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# INDEX

National & States Affairs.....	4
International Affairs.....	39
Banking & Economic Affairs.....	52
Defence Affairs.....	58
Schemes & Initiatives.....	63
Sports & Games.....	68
Important Days & Dates.....	76
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	85
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	90
Appointments & Resignations.....	99
Amount & Agreements.....	112
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	122
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	136
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	139
Books & Authors.....	161
Obituaries.....	165
Persons in News.....	173
Science & Technology.....	181
Ordinance, Bills and Acts.....	194
Current GK.....	196



# National & States Affairs

1. In a bid to reduce air pollution in the national capital, the Delhi government has launched a campaign to plant as many as thirty-one lakh plants, trees, and shrubs across the city by launching "Podhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao" (Plant Trees, Save Environment) campaign. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- New Delhi launched – "Podhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao" (Plant Trees, Save Environment) campaign
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

2. The Kerala government is planning to launch 'Dream Kerala Project' to help and tap the potential and experience of those returning from abroad and other states after losing their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Kerala – decided to launch – 'Dream Kerala Project' to help the returnees from abroad after losing their jobs
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

3. The Delhi government has launched an online portal "LEAD" (Learning through E-Resources Made Accessible for Delhi), with over 10,000 instructional material and course content available on it for classes 1 to 12. The portal is developed by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Delhi – launched an online portal "LEAD" – Learning through E-Resources Made Accessible for Delhi
- The portal is developed by – SCERT (HQs – New Delhi)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

4. Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020 (DDH2020). It is a joint initiative of MHRD, AICTE and CSIR and supported by partners like CDAC, MyGov, Schrodinger and ChemAxon. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal + Dr. Harsh Vardhan = launched Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020 (DDH2020)
- A joint initiative of = MHRD + AICTE + CSIR
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' | Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand
- Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr. Harsh Vardhan | Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi



5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to quit microblogging site “Sina Weibo” which is a Chinese platform similar to Twitter. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – decided to quit – “Sina Weibo” a microblogging Chinese site
- Narendra Modi – Prime Minister of India (Constituency – LS MP from Varansi, UP)

6. On National Doctors’ Day, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan released Good Clinical Practice Guidelines Handbook and Prospectus for Fellowship Programme for International Students (FPIS) of National Board of Examinations (NBE). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – released – Good Clinical Practice Guidelines Handbook
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Sci. & Tech., Ministry of Earth Science
- Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

7. Union ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the Armed Forces (Special power Act) (AFSPA) 1958 in Nagaland for six month as the Government has declared entire Nagaland as "disturbed area" for 6 more months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government declared – Nagaland – as "disturbed area" for – 6 more months
- Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) – 1958
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

8. Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated Unique “Urban Forest” in New Delhi. The planners, however, have used a method called the “Miyawaki method” which creates a multi-dimensional community of trees of various heights. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prakash Javadekar – inaugurated Unique – “Urban Forest” – in New Delhi
- The method used in this initiative – “Miyawaki method”
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Info. & Broadcasting
- Constituency – Maharashtra



**9.** Fast-moving consumer goods major Hindustan Unilever Ltd's (HUL's) flagship skin care brand for women Fair & Lovely will now be known as Glow & Lovely. The men's range of Fair & Lovely will be called Glow & Handsom. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HUL's flagship skin care brand – renamed from “Fair & Lovely” to “Glow & Lovely” (women’s range)
- Men's range – from “Fair & Lovely” to “Glow & Handsom”
- HQs of HUL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Sanjiv Mehta

**10.** Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Hardeep Singh Puri, launched the toolkit for Swachh Survekshan 2021, the sixth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India conducted by MoHUA. The ministry also launched the integrated SBM-Urban MIS portal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoHUA launched – 6th Edition of “Swachh Survekshan 2021” + integrated SBM-Urban MIS portal
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri

**11.** Edelweiss Asset Management Company announced the launch of second tranche of Bharat Bond ETF with two new series after the successful launch of the initial series of ETFs in December last year. It aims at raising Rs. 14,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Edelweiss – to launch 2nd tranche of Bharat Bond ETF – to raise Rs. 14,000 Cr
- HQs of Edelweiss AMC – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**12.** Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray virtually inaugurated Asia’s largest & world’s second largest "Yotta NM1 data centre" near Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is owned by Yotta Infrastructure Group, a subsidiary of the Hiranandani Group. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated – Asia’s largest & world’s 2nd largest "Yotta NM1 data centre" – in MH
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



**13.** Nagaland government has banned import, trading and sale of dog meat in the state. The move followed a similar decision taken by Mizoram government in March this year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nagaland – banned – Import, trading and sale of Dog meat (after Mizoram did so)
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

**14.** The Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray launched "MahaJobs" portal for job seekers and the employers in Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra CM – launched – "MahaJobs" portal – for job seekers and the employers
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**15.** In Madhya Pradesh, the Indore Municipal Corporation placed Yellow colour dustbins at all major places in the city for only corona infected materials. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yellow colour dustbins – introduced in – Indore Municipal Corporation, Madhya Pradesh
- MP: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

**16.** Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country where 100% households have LPG connections. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur announced this through video conferencing while interacting with the beneficiaries of 'Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Himachal Pradesh – first state in the country to achieve 100% LPG connections
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

**17.** Tamil Nadu chief minister K Palaniswami announced a monthly stipend of Rs 3,000 to newly enrolled junior lawyers for two years to help them overcome financial difficulties in pursuit of their profession. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – announced a monthly stipend of Rs 3,000 – to junior lawyers – for 2 years
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



**18.** Liberty General Insurance Ltd. (LGI), has launched an innovative service “Liberty Assure” as a part of its existing Private Car Package Policy, under the Regulatory Sandbox approval received from IRDAI. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- LGI – launched an innovative service “Liberty Assure” – a Private Car Package Policy
- HQs of LGI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Roopam Asthana

**19.** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated "Mission Vriksharopan-2020" in Kukarel forest in capital city Lucknow. Under this programme, more than 25 Cr saplings will be planted across the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – launched – "Mission Vriksharopan-2020" – to plant more than 25 Cr saplings
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**20.** Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur has e-launched “Mission Organic Development Initiative (M.O.D.I)” and a Greenhouse Project to steer the Union Territory on a sustainable path. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ladakh – e-launched – “Mission Organic Development Initiative (M.O.D.I)” & Greenhouse Project
- Ladakh Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

**21.** The All India Radio (AIR) will broadcast its first- ever 'News Magazine' programme in Sanskrit which will have news from the world of Sanskrit and prominent developments of the week. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AIR – to broadcast its first- ever 'News Magazine' programme – in Sanskrit
- HQs of AIR – New Delhi | Director – A Surya Prakash | Chairman – Shashi Shekhar Vempati

**22.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Leh in Ladakh with Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and Army Chief MM Naravane. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a surprise visit to Ladakh. In Ladakh he was briefed by senior officials of Indian Army at a forward position in Nimu, in Ladakh. This is among the tough terrains surrounded by Zaskar range located at 11,000 feet. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – made a surprise visit – to Nimu, Ladakh (Zaskar range) - on the banks of 'Indus River'





- Ladakh Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

**23.** After lifting all travel restrictions, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB) has introduced “Intezaar Aapka” campaign to attract tourists who would like to visit the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – introduced “Intezaar Aapka” campaign – to attract tourists
- MP: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

**24.** Indian Railways is all set to transform itself as ‘Net Zero’ Carbon Emission Mass Transportation Network by 2030 in a mission mode. The national transporter plans to solarise railway stations by utilizing its vacant lands for renewable energy projects. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways – to transform – as ‘Net Zero’ Carbon Emission Mass Transportation Network – by 2030
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

**25.** Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat allocated Rs. 326.20 Cr for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Himachal Pradesh in 2020-21. Himachal Pradesh will provide tap connections to all rural households by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government – allocated Rs. 326.20 Cr – for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission – in Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh – to provide tap connections to all rural households – by 2022
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

**26.** Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has launched “JioMeet” video conferencing app with unlimited free calling that is being seen as rate war on rival Zoom. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Reliance Industries – launched “JioMeet” – a video conferencing app with unlimited free calling
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani



**27.** As per Railway board chairman VK Yadav, the Private players will begin Rail Passenger services by April 2023, and they will run only five per cent of the Railways' total mail and express trains. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Private players – will begin Rail Passenger services – by April 2023
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

**28.** Sports Ministry has announced to remove salary cap of Rs 2 lakhs for Indian coaches to encourage them to produce better results and attract former players to become high performance trainers. The ministry also announced that foreign and Indian coaches will be hired on a contractual basis for 4 years in sync with the Olympic Games. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sports Ministry – removed salary cap of ‘Rs 2 lakhs’ – for Indian coaches
- Foreign and Indian coaches will be hired on a contractual basis for – 4 years
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – Kiren Rijju (Constituency – Arunachal West)

**29.** The new administrative and academic building of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Jharkhand has been named after Bharatiya Jan Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his birth anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Academic building of IARI (Jharkhand) – named after ‘Shyama Prasad Mukherjee’
- The founder of Bharatiya Jan Sangh – Shyama Prasad Mukherjee’

**30.** A Himalayan butterfly named Golden Birdwing is India’s largest, a record an unknown specimen had held for 88 years. The male was from the Wankhar Butterfly Museum in Shillong, Meghalaya and the female was recorded from Didihat in Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Golden Birdwing (Himalayan butterfly) – named India’s largest butterfly
- “Wankhar Butterfly Museum” – Shillong, Meghalaya



