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services. UNRWA HQs: Amman, Jordan; Founded: 1949

13. Cabinet approves World Bank supported 'STARS' project

Cabinet has approved the World Bank supported Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States project. It seeks to support States in developing, implementing, evaluating & improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes. HQs: Washington, D.C. US; Founded: July 1944.

14. India to deliver Kilo Class submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar Navy

India will deliver INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar as part of defence cooperation. This will be 1st submarine of Myanmar Navy. It is in accordance with India's vision of SAGAR and in line with build capacities & self-reliance in neighbouring countries. Capital: Naypyitaw; Currency: Burmese kyat.

15. India and Netherlands collaborate in e-health initiative

India & Netherlands discussed a joint thrust in e-health sector to provide digital health facilities & security to Indians and helping Netherlands accelerate digital transformation of health. It is Part of India's ambitious National Digital Health Mission. The Netherlands Capital: Amsterdam; Currency: Euro.

16. Australia will join naval drills involving India, U.S., Japan

Australia will join 3-way naval exercises involving US, Japan & India. India, holds annual drills called Malabar with the U.S. & Japanese navies each year, agreed to invite Australia for exercise in Bay of Bengal in a sign of co-op. between Quad countries. The Malabar series of Naval exercises was started in 1992.

17. Israeli Embassy to have 'Water Attache' in India from January, 2021

Israel Embassy in India will have a separate 'Water Attache' from Jan 2021 to share their country's best practices & technologies for advancements in India's water management & agriculture sectors. Israel will nominate 'Water Attache' for the 1st time. Israel Capital: Jerusalem; Currency: Shekel.

18. AIM Launches India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE), with CSIRO

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog in association with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), is organizing a two-day hackathon on the circular economy, India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE). Circular Eco -aims to eliminate waste & continual use of resource

19. 2+2 dialogue: India, US sign crucial agreement on geo-spatial intelligence

India and the USA during the 3rd edition of the 2+2 dialogue, signed the crucial Indo-US Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), which pertains to geospatial intelligence, sharing information on maps and satellite images for defence purposes. Yudh Abhyas: bilateral exercise hosted by Indian & U.S. Armies.

20. Cochin Shipyard, Italy's Fincantieri sign MoU

Cochin Shipyard Ltd of Kerala and Italy's Fincantieri (one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups) signed an MoU for co-operation in the areas of design, ship building, ship repair, marine equipment manufacturing, besides training & skill development. CSL is the largest shipbuilding & maintenance facility in India.

21. Cabinet approves Memorandum of Cooperation between India and Japan on cooperation in the field of Information and Communication

The MoC will contribute to strengthening bilateral cooperation & mutual understanding in the field of communications and will serve as a strategic initiative for India as Japan is an important partner with "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" status. The current prime minister of Japan is Yoshihide Suga.

22. India extends \$ 1 billion Line of Credit to Central Asia for connectivity & other development projects

India announced an additional \$ 1 billion Line of Credit for Central Asian countries to widen connectivity and energy partnership among other sectors at the meeting of India-Central Asia Dialogue held virtually with participation of Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chaired the meeting.

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Environment

1. My Ganga My Dolphin campaign launched at six sites across river Ganga

National Mission for Clean Ganga, Wildlife Institute of India & Forest Department launched 'My Ganga My Dolphin' campaign. It was started in six sites across the states of UP, Bihar & West Bengal. In the campaign, Dolphin census will be conducted. River Dolphin is the National Aquatic Animal of India.

2. All 8 beaches recommended by government gets International Blue Flag Certification

The beaches that have been awarded are Shivrajpur (Dwarka-Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod & Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (AP), Golden (Puri-Odisha) & Radhanagar (A&N Islands). India is now in the league of 50 'BLUE FLAG' countries. UNEP, UNWTO, FEE & IUCN members were present in the jury.

3. Sulphur dioxide emissions in India see the first decline in 4 years: CREA & Greenpeace report

Emissions from India dropped 6 per cent last year as the country consumed less coal, mirroring a similar decline in global emissions of the toxic gas, according to a new report from Greenpeace India and the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. India, Russia, & China are the world's top three SO₂ emitters.

4. CII - IGBC and NAREDCO to jointly advance Green Building movement in India

The Confederation of Indian (CII) Industry's Indian Green Building Council (CII - IGBC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) to accelerate the green buildings movement in India. CII based in New Delhi was founded in 1895.