**31.** Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal inaugurated the 10,000-bedded Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre and Hospital (SPCCCH) in Delhi. This is the world's largest Covid care facility which will function as an isolation centre for mild and asymptomatic Covid-19 positive patients. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anil Baijal inaugurated – 10,000-bedded Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre and Hospital (SPCCCH) – in Delhi
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**32.** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has laid foundation for a new government medical college in Ariyalur which is being established at a cost of Rs 347 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – laid foundation for a new government medical college – in Ariyalur
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**33.** Jal Shakti Minister expressed happiness that Goa plans to provide 100% Functional Household Tap Connections in rural areas by 2021. The aim of this mission is to provide potable drinking water to every rural household. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Goa – plans to provide 100% Functional Household Tap Connections in rural areas – by 2021
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

**34.** The National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) will be setting up its own tier IV, Smart Data Centre at an investment of Rs 500 Cr at Narsingi, Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI – to set up Smart Data Centre – at an investment of Rs 500 Cr – in Hyderabad
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor - Tamilisai Soundararajan

**35.** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched 8 technology-driven solutions under 5T initiatives for Home, General Administration and Public grievances departments to improve public service delivery. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha launched – 8 technology-driven solutions – under 5T initiatives



- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**36.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed deal involving Eros International, STX Filmworks Inc and Marco Alliance Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI – approved the proposed deal involving = Eros International + STX Filmworks + Marco Alliance
- CCI HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta

**37.** Legal Service Authority and the high Court of Chhattisgarh has organised India's first e-Lok Adalat amid the restricted judicial functioning owing to Covid-19 outbreak. The high court Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh P R Ramchandra Menon inaugurated the e-Lok Adalat through video conferencing. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chhattisgarh organised – India's first e-Lok Adalat
- Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh HC – P R Ramchandra Menon
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**38.** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has removed the cap of Rs 5 lakh on maximum sum insured under 'Arogya Sanjeevani Policy.' [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDAI – removed the cap of Rs 5 lakh – on maximum sum insured under 'Arogya Sanjeevani Policy'
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia

**39.** Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has released a White Paper on "Focused Intervention for Make In India Post COVID-19" and it is proposed by Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr Harsh Vardhan released – a White Paper – on "Focused Intervention for Make In India Post COVID-19"
- It is proposed by – TIFAC
- Union Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi)



**40.** Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated 5 Water Supply projects, one office building of Weight and Measures Department and Rapid Antigen Detection Testing Centre (RADTC) at Jiribam through video conferencing at total cost of Rs 48.39 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manipur inaugurated – 5 Water Supply projects + 1 office building of Weight and Measures Dept + RADTC
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

**41.** The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched 'Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping' (ASEEM) portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MSDE launched – “ASEEM” portal – for skilled people
- ASEEM – Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping
- MSDE Minister – Mahendra Nath Pandey (Constituency – Chandauli, UP)

**42.** After Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has decided not to use Chinese goods, equipments in state government projects. Amid boycott call, Uttarakhand is preparing a report of Chinese firms involved in the power sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttarakhand – decided not to use Chinese goods, equipments in state government projects
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**43.** The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved restricted emergency use of “Itolizumab” injection for treating moderate to severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) patients. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DCGI approved – use of “Itolizumab” injection for treating moderate to severe ARDS patients
- ARDS – Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) – V G Somani

**44.** The "Operation Samudra Setu" launched by the Indian Navy on May 5 as part of the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas by sea during the Covid-19 pandemic has been completed in 55 days by



traversing more than 23,000 kilometers. 3,992 Indian citizens have been brought back to their homeland by sea. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The "Operation Samudra Setu" launched by the Indian Navy – completed in 55 days (launched on May 5)
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

**45.** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has issued a fresh advisory against fraudulent websites claiming to be registration portal for PM-KUSUM scheme. The “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhayan (PM-KUSUM)” scheme was issued by MNRE on March 8, 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MNRE – issued a fresh advisory against fraudulent websites – For PM-KUSUM scheme
- PM-KUSUM scheme – launched by MNRE – on March 8, 2019
- Raj Kumar Singh – Minister of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

**46.** Gujarat state cabinet, chaired by CM Vijay Rupani has constituted a 5-member commission to protect rights of tribal castes like Rabari, Bharwad and Charan residing in areas of Gir, Barda, and Aalech forests in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat – constituted a 5-member commission – to protect rights of tribal castes like Rabari, Bharwad & Charan
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**47.** The Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of reprinting of 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur Manuscript under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM). The first set of 5 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur was presented to the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind on the occasion of Guru Purnima. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Culture – presented first set of 5 volumes of ‘Mongolian Kanjur Manuscript’ out of 108 volumes
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)

**48.** A week-long campaign "Pure for Sure" has been launched in Rajasthan to ensure purity of milk and its products. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Rajasthan launched – "Pure for Sure" campaign – to ensure purity of milk and its products
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**49.** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has dedicated 6 bridges to the nation via a video-conference in a bid to ensure better connectivity of roads and bridges in sensitive border areas close to India-Pakistan International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – dedicated 6 bridges – in J & K border areas
- J & K Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – G C Murmu
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh

**50.** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched a web and mobile-based solution "BLUIS - Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System", the flagship development of General Administration and Public grievances departments to use space technology & AI to monitor government lands. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha – launched a web and mobile-based solution "BLUIS - Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System"
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**51.** Targeting to break into India's top three start-up-congenial states, the Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved the UP 'Startup Policy 2020' to nurture fresh business ideas. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – approved 'Startup Policy 2020' – to nurture fresh business ideas
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**52.** The farmers from Golaghat district in Assam have cultivated new flood resistant paddy (rice) varieties to shift from the traditional ones. The varieties called Ranjit Sub1, Swarna Sub1 and Bahadur Sub1 have been used by about 60% farmers of the West Brahmaputra area. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Farmers from Golaghat district (Assam) – cultivated new flood resistant paddy (rice) varieties
- Ranjit Sub1, Swarna Sub1 and Bahadur Sub1 = the varieties of Rice (Paddy)



**53.** Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 11 national highway projects worth over Rs 20,027 Cr in Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nitin Gadkari – laid the foundation stones for 11 national highway projects – in Haryana (worth - Rs 20,027 Cr)
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**54.** Madhya Pradesh government has launched "Roko -Toko" campaign for those who do not wear masks as the Use of masks is mandatory in all public places in the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – launched "Roko -Toko" campaign – For those who do not wear masks
- MP: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

**55.** Hyderabad International Airport (HIA) has introduced India's first fully contact-less airport car parking in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. The authority has also scaled up its NETC (National Electronic Toll Collection) FASTag car parking in collaboration with NPCI. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hyderabad International Airport – introduced India's first fully contact-less airport car parking
- HIA + NPCI = scaled up its NETC FASTag car parking
- NETC – National Electronic Toll Collection

**56.** The Dhanvantari Raths of the civic body that were testing patients for cough, cold and fever will now also check patients for dengue and malaria. Dhanvanatari Raths are Mobile Medical Vans of Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dhanvantari Raths – Mobile Medical Vans – in Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**57.** Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has achieved a major milestone under 'Make in India' initiative by building a cryostat for USD 20 billion global fusion project. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) in 2012 chosen by ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) to manufacture and install cryostat – a vacuum pressure vessel made of 3,850 tonnes of stainless steel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**





- L&T – achieved a major milestone initiative by building a cryostat for USD 20 billion global fusion project
- L&T was chosen by ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) – in 2012
- 7 member entities funds – ITER Project
- Larsen & Toubro HQs – Mumbai | CMD – SN Subrahmanyam

**58.** Due to the quick spread of highly-infectious Novel Coronavirus Covid-19, IRDAI has instructed Insurance companies to offer two standard Covid-specific covers – 'Corona Kavach' and 'Corona Rakshak'. Corona Kavach is a mandatory indemnity plan while Corona Rakshak serves as an optional benefit-based plan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDAI – instructed Insurance companies to offer – 'Corona Kavach' & 'Corona Rakshak'
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash C. Khuntia

**59.** Union Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has asked officials to draw a strategy to turn 'Kochi International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT)', locally known as the 'Vallarpadam terminal' into trans-shipment hub. It will be India's 1st trans-shipment hub in Cochin Port. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Vallarpadam terminal' – to be converted into – India's 1st trans-shipment hub (Cochin Port)
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Shipping – Mansukh L. Mandaviya

**60.** In a meeting with the 15th Finance Commission, the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan highlighted that the government aims at gradually increasing the public health expenditure to 2.5% of the nation's GDP by the year 2025. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government – aims to increase public health expenditure to 2.5% – by 2025
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

**61.** Madhya Pradesh has emerged on top in implementing the “Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)” scheme to help the street vendors to continue their business. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – topped in implementing “Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)”



• MP: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

**62.** For the first time, the Indian Railways has loaded special parcel train with 'Dry Chillies' from Reddipalem in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh to Benapole in Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways – loaded special parcel train with “Dry Chillies” – from Andhra Pradesh to “Bangladesh”
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**63.** Union Human Resource Development Ministry has released ‘PRAGYATA’ guidelines for Digital Education. As per the guidelines, online classes for pre-primary students should not be for more than 30 minutes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HRD Ministry – released ‘PRAGYATA’ guidelines for Digital Education
- Cap on online classes for pre-primary students – 30 minutes
- Ministry of HRD – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

**64.** Telangana police has launched the “CybHer” campaign which aims at providing safe cyberspace for women and children. The month-long campaign will focus on cases of paedophile activity, sexual harassment of minors and young adults under the guise of education activity online, malware and data theft of personal information. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana police launched – “CybHer” campaign – to provide safe cyberspace for women and children
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor - Tamilisai Soundararajan

**65.** The coal ministry is planning to link the mining plan portal with "Parivesh" website of Environment Ministry. PARIVESH is a single-window hub for online submission, monitoring, and management of proposals submitted to the Environment Ministry. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Coal ministry – to link the mining plan portal – with "PARIVESH" website of Environment Ministry
- Pralhad Joshi – Minister of Coal, Minister of Mines (Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka)
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment (Constituency – Maharashtra)

**66.** Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Minister of State for HRD Sanjay Dhotre have virtually launched the first on-line NISHTHA programme for 1,200 Key Resources Persons of Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ramesh Pokhriyal + Sanjay Dhotre = launched the first online NISHTHA programme – in Andhra Pradesh
- NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- MoS of HRD – Sanjay Dhotre
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**67.** Bajaj Housing Finance Limited (BHFL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bajaj Finance Limited has recently launched E-Home Loan for customers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bajaj Housing Finance – launched "E-Home Loan" for customers
- HQs of BHFL – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajeev Jain

**68.** FamPay, a neo-bank for teenagers, has announced the launch of India's 1st numberless card "FamCard". FamCard is like a debit card that teenagers can now use to make payments independently. This card has been launched in partnership with IDFC Bank and is accepted across the RuPay payment network of merchants. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FamPay + IDFC Bank = announced the launch of India's 1st numberless card "FamCard"
- HQs of FamPay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Founder – Sambhav Jain

**69.** The Tamil Nadu government has proposed to establish a 'Turmeric Research Institute' at Modakurichi in Erode district to enhance production and help the growers realise more income. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – to establish a ‘Turmeric Research Institute’ – in Erode district
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**70.** Niti Aayog will recommend to the government to mandate the use of recycled materials, metals, plastics and paper up to 25% in large infrastructure projects, in line with the global move to promote the use of secondary products across India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Niti Aayog will recommend to the government – to mandate the use of recycled materials – up to 25%
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi
- CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**71.** The first set of 12 private trains will be introduced by 2023, followed by 45 more in the next fiscal, according to an initial timeline drawn by the railways. It plans to roll out all 151 such train services by 2027. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- The first set of 12 private trains – to be introduced by 2023 & total 151 such train services – by 2027
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

**72.** In Madhya Pradesh, coronavirus wards will be created in six central jails across the state, including Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Ujjain, Jabalpur and Sagar. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ‘Coronavirus wards’ will be created in 6 central jails of – Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

**73.** The e-poster competition was organized by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) on the fifth day (7th July 2020) of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2020 with the theme "How does Swachhata impact oceans?" [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- INCOIS – organized ‘Swachhata Pakhwada – 2020’ | HQs of INCOIS – Hyderabad, Telangana



- Theme - "How does Swachhata impact oceans?"

**74.** A mobile application of "PM Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi - PM SVANidhi" was launched by Secretary of Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry Durga Shanker Mishra in New Delhi to bring micro-credit facility for street vendors at their door steps. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoHUA – launched "PM SVANidhi" in New Delhi – to bring micro-credit facility for street vendors
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri

**75.** The Central Government has decided to allow Invalid Pension to Armed Forces Personnel with less than 10 years of qualifying service. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government – decided to allow 'Invalid Pension' to Armed Forces Personnel – with less than 10 years of service

**76.** The Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) has announced its 'Renewable Energy Export Policy 2020' for solar, wind, and wind-solar hybrid projects. The policy aims to promote the export of renewable energy outside the state without any obligation of power procurement by state distribution companies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – announced "Renewable Energy Export Policy 2020"
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**77.** Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, has developed a "post-Covid Coach" to fight the virus. This post-Covid Coach has design improvements like handsfree amenities, copper-coated handrails and latches, plasma air purification and titanium di-oxide coating for Covid free journey. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Kapurthala' Rail Coach Factory (Punjab) – developed a "post-Covid Coach" to fight the virus

**78.** The Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company (MSETCL) has started using drones for inspection of power lines and transmission towers. Drones are now being used for aerial surveillance and inspection of Extra High Voltage (EHV) lines and towers in remote areas. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – started using drones for inspection of power lines and transmission towers
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**79.** The government has tightened the import policy for 'Power Tillers' and its components, and placed their imports in the restricted category from free earlier. Power tiller is an agricultural-machinery used for soil preparation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government tightened the import policy for – 'Power Tillers' & placed their imports in the 'restricted category'

**80.** Railway Board Chairman VK Yadav has said that all the capitals of North-Eastern states will be connected to the rail network by 2023. The Katra-Banihal rail link project is likely to be completed by December 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- All the capitals of North-Eastern states – to be connected to the rail network – by 2023
- Katra-Banihal rail link project to be completed – by December 2022
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

**81.** A first-of-its-kind Footwear Training Centre for the marginalised community was inaugurated by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- KVIC inaugurated – Footwear Training Centre – for the marginalised community – in Delhi
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

**82.** The postal ballot rules will be applicable for voters over the age of 80, disabled or those suspected or confirmed to be infected by the coronavirus. Now, the Election Commission would not allow postal ballot facility for voters above 65 years of age. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The postal ballot rules – applicable for voters over the age of 80 (instead of 65 earlier)



- Chief Election Commissioner – Sunil Arora (23rd)

**83.** CM Trivendra Singh Rawat has inaugurated 'Smriti Van' on the occasion of 'Harela festival' in Uttarakhand in the memory of famous folk singer of the state late Jeet Singh Negi. This festival is celebrated across hills three times every year. 'Harela' means the day of green. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Smriti Van' – on the occasion of 'Harela festival' – celebrated in Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**84.** Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal has inaugurated the “Zoram Mega Food Park” at Kolasib in Mizoram through virtual conference. It is the 1st Food Park of Mizoram built at a cost of Rs 75 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Harsimrat Kaur Badal – inaugurated “Zoram Mega Food Park” – the 1st Food Park of Mizoram
- FPI Minister – Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Constituency – Bathinda, Punjab)
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**85.** Union Environment and Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has praised the 'KURMA' mobile application as a unique tool for tracking and reporting Indian turtles. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prakash Javadekar praised – 'KURMA' mobile application – a unique tool for tracking and reporting Indian turtles
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Info. & Broadcasting
- Constituency – Maharashtra

**86.** Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy has presented a Rs 9000 Cr tax free budget for the financial year 2020-2021 in the assembly amidst objections from Lt Governor Kiran Bedi and without her customary address. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Puducherry – presented a Rs 9000 Cr tax free budget – for the financial year 2020-2021
- Puducherry: CM – Velu Narayanasamy | Governor – Dr. Kiran Bedi



**87.** The first ever lot of containers in "MV Shejyoti" container Ship transported from Kolkata port via Chattogram port in Bangladesh has reached Agartala, Tripura. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "MV Shejyoti" container Ship – reached Agartala, Tripura
- Transported from Kolkata port via Chattogram port (Bangladesh)
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**88.** Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched digital platform "e-Sachivalaya", facilitating people to take online appointments for virtual meetings with the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Ministers and other Heads of Departments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana launched – "e-Sachivalaya" a digital platform to take online appointments for virtual meetings
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**89.** Gujarat has taken the lead in the country to promote plasma donations by extending the benefit of free medical check-ups to kin of plasma donors. To promote plasma donations for plasma therapy, Ahmedabad based SVP hospital has come up with an attractive offer for donors. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat – to promote plasma donations – by extending the benefit of free medical check-ups
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**90.** The Andhra Pradesh government has constituted a high-level committee to study the modalities for carving out new districts. The high-level committee will be headed by the Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – constituted a high-level committee – headed by the Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**91.** Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched "Vriksharopan Abhiyan" under which trees will be planted in mines, colonies and offices in New Delhi. Amit Shah has also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 6





Eco-parks and tourism sites. The "Vriksharopan Abhiyan" is being organised by the Ministry of Coal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Shah – launched "Vriksharopan Abhiyan" – in New Delhi
- Organised by or it's an initiative of – Ministry of Coal
- Amit Shah – laid the foundation stone of 6 Eco-parks and tourism sites
- Ministry of Home Affairs - Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

**92.** Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology's (CIPET) unit in Bhubaneswar, Odisha has received "NABL Accreditation" for testing and certification of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kit. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CIPET (Bhubaneswar) – received "NABL Accreditation" for testing & certification of PPE Kit
- CIPET comes under – Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (D. V. Sadananda Gowda – Bangalore, Karnataka)

**93.** In a move to enhance the flow of information between taxpayers and tax authorities, the Income Tax Department has launched a revised Form 26AS or Annual Information Statement from this assessment year, which will reflect details of all high-value transactions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Income Tax Dept launched – revised Form '26AS' (Annual Information Statement)
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Pramod Chandra Mody

**94.** Rajasthan government has approved "One-Stop Shop" for fast tracking investments. Entrepreneurs investing above Rs 10 Cr will be able to get 98 types of clearances under one roof at the 'One Stop Shop' (OSS). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajasthan – approved "One-Stop Shop" – for fast tracking investments
- Entrepreneurs investing above Rs 10 Cr - will get 98 types of clearances under OSS
- OSS – One Stop Shop
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra



**95.** The Andhra Pradesh government would reopen schools from September 5, 2020, as decided by the state government. However, this is tentative as the final decision will be taken based on the situation in the coming months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – may reopen schools from September 5, 2020
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**96.** Uttarakhand's forest department has developed a "Green Ramayana Park" where plant species mentioned in Valmiki's Ramayan and associated with Lord Rama in six major forest types in India, have been grown. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttarakhand – developed a "Green Ramayana Park" – with plant species associated with Lord Rama
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**97.** The Thammampatti wood carvings of Salem, Tamil Nadu, are all set to be granted the Geographical Indications (GI) tag. The 'Oddar' community has been in this business of wood carving art and handed it down across generations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Thammampatti wood carvings – Salem, Tamil Nadu – to receive GI Tag
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**98.** The ministry of shipping has decided to waive waterway usage charges for a period of 3 years with immediate effect considering the government of India's vision to promote inland waterways as a supplementary, eco-friendly and cheaper mode of transport. The decision is aimed at increasing the inland waterway traffic to 110 million tonne (MT) in 2022-23 from 72 MT in 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Shipping – decided to waive Waterway Usage Charges – For 3 years
- Aim: inland waterway traffic to 110 million tonne (MT) – in 2022-23
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Shipping – Mansukh L. Mandaviya