5. After Nearly 125 Years, Rare Day Flying Moth 'Achelura Bifasciata' Sighted in Uttarakhand

Achelura bifasciata, a rare day-flying moth, was spotted in Uttarakhand's Garhwal Himalayas. There are old records of the insect to have been spotted in Nainital by GF Hampson, a Britisher, who had compiled a book on moths in 1893. The experts also spotted a rare butterfly called Tawny Rajah.

6. Asan Conservation Reserve becomes Uttarakhand's first Ramsar site

Asan Conservation Reserve has become Uttarakhand's 1st Ramsar site, making it Wetland of International Importance. Reserve is located on the banks of Yamuna river and is home to many rare & endangered species like Ruddy Shelduck, Red Crested Pochard. Number of Ramsar sites in India: 38

7. Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025

According to the Action Plan 2020 - 2025, approved by the National Board for Wildlife, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to get a vulture conservation and breeding centre each. The plan lays out strategies for preserving species of 3 gyps. The 3 species are listed as Critically Endangered in IUCN list

Apps & Portals

1. 'Sunidhi' project to digitize provident fund, pension services of CMPFO launched

Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO), a statutory body under the coal ministry, administers different schemes of provident fund, pension, & deposit linked insurance for coal mine workers. CMPFO was established in 1948 through an Act of Parliament. Coal India (CIL) Chairman, Pramod Agrawal.

2. TRIFED goes digital connecting tribal artisans of remote hamlets with global markets

Tribes India e-Marketplace is an ambitious initiative through which TRIFED aims to onboard 5 lakh tribal producers for sourcing of various handicrafts, handloom, natural food products across the country and offers the best of tribal produce. Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs

3. MiHOPE, web portal for mental healthcare

To address the growing issue of mental illness during Covid, the Mental Health Foundation of India has launched an exclusive web portal for mental healthcare, MiHOPE. The Portal will be functional from Oct 10. People can access it for online consultations. Mental health means cognitive, behavioral & emotional well-being

4. MSME Ministry introduces AI & ML for strengthening its single window system portal 'Champions'

MSME Ministry has introduced Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning for strengthening its single window system portal 'Champions' to assist MSMEs in nation. System also comprises tech. equipped physical control rooms at around 69 locations in nation. Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises: Nitin Gadkari.

5. Leather Sector Skill Council launches SCALE India Android App

To provide a single platform to integrate quality assurance across all its services, LSSC announced launch of Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees India app. Employment demand aggregation works through integration of ASEEM portal with SCALE Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: M.N. Pandey

6. IIT-Madras incubated dairy-tech startup Stellapps launches 'mooPay' in Rajasthan

IIT-Madras incubated dairy-tech startup & WEF's technology pioneer, Stellapps launched 1st of its kind, fully automated direct payment platform 'mooPay' for farmers in Rajasthan. It enables dairy officials to transfer milk payments digitally to farmers. Rajasthan's Capital: Jaipur; Governor: Kalraj Mishra.

7. Ministry of Union Housing and Urban Affairs launches 'e-Dharti Geo portal'

Ministry of Union Housing and Urban Affairs has launched 'e-Dharti Geo Portal' which will integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in management information system. It will allow data to become geographic information system enabled. Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri.

8. Indian Railways Launches Freight Business Development Portal to Boost Freight Business

Indian Railways launched Freight Business Development Portal amid ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to boost freight business. Aim of the portal is to motivate new customers to transport goods through railways and provide better facilities to existing customers. Indian Railway is 3rd largest railway network in world by size.