**99.** Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the 'World Class State of Art Honey Testing Laboratory,' established by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in Anand (Gujarat), with support of National Bee Board (NBB), through video-conference. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated – 'World Class State of Art Honey Testing Laboratory' – in Anand, Gujarat
- Established by – National Dairy Development Board (HQs of NDDB – Anand, Gujara) | Chairman – Dilip Rath
- HQs of National Bee Board (NBB) – New Delhi | Chairman – Shri Sanjay Agarwal

**100.** Karnataka has decided to set up "Karnataka Digital Economy Mission", a company under section 8, and this state government will have 49% share while industries will hold 51% share. There are more than 7,000 startups in Karnataka and they were operating under Technology Mission. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka decided to set up – "Karnataka Digital Economy Mission"
- Share holdings: 49% shares – by State Government | 51% shares – by Industries
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**101.** Madhubani-based artist, Raman Kumar Mishra, was flooded with orders for his handmade masks painted with Mithila artwork after word spread about his work on a microblogging sites. Mithila painting, also known as Madhubani painting, is done using fingers, twigs, brushes and nib-pens, wherein sketches are made with folk motifs of Mithila. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhubani-based artist (Bihar) – became famous for making masks with hand-painted – Madhubani motifs
- Madhubani Paintings origin in – Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

**102.** Union Home minister Amit Shah has distributed 100 electric potter wheels among as many trained artisans in Gujarat under the 'Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana' of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Shah – distributed 100 electric potter wheels – among trained artisans in Gujarat
- Under the 'Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana' of – KVIC



- KVIC works under – Ministry of MSME (Nitin Gadkari – Nagpur, Maharashtra)
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

**103.** The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), along with the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) and the Government of India's Department of Biotechnology, has begun a study of the migration of the "Pied Cuckoo" from Africa to India and back, by tagging two of the birds with satellite transmitters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WII + IIRS + Dept of Biotechnology = began a study of the migration of the "Pied Cuckoo" – From Africa to India
- HQs of WII – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | Director – Dhananjai Mohan
- HQs of IIRS – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | Director – Dr Prakash Chauhan

**104.** In Gujarat, Ahmedabad Railway Division has successfully introduced a unique concept of Baggage Sanitization and Wrapping at Ahmedabad Railway Station. It is a first of its kind across the Indian Railways. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ahmedabad Railway Division (Gujarat) – introduced a unique concept of Baggage Sanitization and Wrapping
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**105.** The Indian Railways will use Radio-Frequency Identification tags (RFID) for tracking of all wagons by 2022. A total of 23,000 wagons have been covered under the RFID project so far and the target is to cover all wagons by December 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways – to use 'RFID Project' for tracking of all wagons – by 2022
- RFID – Radio Frequency Identification
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi

**106.** Kerala-based NBFC, Muthoot Finance Ltd, has launched a portal "Restartindia", a free mentoring platform to help the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector to restart businesses across the country. Muthoot Fincorp and INKtalks have jointly conceptualised "RestartIndia", which is an open platform for advisory support. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Muthoot Fincorp – “Restartindia” portal – a free mentoring platform to help MSMEs
- Muthoot Fincorp + INKtalks = jointly conceptualized it
- HQs of Muthoot Finance – Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO – George Alexander Muthoot

**107.** In the next 12 months, the world’s first electrified rail tunnel fit to run double-stack containers will be operational in the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor of India. This 1 km long tunnel connects the Mewat and Gurugram district of Haryana and negotiates a steep gradient on the uphill and downhill slope of the Aravalli range. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- World’s 1st electrified rail tunnel fit to run double-stack containers will be operational – in 12 months – in India
- It is located near – Haryana

**108.** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched its one-stop fintech payment solution - “UPI AutoPay” in a virtual event of Global Fintech Fest. Customers have to authenticate their account through UPI PIN for one-time and subsequent monthly payments would be debited automatically for transactions less than Rs. 2,000. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI – launched “UPI AutoPay” one-stop fintech payment solution
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe

**109.** In line with the government’s initiative of ‘National Solar Mission’ to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022, the Indian Navy has so far between May-July installed large Solar Power Plants in 3 Commands. The Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawal, Flag Officer Commanding-in-chief, Southern Naval Command (SNC) has employed the 3 MegaWatt (MW) largest Solar Power Plant at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Navy’s 3 MegaWatt (MW) largest Solar Power Plant – inaugurated at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala
- Kerala: CM – Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of Southern Naval Command – Kochi, Kerala | FOC-in-Chief – V. Admiral Anil Kumar Chawal
- Location of Indian Naval Academy – Ezhimala, Kannur, Kerala



**110.** Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has announced the launch of a 'Macadamisation Program' for the improvement of roads across Jammu and Kashmir. Murmu has approved a program for 100% macadamisation of all roads in the Union Territory including 11,000 km of fair-weather roads. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Girish Chandra Murmu – 'Macadamisation Program' – to improve roads in Jammu & Kashmir
- J & K Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – G C Murmu

**111.** The Ministry of Human Resource Development has conducted the first ever "Indian Scholastic Assessment Test 2020" (IND-SAT) recently under the new 'Study in India' programme. Students who score well in the IND SAT 2020 will get admission into Indian universities and will get scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes as per their marks. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of HRD – conducted the first ever "Indian Scholastic Assessment Test 2020" (IND SAT)
- Under – 'Study in India' programme
- Ministry of HRD – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

**112.** Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar has launched 'National Transit Pass System (NTPS)' for issuing transit permits for timber, bamboo and other forest produce. The pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana for now. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Environment – launched 'National Transit Pass System (NTPS)' – for issuing transit permits
- Pilot project will be functional in – Madhya Pradesh & Telangana
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Constituency – Maharashtra)

**113.** IIT BHU (Banaras Hindu University) will develop a 'Biotechnology-based water treatment system' for the purification of sewage water flowing into the rivers Ganga and Godavari under a joint project namely "SPRING - Strategic Planning for Water Resources and Implementation of Novel Biotechnical Treatment solutions and Good Practices". It is funded by India and the European Union. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT BHU – to develop a 'Biotechnology-based water treatment system' – for Ganga and Godavari
- Project 'SPRING' funded by = India + European Union
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27



**114.** The DRDO has established a COVID-19 testing facility at the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) in Leh to augment the existing capacity for identification of coronavirus cases in the union territory of Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO – established a COVID-19 testing facility – at DIHAR in Leh, Ladakh
- DRDO: HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

**115.** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched a job portal called "Rozgar bazaar" for both job seekers as well as recruiters. Those searching for jobs can also register on this website, enlisting their experience, qualifications, and areas in which they are interested in finding work. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi launched – "Rozgar bazaar" a job portal – For job seekers & recruiters
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**116.** "The five-day Sub-Tropical Fruit Expo 2020" was organized by the Haryana Horticulture Department at the Centre for Sub-Tropical Fruit (Indo Israel Project), Ladwa, district Kurukshetra from July 18 to 22. The event was aimed at providing a platform for farmers to learn the latest technologies in the field. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana Horticulture Department organized – "The five-day Sub-Tropical Fruit Expo 2020" – in Kurukshetra
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**117.** Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has signed up for the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) becoming the first Indian port to commit to set science-based emissions reduction targets. It is collaboration between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- APSEZ – First Indian port – to sign up for the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi)
- HQs of APSEZ – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani



**118.** The Odisha state government has increased the retirement age of doctors from 62 years to 65 years. Retirement age of allopathic insurance medical officers working under labour department has also been revised to 65 years. The retirement age of medical teachers is already 65 years in the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha increased the retirement age of doctors – from 62 years to “65 years”
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**119.** Mizoram is among the five states where the Green- Agriculture project, funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF), is being implemented. The other states are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. The project will be implemented in Dampa Tiger Reserve and Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary in Mizoram. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Green- Agriculture project – funded by GEF – launched in Mizoram
- Dampa Tiger Reserve & Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary – in Mizoram
- Other states – Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**120.** The Union Cabinet has approved National Education Policy 2020 bringing major reforms in higher education including a target of 50% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) by 2035 and provision for multiple entries and exits. New Policy aims for Universalization of Education from pre-school to secondary level with 100 % GER in school education by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- As per New “National Education Policy-2020” – Target of 50% GER in higher education – by 2035
- Target of 100% GER in pre-school to secondary level education – by 2030

**121.** The Bombay Flying Club has become the first DGCA-approved drone training school in India. However, the club will have to fulfill certain conditions regarding aerial photography, safety, insurance and take clearances. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bombay Flying Club – became the 1st DGCA-approved drone training school in India





**122.** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has announced 'Chief Minister's Entrepreneurship Development Programme' to address the issues of shortage of working capital and availability of credit faced by start-ups and small entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kerala announced – 'Chief Minister's Entrepreneurship Development Programme'
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**123.** Walmart-owned Flipkart has launched a hyperlocal 90-minute delivery service called "Flipkart Quick" in Bengaluru across categories including grocery, mobiles, electronics and home accessories. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Flipkart launched – "Flipkart Quick" a hyperlocal 90-minute delivery service – in Bengaluru
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**124.** Union Cabinet has approved to change the name of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to Ministry of Education. The HRD Ministry is currently headed by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Human Resource Development – renamed as – Ministry of Education
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' | Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand