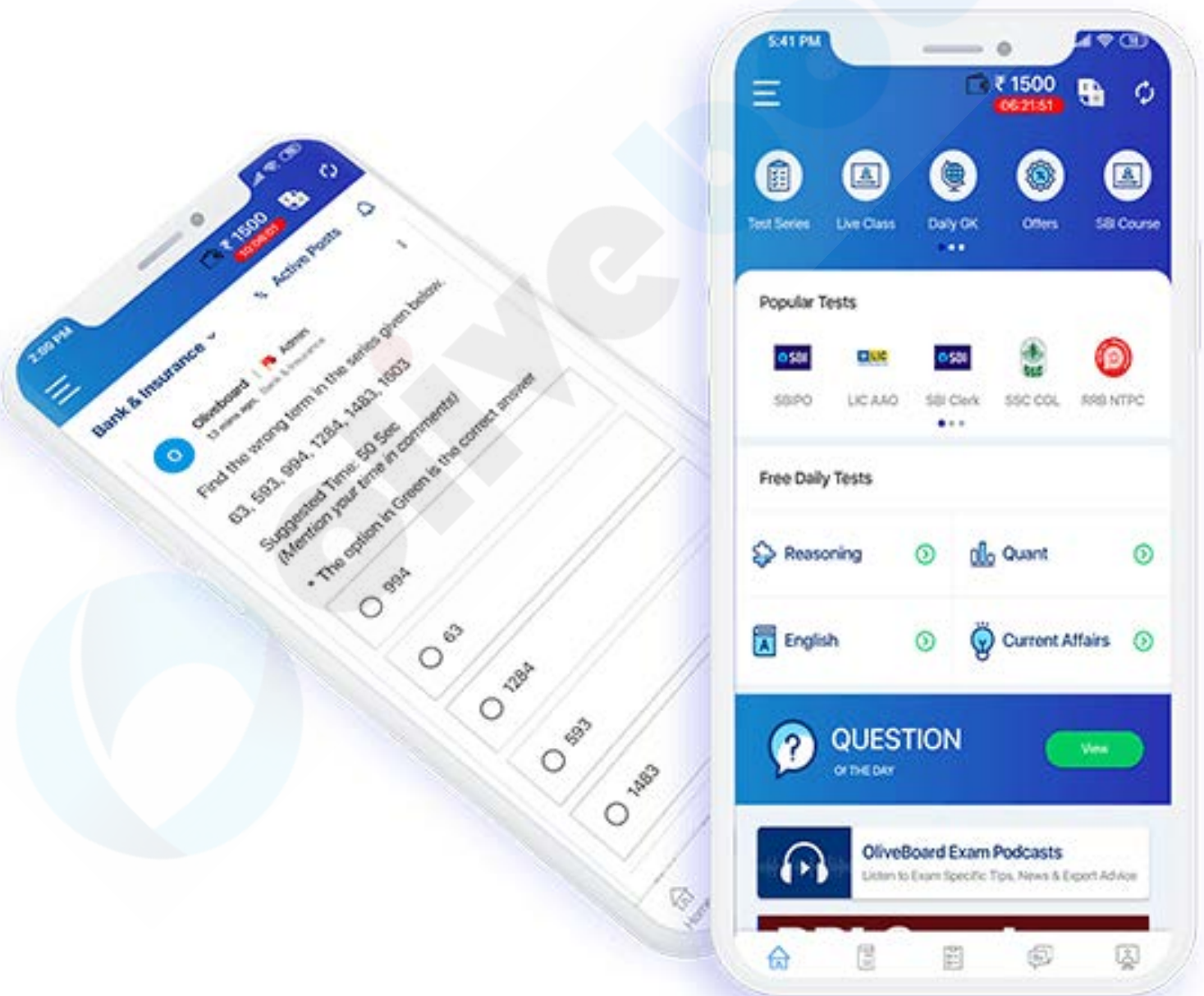
9. Mobile application for Geo tagging of the components of projects launched

MoS for Jal Shakti Rattan Lal Kataria launched app for Geotagging of components of projects under PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications & Geoinformatics developed it PM KSY aims to improve farm productivity in India.

10. Indian Army Launches Indigenous Mobile Application 'SAI', Similar To WhatsApp & Telegram

The application named "Secure Application for the Internet" supports end-to-end secure voice, text, and video calling services for the Android platform over the internet. The application has been vetted by CERT-in empanelled auditor and Army Cyber Group. Army also launched a Software for Infrastructure Management.

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Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Warburg Pincus to acquire 30% stake in Home First Finance

Warburg Pincus will acquire about 30% stake in Home First Finance Co (HFFC), Mumbai-based affordable housing finance company. Warburg will invest Rs.800cr in HFFC. Existing investors True North Capital & Bessemer Ventures will sell part of their stake. HFFC was set up in 2010 by Jerry Rao and PS Jayakumar.

2. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited completes ₹12,000-cr. Krishnapatnam Port buy

Adani Ports has completed the acquisition of Krishnapatnam Port Company Ltd in Andhra Pradesh for an enterprise value of ₹12,000 crores. This will result in APSEZ having a controlling stake of 75% in KPCL. Karan Adani, Chief Executive Officer, APSEZ. APSEZ Ltd is India's largest private multi-port operator.

3. Infosys to acquire US-based Blue Acorn iCi for \$125 million

Infosys announced to acquire US-based Blue Acorn iCi, an Adobe Platinum partner, provider of digital customer experience, commerce & analytics solutions for \$125 million. Acquisition will add to company's capabilities in digital commerce marketplace. Infosys CEO: Salil Parekh; HQs: Bengaluru.

4. ONGC aims to merge OMPL with MRPL by June 2021

In a move that would help consolidate its businesses, ONGC aims to conclude merger of ONGC Mangalore Petrochemicals Limited with Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited by June 2021. Once this is done it will work towards merger of MRPL with HPCL. ONGC is the largest crude oil and natural gas Company in India.

5. India's biggest property deal, RMZ to sell \$2bn of offices to Brookfield

Raj and Manoj Menda owned developer RMZ Corp will sell 12.5mn sq.ft. of its commercial properties to Canada's Brookfield Asset Management in the biggest real estate deal in India. RMZ will sell a part of its core portfolio across Bengaluru & Chennai. Canada PM: Justin Trudeau; Capital: Ottawa.

Agri-Business

1. GSFC launches indigenous variety of calcium nitrate, boronated calcium nitrate

Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals India Ltd (GSFC) launched an indigenous variety of calcium nitrate and boronated calcium nitrate. Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya launched the products via video conference. Calcium nitrate is used as a water-soluble fertilizer.

2. Nitin Gadkari flags off Special Kisan Rail 'Nagpur-Adarsh Nagar New Delhi'

Nitin Gadkari virtually flagged off Special Kisan Rail 'Nagpur-Adarsh Nagar New Delhi' from Nagpur Railway Station. Kisan Railway, operated by Nagpur division, would reduce the transportation cost of agricultural produce & increase farmers' income. Kisan Rails are the first-ever multi-commodity trains.

External Affairs

1. US military aircraft refuels at Indian base for first time under defence pact

The US Navy's long-range anti-submarine warfare and maritime surveillance aircraft, P-8 Poseidon, carried out its maiden refueling from India's strategic base in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. LEMOA was signed between India and the US in 2016. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).

FinTech

1. BharatPe Launches Brand Campaign with Record 11 Cricket Stars As Brand Ambassadors

BharatPe has announced the launch of its high impact TV campaign starring 'Team BharatPe' with 11 Cricket stars as its brand ambassadors. Campaign communicates the message 'Hum Hai Team BharatPe – Jo Desh Ke Har Dukandaar Ke Saath Hai Khade'. BharatPe Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder: Ashneer Grover.

2. Mastercard Partners with Atlantis to Expand Digital First Program in India

Mastercard partnered with Atlantis, a fin tech co. headquartered in Singapore, to provide users with a technology solution that will enable them to enjoy a best-in-class digital banking experience. It will offer users an end to end digital payments product Mastercard CEO: Ajaypal Singh Banga. HQ: New York, USA.

3. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, SBI launch multi-purpose smart card

The SBI Card in association with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation launched a contactless multi-purpose card that can function as a credit card and as a metro smart card. The credit card Delhi Metro SBI Card is designed for regular commuters on Delhi Metro. MD and CEO of SBI Card: Ashwini Kumar Tewari.

4. SVC Bank partners with NPCI to launch a digital rewards platform

The SVC Rewards Programme by SVC Co-op Bank is designed to make banking experience more rewarding for its customers in the form of Reward points earned upon use of SVC Bank Cards and digital solutions. It is built upon the 'nth Rewards' platform of NPCI. SVC Co-op Bank MD: Ajit Venugopalan. HQ: Mumbai.

5. RBL Bank and Visa launch instant payouts for FinTechs

RBL Bank and Visa have tied-up to launch instant payouts for FinTechs will empower real-time push payments powered by Visa Direct and enable instantaneous payouts through cards. The partnership with Visa underlines RBL's 'Partners ka Bank' philosophy. Mr. Vishwavir Ahuja is the MD & CEO of RBL Bank.

Legal

1. Supreme Court appoints Justice (retired) Madan Lokur to monitor and prevent stubble burning

Supreme Court has appointed its former judge, Justice Madan Lokur as a one-man committee to monitor and prevent instances of stubble burning in the states of Punjab, Haryana & Uttar Pradesh, which is a source of pollution in Delhi-national capital region. Solicitor General: Tushar Mehta.