**125.** Following the Prime Minister's appeal, a public awareness campaign called "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" means "One Mask-Many Lives" will be conducted till August 15 in many districts of Madhya Pradesh. The Mask Bank will also be established under the Ek Mask-Anek Zindgi Campaign. In this mask bank, masks will be collected from donors and distributed free of cost to the poor people. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" – a public awareness campaign – conducted in Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

**126.** The Union Cabinet has approved the National Education Policy 2020. This is the first education policy of the 21st century and replaces the 34 year old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. NEP emphasises on setting up of 'Gender Inclusion Fund' and also 'Special Education Zones' for disadvantaged regions and groups. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- NEP-2020 – will replace NEP-1986 (after 34 years)
- NEP-2020 emphasizes to set up = 'Gender Inclusion Fund' + 'Special Education Zones' for disadvantaged groups

**127.** Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched its crop insurance campaign 'Bohot Zaroori Hai' for farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka to encourage them about their yield protection and financial security. The company has secured the mandate to insure the farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka for a period of 3 years under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY)'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bharti AXA – launched 'Bohot Zaroori Hai' crop insurance campaign – For farmers in Maharashtra & Karnataka
- HQs of Bharti AXA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sanjeev Srinivasan

**128.** Consumer affairs minister Ram Vilas Paswan has launched a mobile app "BIS-Care" while terming it as a tool to empower the consumers. People can check the authenticity of ISI and Hallmark quality of products before buying them. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ram Vilas Paswan launched – "BIS-Care" mobile app – to check the authenticity of ISI and Hallmark quality
- Ram Vilas Paswan – Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Constituency – Hajipur, Bihar)

**129.** The first government-run intrastate chopper (helicopter) service in Uttarakhand that connects Dehradun to Garhwal hills was flagged off to boost tourism to Badrinath. Badrinath is one of the four Char Dham shrines. The flight on the Dehradun-New Tehri-Srinagar-Gauchar route which is operated by the state-run Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) under "Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN)" Scheme was flagged off virtually by minister of civil aviation Hardeep Singh Puri and Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The first government-run intrastate Helicopter service – flagged off – in Uttarakhand (Dehradun to Garhwal hills)
- The flight operated by – Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) – under UDAN scheme
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya



**130.** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched 'Dare to Dream 2.0', which is an innovation contest. The contest was launched on the 5th death anniversary of renowned scientist and former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on July 27. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO launched – 'Dare to Dream 2.0' innovation contest – on the 5th death anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam
- DRDO: HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

**131.** Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has released a booklet on "Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)" of Department of Land Resources (DoLR) under Ministry of Rural Development. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Singh Tomar released – a booklet on "Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)" – of Dept. of Land Resources (DoLR)
- DoLR – works under 'Ministry of Rural Development' (Narendra Singh Tomar – Morena, Madhya Pradesh)

**132.** Shri Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi Bridge over river Ganga in Bihar through video conference. Over 5.5 kilometres long, the 4 lane bridge lies on NH-19 between Patna and Hajipur. It is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 1742 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nitin Gadkari inaugurated – upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi Bridge – over river Ganga in Bihar
- 5.5 kilometres long & 4 lane bridge – lies on "NH-19" – between Patna & Hajipur (at cost of Rs. 1742 Cr)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

**133.** The Indian Railways has recently installed Automatic Lighting Systems at three railways stations in Madhya Pradesh for energy conservation. Those three railways stations are at Jabalpur, Narsinghpur and Bhopal which fall under the West Central Railway zone. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways installed – Automatic Lighting Systems – at 3 railways stations in Madhya Pradesh
- Three railways stations: Jabalpur, Narsinghpur & Bhopal (West Central Railway zone)
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi



**134.** Union Cabinet has discontinued Master of Philosophy (MPhil) courses as per the new National Education Policy during its meeting. The new education policy also envisions increasing public investment in education sector to 6% of the GDP. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union Cabinet discontinued – MPhil courses – as per the new National Education Policy-2020
- Increase in public investment in education sector to – 6% of the GDP
- The current 10+2 system to be replaced by a new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure
- Teaching up to at least “Grade 5” to be in mother tongue or regional languages
- A new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education – NCFTE 2021 – to be formulated by the NCTE + NCERT
- Sanskrit – to be offered at all school levels and higher education as option – including in 3-language formula
- PARAKH – Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development

**135.** The Income Tax Department will share PAN and bank account details of any entity with 10 investigative and intelligence agencies, including the CBI and the NIA, under the integrated counter-terrorism platform - National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Income Tax Department – will share PAN and bank account details - with 10 intelligence agencies
- NATGRID comes under – Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Amit Shah – Gandhinagar, Gujarat)

**136.** Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan has given his assent to The AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of all Regions Bill-2020 and APCRDA (Repeal) Bill-2020, paving the way for the Legislative Capital in Amaravati, Executive in Visakhapatnam and, Judicial in Kurnool. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Biswa Bhusan Harichandan – gave his assent to 3 state-capital bills and CRDA Repeal Bills 2020
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**137.** SBI Card and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have launched a co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay platform for secure and fast transactions. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- SBI Card + IRCTC = launched a Co-branded Contactless Credit Card – on RuPay
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Mahendra Pratap Mall
- HQs of RuPay – New Delhi | Launched by – NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)
- HQs of SBI Card – Gurugram, Haryana | New MD & CEO – Ashwini Kumar Tewari (From 1 Aug)

**138.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched 'High throughput Covid-19 testing facilities' or 3 new labs at Noida, Mumbai and Kolkata. These facilities will increase testing capacity in the country and will be able to test over 10,000 samples in a day. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – launched 'High throughput Covid-19 testing facilities' – at Noida, Mumbai & Kolkata

**139.** The forest department of Haryana has taken up a new approach of "Aerial Seeding" to plant seeds across Aravalli hills that are hard to access and makes plantation difficult. Aerial seeding is a process where seed balls are sprayed on the ground with the help of drones, helicopters and planes. The 'Seeding Drone' is designed by IIT Kanpur backed startup. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Haryana – took up a new approach of "Aerial Seeding" to plant seeds across – Aravalli hills
- Seeding Drone designed by – IIT Kanpur
- Guru Shikhar – the highest peak in Aravalli range
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**140.** The Odisha government has renamed "Bilung" village in Odisha's Sambalpur district 'Rangabati Bilung' after a popular folk song "Rangabati" to honour the songwriter Mitrabhanu Gauntia. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Odisha – renamed "Bilung" village after a popular folk song "Rangabati" – to honour 'Mitrabhanu Gauntia'
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**141.** A National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will be set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. States will prepare an implementation plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools for all learners by grade 3 by 2025. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy – will be set up by MHRD
- Implementation plan for all learners by grade 3 – by 2025
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' | Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand

**142.** The ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs would go beyond the list of 100 smart cities in different states to include two more cities - Leh and Kargil in Ladakh. The ministry of housing and urban affairs has formed a 5-member central team under Smart Cities director Rahul Kapoor to handhold Ladakh in formulating detailed projects reports for both the cities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoHUA – additionally selected – Leh and Kargil cities (Ladakh) – to develop them as smart cities
- 5-member central team under – Rahul Kapoor (Smart Cities Director)
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri



# International Affairs

**1.** The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) formally designated Chinese's Huawei Technologies Co and ZTE Corporation as posing threats to US national security. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- US FCC – designated – Huawei Technologies + ZTE Corporation – as national security threat
- HQS of FCC – Washington, D.C., USA | Director – Ajit Pai

**2.** The Kremlin and its supporters have won a controversial vote to amend the constitution and reset Vladimir Putin's term limits, allowing him to rule as president until 2036. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Vladimir Putin – to stay as the President of Russia – until 2036
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**3.** US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) was launched on July 1, 2020 to implement international standards while seeking to promote best practices for all industries. President Trump signed US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in January 2020. It has been characterised as “NAFTA 2.0” (North American Free Trade Agreement). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- USMCA – launched on July 1, 2020
- Characterised as – “NAFTA 2.0” (between USA + Mexico + Canada)

**4.** Germany has become the first major economy in the world to phase out long-awaited coal, nuclear power as an energy source. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Germany – first major economy – to phase out coal, nuclear power as an energy source
- Germany – Berlin – Euro

**5.** Harsh Vardhan and Narendra Singh Tomar have released guidelines for evaluation of Nano-Based Agri-Input and Food Products in India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**



- Dr Harsh Vardhan + Narendra Singh = released guidelines – on Nano-Based Agri-Input and Food Products
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)
- Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development – Narendra Singh Tomar (Morena, MP)

**6.** Sri Lanka and Maldives have become the first two countries in the World Health Organisation's South-East Asia region to eliminate both measles and rubella ahead of a 2023 target. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sri Lanka & Maldives – the first two countries – to eliminate both measles and rubella (Target – 2023)
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

**7.** China has reported its first suspected case of “Bubonic Plague”. The bubonic plague, known as the “Black Death” in the Middle Ages, is a highly infectious and often fatal disease that is spread mostly by rodents. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – reported – first case of “Bubonic Plague” (Black Death) – spread by “Rodents”
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**8.** President Donald Trump has officially started the withdrawal of the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO), making good on threats to deprive the UN body of its top funding source over its response to the coronavirus. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- USA – officially issued a notice to UN – For withdrawal from WHO – on July 6, 2021
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Donald Trump

**9.** The government of Bangladesh has launched a “Digital Haat” for online sale and purchase of sacrificial animals ahead of the festival of Eid-UI-Azha. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**





- Bangladesh launched – “Digital Haat” – For online sale and purchase of sacrificial animals
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**10.** Australia has suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong and extended visas for Hong Kong residents in response to China's imposition of a tough national security law. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Australia – suspended its extradition treaty and extended visas – for Hong Kong
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison
- Hong Kong – City of Victoria – Hong Kong dollar