PSUs

1. NTPC Signs MoU With Power Ministry Setting Key Targets for FY 2020-21

Key targets for 2020-21 under excellent category include 340 BU of electricity generation, 15 MMT of coal production, Rs. 21,000 Crores of Capex and Rs. 98,000 Crores of revenue from operations. The MoU also includes other financial parameters. NTPC Headquarters- New Delhi, CMD- Gurdeep Singh.

2. SJVN signs MoU with Govt. of India for the year 2020-21

As per the targets set in MOU, SJVN shall strive to achieve 9680 Million Units of electricity generation during the year under 'Excellent' category. SJVN will have Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) target of Rs.2880 Crores and Turnover target of Rs. 2800 Crores. SJVN Ltd is a hydroelectric power generation company.

3. NTPC collaborates with cement manufacturers across country to supply fly ash

NTPC Ltd has collaborated with cement manufacturers across the country to supply fly ash as part of its endeavour to achieve 100% utilization of the by-product produced during power generation. It is leveraging Indian Railways' network to transport fly ash NTPC Rihand: 1st power plant in UP to send conditioned fly ash

4. NTPC ranks first among Indian PSUs in Forbes' 'World's Best Employer 2020'

State-run power giant NTPC featured on top in the list of Indian PSUs under 'World Best Employer 2020'. It has been successfully innovating and introducing people practices in hiring; engagement; diversity & inclusion; rewards and performance management. NTPC HQ: New Delhi. Chairman & MD: Gurdeep Singh.

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BANKING

POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO	PERCENTAGE
Repo Rate	4.00%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	3.0%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.0%

ECONOMY

ORGANIZATION/ PARAMETERS	RATE/ FIGURES
World Bank (India's GDP)	Contract by 9.6% in FY21
IMF (India's GDP)	Contract 10.3% in FY21
UNCTAD's global trade update (India's export growth)	4% in 2020 September, Decline of 6.1% in 3rd quarter of
UNCTAD's new global trade update (global trade)	5% drop in 3rd quarter of 2020

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Sourav Ganguly	Bengal Peerless brand ambassador
G Subramonia Iyer	Chairman of the committee of directors in Dhanlaxmi Bank
G Rajagopalan Nair & PK Vijayakumar	Directors in Dhanlaxmi Bank
Charanjit Attra	SBI CFO
Devyani Khobragade	India's next Ambassador to Cambodia
Dinesh Kumar Khara	State Bank of India Chairman
M A Ganapathy	Director-General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)
M Rajeshwar Rao	Deputy governor of RBI
Uday Shankar	Quits as Star & Disney India Chairman
J Venkatramu	MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank

R. K. Chhibber	Extended tenure of Jammu & Kashmir Bank CMD
Nilesh Shah	Chairman of AMFI
Amit Banerjee	Director at BEML
Sadyr Japarov	Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister
Srikant Datar	Second Indian-descent dean of Harvard Business School
Subhash Kelkar	ICICI Securities Chief Technology & Digital Officer
Suresh Sethi	NSDL CEO & MD
R. Balasubramaniam	Appointed to SEBI committee
India	Gets re-elected as President of International Solar Alliance
Vishal V Sharma	India's next permanent representative to UNESCO
Ashwani Kumar	Suzlon Group CEO
Michael Irani	International Weightlifting Federation interim president
Ghanshyam Jha	Chairman J&K Water Resources Regulatory Authority
N K Sahoo	DG, Dental Services & Colonel Commandant of ADC
Stein Ivar Bye	Essar Chief Executive Officer
Apurva Chandra	Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO
Shashi Kiran Shetty	Chairman of NITIE's Board Of Governors
Ankhi Das	Facebook India's controversial policy chief resigns
Rajesh Nambiar	Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India
Yashvardhan K. Sinha	Chief Information Commissioner
Sudhakar Rao Desai	Indian Vegetable oil Producers' Association (IVPA) President

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AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
Ratan Tata	Indo-American Chamber of Commerce lifetime achievement award
Harvey J Alter, Charles M Rice & M. Houghton	Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology
Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel & Andrea Ghez	Nobel Prize for Physics
Emmanuelle Charpentier & American Jennifer A Doudna	Nobel Prize for Chemistry
Louise Gluck	Nobel Prize in Literature
World Food Programme	Nobel Peace Prize
Paul R. Milgrom, Robert B. Wilson	Economics Nobel
Indian Navy Ships Sahyadri and Kora	Best Ships in FAF 2020
Harish Kotecha	Lifetime achievement award in US
Seema Gupta	Stevie Awards for Women in Business
Aishwarya Sridhar	Wildlife Photographer of the Year award
Post Malone & Billie Eilish	Top male & female artists in Billboard Music Awards
Jajini Varghese	Outstanding Young Person 2020
Global Himalayan Expedition	UN award for efforts to fight climate change amid Covid-19
Dr Satish Mishra	Dr Tulsi Das Chugh Award-2020
Om Puri	Third India International Film Festival of Boston Lifetime Achievement Award

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
1 October	World vegetarian day	NA
1 October	International Day of Older Persons	Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?
2 October	International Day of Non-Violence	Shaping Peace Together
5 October	World Teachers' Day	Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future
1st Monday of October	World Habitat Day	Housing for All - A Better Urban Future
7 October	World Cotton Day	NA

8 October	Indian Air Force Day	NA
9 October	World Post Day	NA
9 October	Indian Foreign Service Day	NA
10 October	World Mental Health Day	'Mental Health for All: Greater Investment – Greater access.
Second Saturday of October	World Migratory Bird Day	Birds Connect Our World
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child	My Voice, Our Equal Future
12 October	World Arthritis Day	
13 October	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	Disaster risk governance
14 October	World Standards Day	Protecting the planet with standards
15 October	International Day of Rural Women	Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19
15 October	Global Handwashing Day	Hand Hygiene for All
15 October	World Students' Day	Learning for people, planet, prosperity, and peace.
16 October	World Food Day	Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together. Our actions are our future.
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all
20 October	World Statistics Day	Connecting the world with data we can trust.
21 October	Police Commemoration Day	NA
22 October	International Stuttering Awareness Day	Journey of Words – Resilience and Bouncing Back
23 October	International Snow Leopard Day	
24 October	United Nations Day	The Future We Want; the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism
24 October	World Polio Day	NA
24 October	World Development Information Day	NA

24 October	International Day of Diplomats	NA
27 October	World Audio-visual Heritage Day	Your Window to the World
24-30 October	Disarmament Week	NA
Oct 27th till the 2nd of November	Vigilance Awareness Week	Satark Bharat, Samriddh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India)
27 October	Infantry Day	NA
31 October	National Unity Day	NA

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
KC Sivasankar	Illustrator of famous Vikram and Vetala series
Pradeep Maharathy	Senior BJD leader
Pushpa Bhawe	Social activist
Mulayam Singh Yadav	Veteran Samajwadi Party leader
AS Dave	Ex-Gujarat HC Acting Chief Justice
Vishal Anand	Veteran Actor
KK Usha	First woman chief justice of Kerala HC
Rasheed Masood	Former Union minister, veteran leader
Eddie Van Halen	Rock guitarist
Ashwani Kumar	Former CBI director
Ram Vilas Paswan	Union minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Mario Molina	Mexican scientist
Avinash Kharshikar	Veteran Marathi actor
B. Vijaya Reddy	Veteran Kannada filmmaker
Rajan	Music composer
Carton Chapman	Former India football captain
CM Chang	Nagaland environment minister
Sarat Kar	Former Odisha Speaker
Ananthakrishna	Former Chairman and CEO of Karnataka Bank
Priscilla Jana	Renowned Indian-origin South African human rights lawyer
Kaumudi Munshi	Leading singer of Gujarati Sugam Sangeet
Vinod Singh	Bihar Minister

Shobha Naidu	Padma Shri awardee and renowned Kuchipudi exponent
Bhanu Athaiya	India's first Oscar winner Costume designer
Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri	Renowned Malayalam poet
John R Reid	Former New Zealand all-rounder
Kishore Bhimani	Cricket commentator and sportswriter
H Gopal Rao	Centenarian Yakshagana artist
Joseph Mar Thoma	Head of Kerala's Malankara Mar Thoma Church
Kapil Dev Kamat	Bihar Minister
Pradip Ghosh	Bengali elocutionist
Vijayalakshmi Ramanan	The First Woman Officer of Indian Air Force
Gurupada Nanda	Senior Congress leader
Dr Jayanta Madhab	Renowned economist
Nayani Narsimha Reddy	Former Telangana home minister
K J Mohammed Babu (Zero Babu)	Singer and actor
Jaya Suvarna	Former Chairman of Bharat Cooperative Bank
Lee Kun-Hee	Samsung Electronics Chairman
Mahesh Kanodia	Veteran Gujarati Singer
Keshubhai Patel	Former Gujarat CM