**11.** India has invested in 120 projects and created 5,429 new jobs in the UK to become the second-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) after the US in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in UK in 2019 = 1st – USA | 2nd – India
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

**12.** China has warned its citizens living in Kazakhstan of a local "unknown pneumonia" which has a "much higher" fatality rate than the COVID-19 disease. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – warned its citizens living in “Kazakhstan” – for a local "unknown pneumonia"
- Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**13.** The Administrative & Academic Block of ‘Shree Mahadev Masta Chaturdev Campus’, newly built under the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Development Cooperation programme at a cost of Nepali Rs. 35.11 million, was formally inaugurated at Kathmandu, Nepal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Administrative & Academic Block of Shree Mahadev Masta Chaturdev Campus – inaugurated in – Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

**14.** Nepal's cable TV operators have switched off signals of all Indian news channels except Doordarshan as some propaganda was being shown on these channels against Nepal Government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nepal – switched off signals of all Indian news channels – except ‘Doordarshan’
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

**15.** Fast-moving Tropical Storm "Fay" has made landfall in New Jersey amid heavy, lashing rains that closed beaches and flooded shore town streets. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tropical Storm "Fay" – made heavy landfall – in New Jersey, USA
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Donald Trump

**16.** India has created “air bubbles” agreement with some countries to resume international flights till resumption of regular schedule flights in a post-pandemic world. The first special arrangements or bubbles have been established with US, France and Germany. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India created first “air bubbles” agreement – with US, France and Germany – to resume international flights

**17.** According to the data of the commerce ministry, the USA has remained India's top trading partner for the second consecutive fiscal in 2019-20. The bilateral trade between the US and India stood at \$88.75 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- USA – remained India's Top Trading Partner in 2019-20 – with bilateral trade of \$88.75 billion
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Donald Trump

**18.** Britain's National Grid had started construction on Viking Link, an electricity interconnector between Britain and Denmark. The 1.4 GW high voltage electricity interconnector will be the longest in the world when completed by the end of 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Britain + Denmark = ‘Viking Link’ – 1.4 GW high voltage electricity interconnector
- Britain – London – Pound sterling | Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone



**19.** India and the European Union have adopted a joint declaration on moving towards a more circular economic model that provides for reduction in primary resource consumption and enhances the use of secondary raw materials. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + European Union = adopted a joint declaration on moving towards a more circular economic model
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27

**20.** Philippines has publicly called on China to comply with 2016 arbitral ruling which had ruled that China has no 'historic rights over the waters of South China Sea'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Philippines called on China – to comply with '2016 arbitral ruling'
- Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Rodrigo Duterte
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President - Xi Jinping

**21.** Russia has become the first nation to complete clinical trials of Covid-19 vaccine on humans, and the results have proven the medication's effectiveness. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Russia – the first nation to complete clinical trials of Covid-19 vaccine on humans
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**22.** India and Bhutan have launched a new trade route between Jaigaon in West Bengal and Ahllay in Bhutan, enabling smoother trade of goods and strengthening of sub-regional cooperation amid Chinese inroads into South Asia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Bhutan = launched a new trade route – between Jaigaon (West Bengal) & Ahllay (Bhutan)
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum

**23.** The government of Myanmar has passed a law allowing private zoos for commercial farming of endangered species which may boost the demand for rare animals in the world. Myanmar is considered to be a major hub of illegal trade in wildlife driven by demand from neighbouring China. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Myanmar – passed a law allowing private zoos – For commercial farming of endangered species
- Myanmar – a major hub of illegal trade in wildlife
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint

**24.** The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) has got an approval from the GIFT SEZ Authority to set up an IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City - Gandhinagar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HSBC – to set up an IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City - Gandhinagar
- HQs of HSBC – London, UK | CEO – Noel Quinn

**25.** Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal has virtually addressed the opening session of "Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing" to partner with Italy in the area of food processing which has a huge market potential in the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Harsimrat Kaur Badal – addressed session of "Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing" between India & Italy
- FPI Minister – Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Constituency – Bathinda, Punjab)
- Italy – Rome – Euro

**26.** The United Kingdom has banned its companies from sourcing 5G equipment from Chinese telecom company manufacturer Huawei. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UK – banned its companies from sourcing 5G equipment – from Huawei
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson
- HQs of Huawei – Shenzhen, China | CEO – Ren Zhengfei

**27.** The Shipping Minister Mansukh Madaviya has flagged off the first trial container ship from Kolkata to Agartala through Chattogram port of Bangladesh. It will increase economic activities, employment and will bring prosperity in India as well as Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mansukh Madaviya – flagged off the first trial container ship from Kolkata to Agartala – through Chattogram port
- Chattogram and Mongla ports – Bangladesh
- MoS I/C for Shipping Ministry – Mansukh Madaviya
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**28.** Nicaragua has become the 87th country to join the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, an initiative led by India to promote sustainable energy. The ISA is an alliance of 121 countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nicaragua – 87th country to join ISA Framework Agreement (led by India)
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Upendra Tripathy | Member Countries – 121

**29.** HIL (India) Ltd has supplied 20.60 tonne of organochlorine insecticide DDT with 75% water-dispersible powder to South Africa for a malaria control programme. It is in the process of supplying 128 tonne of DDT to Zimbabwe and 113 tonne to Zambia in the current 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HIL – supplied 20.60 tonne of – organochlorine insecticide DDT with 75% water-dispersible powder – to South Africa
- For – Malaria control programme
- In process: Supplying 128 tonne of DDT to Zimbabwe & 113 tonne to Zambia
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand

**30.** Turkmenistan has been granted Observer status by the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council. Turkmenistan has become the 25th and the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the trade body. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Turkmenistan (25th) – has been granted Observer status by WTO
- HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Roberto Azevedo | Member Countries – 164 & Observer – 25

**31.** The United States has told China to close its consulate in Houston and Beijing was considering shutting the US consulate in Wuhan in retaliation. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- USA told China to close its consulate – in Houston
- In retaliation – China to shut the US consulate – in Wuhan
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**32.** The United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 2020 as the “International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)” after receiving a proposal from Finland Government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Finland proposed the UNGA – to declare the “Year 2020” – as the “International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)”
- Finland – Helsinki – Euro | PM – Sanna Marin

**33.** India has revived an initiative for Preferential Trade Agreement with South African Customs Union (SACU). The Indian side at the dialogue was led by Srikar Reddy, a Joint Secretary in Department of Commerce while SACU was led by Amb. Steve Katjiuanjo, an Executive Director in Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development of Namibia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India revived an initiative – for Preferential Trade Agreement – with SACU
- Indian side was led by – Srikar Reddy
- HQs of SACU – Namibia, South Africa

**34.** The USA has listed Reliance Jio among the companies that are becoming “Clean Telcos” as it is rejecting business with Chinese companies like Huawei. RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani has announced that Reliance Jio has designed and developed a complete 5G solution from scratch that can be ready for field development in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- USA listed – Reliance Jio – among the companies that are becoming “Clean Telcos”
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Donald Trump
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani



**35.** United Kingdom PM Boris Johnson has launched 'Jet Zero Council' to cut airline emissions as part of a wider 350-million pound plan to step up efforts to tackle climate change. The UK has targeted to reach net zero by 2050. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UK launched – Jet Zero Council – to cut airline emissions
- UK's target to reach net zero – by 2050
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

**36.** U.S. President Donald Trump has unveiled an expansion of the "Operation Legend" program to include cities such as Chicago and Albuquerque, New Mexico, in a further effort by federal officials to tackle violence. The program involves deploying federal law enforcement agents to assist local police in combating a "surge" of violent crime. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Donald Trump – unveiled an expansion of the "Operation Legend" program – to tackle violence
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump

**37.** Croatia's parliament has approved a new government that is led by Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic who belongs to Conservative Party that won a parliamentary election in July, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Croatia – approved a new government – led by PM Andrej Plenkovic (Conservative party)
- Croatia – Zagreb – Kuna | PM – Andrej Plenkovic | President – Zoran Milanovic

**38.** India has received the first tranche of 4,475 oxygen concentrators from Singapore's Temasek Foundation. The Foundation has offered to donate 20,000 oxygen concentrators to India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – received the first tranche of 4,475 oxygen concentrators – from Temasek Foundation (Singapore)
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

**39.** China has ordered the closure of the US consulate in the southwestern city of Chengdu in retaliation for America shuttering Beijing's diplomatic mission in Houston. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- China ordered the closure of the US consulate – in Chengdu
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**40.** Vietnam has put a ban on all imports of wildlife dead or alive and includes eggs and larvae. It also merits tougher penalties for crimes involving the trade in wildlife. It would close wildlife markets in response to renewed concerns about the threat from diseases that can jump from animals to humans, such as the virus that causes COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vietnam – put a ban on all imports of wildlife dead or alive
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM - Nguyen Xuan Phuc

**41.** The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its “Covid-19 Law Lab” to gather and share pandemic-related legal information from over 190 countries across the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WHO – launched “Covid-19 Law Lab” – to gather and share pandemic-related legal information
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

**42.** Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das has inaugurated a reconstructed 300-years-old Sri Sri Joy Kali Matar Mandir in Natore District in northern Bangladesh. An MoU for the reconstruction of 'Sree Sree JoyKali Matar Temple' was signed on October 23, 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India inaugurated – a reconstructed 300-years-old ‘Sri Sri Joy Kali Matar Mandir’ – in Natore, Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**43.** SABIC's polycarbonate facility in Spain is set to become the world's first large scale chemical production plant and it will run entirely on renewable power after a major agreement was signed with Iberdrola, an electricity utility company. The plant is expected to be completely operational by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SABIC Chemical Plant (Spain) = set to become the world's first large scale chemical production plant
- Agreement was signed with – Iberdrola