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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

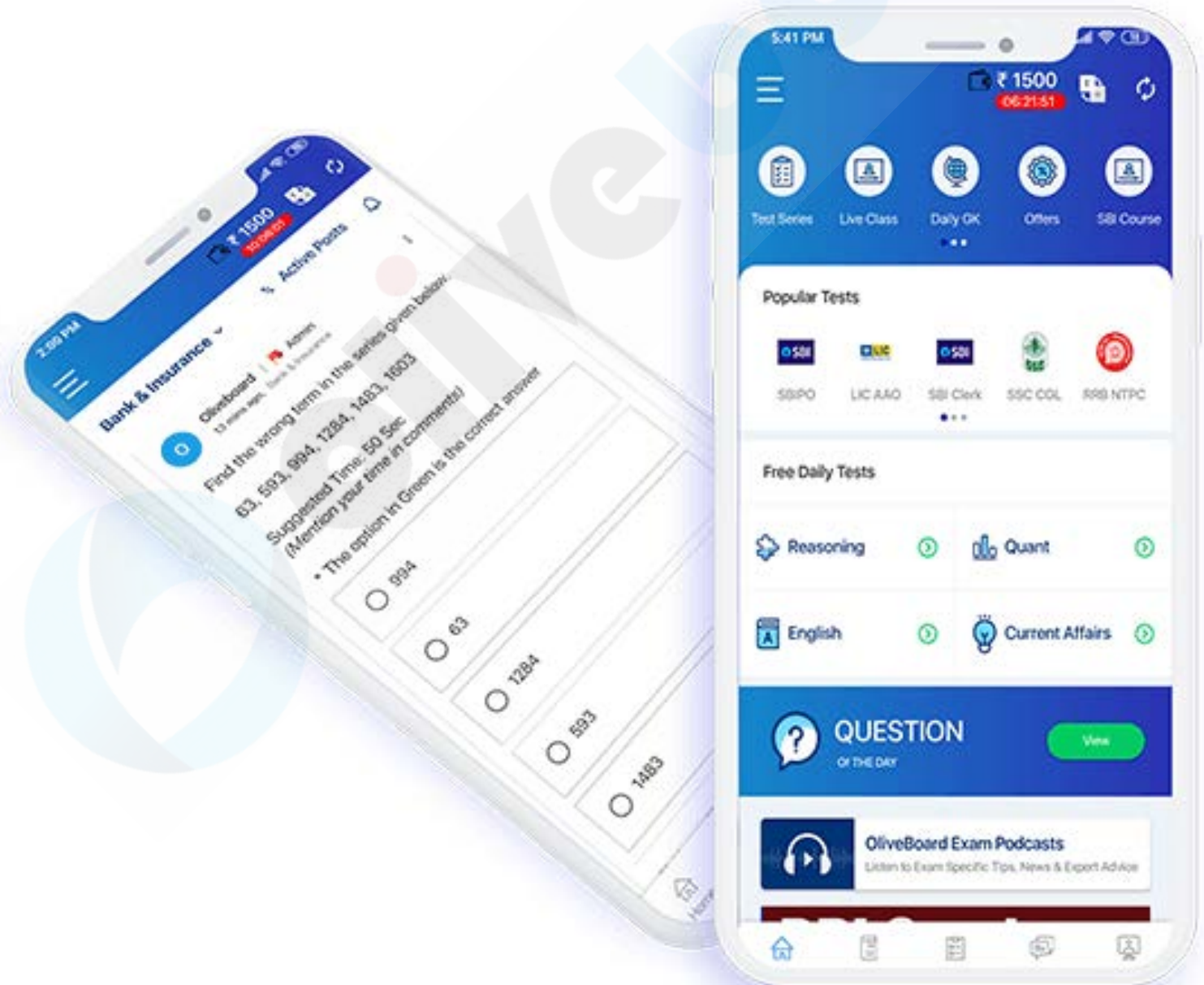
Union Territory	Lt. Governor & Administrator
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	V.P. Singh Badnore (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Anil Baijal (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (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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