- Plant is expected to be completely operational – by 2024
- HQs of SABIC – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | CEO – Yousef Abdullah Al-Benyan

**44.** The government has extended the safeguard duty on Chinese solar power equipment by one more year till July 29, 2021 to help boost local manufacturing. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian government extended the safeguard duty – on Chinese solar power equipment – till July 29, 2021
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**45.** Out of the over 2,00,000 people who became Australian citizens in 2019-2020, 38209 were Indians, a 60% increase from the previous year and the largest diaspora group to be granted the country's citizenship. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 38209/2,00,000 people were Indians – who became Australian citizens in 2019-2020 (60% increase from PY)
- India – the largest diaspora group to be granted Australia's citizenship
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

**46.** Poland has submitted a request to begin the process of withdrawing from the treaty, known as the Istanbul Convention on prevention and combatting of home violence against women. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Poland – decided to withdraw from 'Istanbul Convention' treaty
- Poland – Warsaw – Zloty | President – Andrzej Duda

**47.** India has handed over 10 broad-gauge (BG) locomotives to Bangladesh, aiming to help handle the increasing volume of passenger and freight train operations in the neighbouring country. The locomotives were flagged off virtually by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India handed over 10 broad-gauge (BG) locomotives – to Bangladesh
- Flagged off by – S. Jaishankar & Piyush Goyal
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



**48.** China has announced the suspension of Hong Kong's extradition treaties with Canada, Australia and Britain in a tit-for-tat move following similar decisions by them over a controversial national security law. Australia, Britain and Canada, New Zealand & the USA are part of the Five Eyes (FVEY), which is an intelligence-sharing alliance between these 5 countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China announced the suspension of – Hong Kong's extradition treaties – with 'Canada + Australia + Britain'
- Five Eyes (FVEY) countries: Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, USA
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Hong Kong – City of Victoria – Hong Kong dollar

**49.** The leak at the petrochemical plant of French Lavera refinery has spilled 200 gallons or more toxic chemical namely 'Iron chloride' into Mediterranean Sea. An orange-brown chemical sheet spread over 15 acres (6 hectares) of a nationally recognized marine life area. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The leak at petrochemical plant of Lavera refinery (France) – spilled 200 gallons chemical – into Mediterranean Sea

**50.** China has claimed the "Diaoyu islands" as Chinese territory and it has the right to conduct law enforcement activities in the area. Japan has accused China of 'relentless' intrusions in waters around the groups of island. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China claimed – "Diaoyu islands" as Chinese territory & has the right to conduct law enforcement activities
- Japan accused China – of 'relentless' intrusions in waters
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Shinzo Abe

**51.** India has planned to build a Solar Power Park in Sri Lanka as part of a strategy to project its presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) amid Chinese attempts to lure nations into its 'Belt and Road' initiative. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India planned to build – Solar Power Park – in Sri Lanka
- 'Belt and Road' initiative – of China
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee



- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**52.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritius counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth have jointly inaugurated the new Supreme Court building at Port Louis in Mauritius completed with Indian assistance as part of New Delhi's thrust on cooperation with countries in the Indian Ocean Region. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi + Pravind Kumar Jugnauth = inaugurated new Supreme Court building – at Port Louis, Mauritius
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

**53.** The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) now has 10 members and 9 prospective members from Africa after its Board of Governors approved the application of Liberia to join the Bank. AIIB now has 103 approved members from around the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AIIB approved the application – of “Liberia” to join
- Now: 10 members & 9 Prospective members from Africa | 103 – Approved members

**54.** India has signed an MoU to export 1.5-2 million bales (of 170 kilograms each) of cotton to Bangladesh and will also set up its own Cotton Warehouse in Vietnam to boost cotton exports. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – to export 1.5-2 million bales of cotton – to Bangladesh
- India – to set up its own Cotton Warehouse – in Vietnam
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM - Nguyen Xuan Phuc

**55.** Hanna, the first hurricane of the 2020 Atlantic season and made landfall on the Texas coast, threatening one of the nation's largest COVID-19 hot spots with storm surge and flooding. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Hanna” hurricane – has hit Texas coast (USA)



# **Banking & Economic Affairs**

**1.** ICICI Bank has launched a facility named "Insta Loans against Mutual Funds" in partnership with 'Computer Age Management Services' (CAMS). It will enable the retail customers to get loans up to Rs 1 crore instantly by pledging their holdings in both debt and equity schemes of mutual funds. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank + CAMS = launched – "Insta Loans against Mutual Funds" – loans up to Rs 1 Cr instantly
- ICICI Bank: HQs – Mumbai | MD & CEO - Sandeep Bakhshi
- Tagline – "Hum Hain Na!"
- HQs of CAMS – Chennai, TN | CEO – Anuj Kumar

**2.** India's External Debt for the quarter ended on March 2020 rose to \$558.5 billion. The external debt during the period under review rose by 2.8% or \$15.4 billion on a year-on-year basis. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India's External Debt – increased by 2.8% (\$15.4 Billion) – rose to total \$558.5 billion (From 2019-20)

**3.** Care Ratings revised India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year to (-) 6.4% as economic activity continues to be under restriction due to the lockdown on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- According to "Care Ratings" – India's GDP – (-) 6.4% {Flexible News}
- HQs of CARE Rating Agency – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Ajay Mahajan

**4.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has joined the central banks and supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as an observer. NGFS was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- ADB – joined the Central Banks and Supervisors NGFS – as an observer
- NGFS – Network for Greening the Financial System (launched in – 2017)
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68



5. The RBI has decided to conduct simultaneous purchase of Government Securities (G-Secs), maturing between 2027 and 2031, and sale of 182 day and 364 day treasury bills (DTBs) under Open Market Operations (OMO) for ₹10,000 Cr each on July 2. This OMO is a part of “Operation Twist”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – decided to purchase of “G-Secs” – between 2027 and 2031
- RBI – decided to sell 182 day and 364 day treasury bills (DTBs)
- Under OMO – a part of “Operation Twist”
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

6. Government has approved a Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS) for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs) to improve their liquidity position in order to avoid any potential systemic risks to the financial sector. State Bank of India’s subsidiary SBI Capital Markets Ltd (SBICAP) has set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) - SLS Trust to manage this operation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government – approved Special Liquidity Scheme – for NBFCs + HFCs
- Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) – set up by – SBI Capital Markets Ltd (SBICAP)
- SBI Bank HQs – Mumbai, Maharashtra | SBI Bank Chairman – Rajnish Kumar
- SBI Bank MD & CEO – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Deputy MD & CFO – Chalasani Venkat Nageswar
- SBI Life CEO – Sanjeev Nautiyal

7. HDFC bank is going to launch state-of-the-art technology-enabled “ZipDrive” instant auto loans to customers across 1,000 cities in India. This offering will be extended to Tier 2 and 3 cities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC bank – to launch – “ZipDrive” instant auto loans service – across 1000 cities in India
- HQs – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & Chairman of HDFC Bank – Aditya Puri
- Chairman of HDFC Ltd. – Deepak Parekh

8. Fino Payments Bank Limited has launched "Bhavishya", a savings account scheme for minor children aged between 10 and 18 years. It is aimed at making children banking ready, inculcating a savings habit. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Fino Payments Bank – launched "Bhavishya" – a savings account scheme for minor children



- HQs of FPBL – Maharashtra | MD and CEO – Rishi Gupta

**9.** Private lender Yes Bank has launched an instant personal loan disbursement facility 'loan in seconds' to push loan growth. The account holders identified by the bank can avail this quick loan disbursement facility without any document. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yes Bank – launched – 'loan in seconds' facility
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar
- Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"

**10.** Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched video KYC account opening service, which would enable any person anywhere in the country to open a savings account with the lender. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Equitas SFB – launched – "Video KYC account opening service"
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan

**11.** The global economy is likely to contract by 5.2% in 2020 due to coronavirus effect, according to Dun and Bradstreet's "Country Risk and Global Outlook Report" that covered 132 countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Country Risk and Global Outlook Report" – released by D & B
- Global Economy – likely to contract by 5.2% this year {Flexible News}
- HQs of D & B – New Jersey, USA | In India – Mumbai, MH | MD (India) – Manish Sinha

**12.** Industry body FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey has projected the country's annual median GDP growth for 2020-21 at (-) 4.5%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey – projection of India's GDP = (-) 4.5% {Flexible News}
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sangita Reddy



**13.** Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has launched an overdraft facility (OD) against fixed deposits (FDs) for its individual customers holding a savings bank account. Under this facility, up to 90 per cent of the FD value can be availed as OD. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bank of Maharashtra – launched an overdraft facility – against FDs
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – A. S. Rajeev

**14.** Domestic rating agency ICRA has revised its forecast for contraction in the country's GDP in the current fiscal to 9.5% from 5% earlier. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- According to ICRA – India's GDP prediction = (-9.5%) {Flexible News}
- HQs of ICRA – Gurgaon, Haryana | President – Ramnath Krishnan

**15.** As per Nomura, Economic activity will continue to remain weak and will lead to a 6.1% contraction in India's GDP in the current fiscal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nomura's prediction for India's GDP = (-6.1%) in FY2020-21 {Flexible News}
- Nomura – Tokyo, Japan | CEO – Kentaro Okuda

**16.** Singaporean brokerage DBS Bank has forecast deeper distress for India which will lead to a 6% growth contraction in FY21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DBS's prediction for India's GDP = (-6%) for FY21 {Flexible News}
- HQs of DBS Bank – Singapore | CEO – Piyush Gupta

**17.** Bank of Baroda has launched 'Insta Click Savings Account', a digital self-assisted online savings account for all its customers. The Insta Click Savings Account uses a new form of digital KYC and Aadhar based OTP authentication of the customer, which can be operated from the bank's website. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bank of Baroda launched – 'Insta Click Savings Account' a digital self-assisted online savings account
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha



**18.** The Reserve Bank of India has asked Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to adopt a board-approved 'Fair Practices Code', which should prohibit the use of uncivilised, unlawful and questionable behaviour for recovery of loans . ARCs buy bad loans from banks to turn them around. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI asked ARCs – to adopt a board-approved 'Fair Practices Code'
- ARC – Asset Reconstruction Companies
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

**19.** Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched a Punjab National Bank's CSR campaign to distribute face masks and sanitisers in a bid to prevent the novel coronavirus spread. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – launched PNB’s CSR campaign – to prevent the novel coronavirus spread
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Science
- Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

**20.** Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched "Kona Kona Umeed", a two-month long festival or campaign of offers and discounts designed to ignite hope and optimism among its customers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kotak Mahindra Group launched – "Kona Kona Umeed" 2-month long festival/campaign
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Uday Kotak

**21.** Yes Bank has taken possession of Reliance Centre, the headquarters of the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) in Mumbai. The possession of the building took place as on 22 July under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFESI). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yes Bank took possession of – Reliance Centre (The HQs of ADAG – in Mumbai) – Under ‘SARFESI Act’
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”







# Defence Affairs

1. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved a proposal to acquire 33 new fighter aircraft including 12 Su-30MKIs and 21 MiG-29s along with upgradation of 59 MiG-29s at a cost of Rs 18,148 Cr. The DAC also approved acquisitions of various platforms and equipment required by the Indian Armed Forces for an approximate cost of Rs 38,900 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- DAC – approved a proposal to acquire – 33 new fighter aircraft (12 Su-30MKIs + 21 MiG-29s)
- Total Rs 38,900 Cr – approved by DAC – For capital acquisition of equipment for armed forces
- Chairman of DAC – Rajnath Singh (Defence Minister – Lucknow, UP)

2. US aerospace major 'Boeing' has delivered the final 5 of the 22 Apache attack helicopters to the Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- 'Boeing' – delivered – final 5 of the 22 Apache attack helicopters – to IAF
- IAF Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
- HQs of Boeing – Chicago, USA | CEO – Dave Calhoun

3. India has planned to invite Australia to join the annual 'Malabar Naval Exercise' in a move that could risk China's ire. This Exercise has so far included just Japan and the USA. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- India – to invite 'Australia' – to join the annual 'Malabar Naval Exercise'
- 'Malabar Naval Exercise' is already conducted among = India + Japan + USA
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

4. Senior Indian and Chinese military commanders are set to meet at 'Chushul' in eastern Ladakh for the 4th round of talks to negotiate the next stage of disengagement between the two armies along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Indian + Chinese military commanders = to meet at 'Chushul' (eastern Ladakh) – For the 4th round of talks
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President - Xi Jinping



5. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has granted special powers to the 3 armed forces for individual Capital Procurement Programme worth Rs 300 Cr to meet emergent operational requirements. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DAC – granted special powers to 3 armed forces – under Capital Procurement Programme worth Rs 300 Cr
- DAC – Chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)

6. DRDO has developed “P7 Heavy Drop System” which is capable of Para dropping military stores up to 7-ton weight class from IL-76 aircraft. This system is fully indigenous and being manufactured by L&T who makes the platform system while parachutes are manufactured by Ordnance Factory. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO – developed “P7 Heavy Drop System”
- Capable of Para dropping military stores up to “7-ton weight” class from “IL-76 aircraft”
- Platform System manufactured by – L&T
- Parachutes manufactured by – Ordnance Factory
- DRDO: HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

7. In a boost to the fledgling domestic small arms industry, two latest Israeli assault rifles "the Arad & the Carmel" are set to be manufactured in India. The assault weapons are to be produced under the 'Make in India' initiative in Madhya Pradesh, where a plant had been set up in 2017 by Israel Weapons System (IWI). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "The Arad & the Carmel" – assault rifles of Israel – are set to be manufactured in Madhya Pradesh, India
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

8. The Indian Navy has conducted a major exercise in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The exercise is led by eastern naval fleet chief Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Navy – conducted a major exercise – in Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- The exercise is led by – Sanjay Vatsayan
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar



**9.** Indian naval ships have conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the United States Navy's USS Nimitz carrier strike group near the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) islands in the Indian Ocean region (IOR). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Navy + USA's Navy = conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) – near Andaman and Nicobar islands
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump
- Military Exercises with USA: (Yudh Abhyas, Tiger Triumph, Vajra Prahar, Cope India, Indo-USCG)
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

**10.** Russia's new "Mi-8AMTSh-VN" attack transport helicopter is being flight-tested, according to the Russian Helicopters manufacturing company, a part of Rostec corporation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Mi-8AMTSh-VN" attack transport helicopter – Russia
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- Military Exercise with Russia: (Indra, AVIA INDRA)
- HQs of Rostec Corp – Moscow, Russia | CEO – Sergey Chemezov | Founder – Vladimir Putin

**11.** Russia has for the first time conducted flight tests of the "MGTD-20" gas turbine engine made by 3D-printing aircraft engine. Its production is scheduled for 2021-2022. The flight tests were held at Kazanbash aviation center in Tatarstan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Russia – conducted flight tests of the "MGTD-20" gas turbine engine – made by 3D-printing aircraft engine
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**12.** India has successfully conducted 3 flight tests of its indigenously developed anti-tank guided missile 'Dhruvastra' from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha. The helicopter-launched anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) is one of the most advanced anti-tank weapons in the world and it is developed by DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – conducted 3 flight tests of – 'Dhruvastra' an indigenously developed "Anti-tank guided missile"
- Testing Location – Chandipur, Odisha | Missile Developed by – DRDO



- DRDO: HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

**13.** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has provided Indian Army with indigenously developed drones named 'Bharat' to provide an accurate surveillance along the Line of Actual Control in high altitude and mountainous terrains of Eastern Ladakh. It is developed by the Chandigarh based laboratory of DRDO - Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO provided – indigenously developed 'Bharat' drone – to Indian Army
- Developed by – DRDO's Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory | HQs – Chandigarh
- DRDO: HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – SK Saini

**14.** The Central government has issued the formal sanction letter for grant of permanent commission to women officers in the Indian Army, paving the way for empowering them to shoulder larger roles in the organisation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central government – granted permanent commission to women officers – in Indian Army
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – SK Saini

**15.** Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has fired a missile from a helicopter targeting a replica aircraft carrier in the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Iranian commandos also fast-roped down from a helicopter onto the replica in the footage from an exercise called "Great Prophet 14". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard – fired an underground ballistic missiles
- "Great Prophet 14" military exercise – Iran
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei

**16.** First 5 out of 36 French-made Rafale fighter jets have landed at the 'Ambala Air Force Station' in Haryana. They are received by the Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria. They will be inducted in the No. 17 Squadron, 'Golden Arrows'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- First 5 out of 36 French-made Rafale fighter jets – landed at the 'Ambala Air Force Station' (Haryana)



- The Rafale was manufactured by – Dassault Aviation (France)
- They will be inducted in – No. 17 Squadron - ‘Golden Arrows’
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

**17.** Defence Ministers’ Dialogue between India and Indonesia was held in New Delhi. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the Indian delegation while the Indonesian delegation was led by their Defence Minister General Prabowo Subianto. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Indonesia = held “Defence Ministers’ Dialogue” – in New Delhi
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo



# Schemes & Initiatives

1. The Odisha Government planned to implement a new initiative "Sabuja Odisha" to increase Green Cover through extensive plantation over 1,30,264 Hectares of land. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Odisha – to implement a new initiative "Sabuja Odisha" – to increase green cover through extensive plantation
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

2. The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has launched a new scheme called "Accelerate Vigyan" (AV) to provide a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs, and workshops across the country. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- SERB – launched a new scheme – "Accelerate Vigyan" (AV)
- HQs of SERB – New Delhi | Secretary – Prof Sandeep Verma

3. The Odisha government has launched a scheme "Balaram" to provide agricultural credit of Rs 1,040 Cr to landless farmers who are facing hardships due to the coronavirus outbreak. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Odisha – launched "Balaram" scheme – to provide agricultural credit to landless Farmers
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

4. The Ladakh Food Security Scheme (LFSS) has been launched by the Union Territory administration of Ladakh with effect from July 1, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- UT administration of Ladakh – launched "Ladakh Food Security Scheme (LFSS)"
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

5. WhatsApp has launched "It's Between You" campaign in the country showcasing stories about how Indians are using the Facebook-owned platform 'Whatsaapp' to communicate in a secure manner. WhatsApp collaborated with Bollywood director Gauri Shinde along with BBDO India to create two 60-second ads. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- WhatsApp – launched – "It's Between You" campaign
- WhatsApp + Gauri Shinde = to create two 60-second ads
- HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum

**6.** Karnataka Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa has launched "Weavers Weaver Samman Yojana". Under this scheme, 19,744 handloom weavers in the state will get annual financial assistance of Rs. 2000 through Direct Benefit Transfer. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched – "Weavers Weaver Samman Yojana" or "Nekara Samman Yojane"
- Annual financial assistance of – Rs. 2000
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**7.** Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has approved a proposal to cover the members of the transgender community under the "Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)" which aims at providing financial assistance to the destitute elderly, differently-abled persons and widows. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Odisha – approved a proposal to cover transgender community – under "Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)"
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**8.** Haryana government has introduced a one-time settlement scheme namely 'Samadhan-se-vikas' for recovery of EDC (External Development Charges) and IDC (Infrastructural Development Charges) from several real estate giants in the state. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Haryana – introduced 'Samadhan-se-vikas' a one-time settlement scheme
- EDC – External Development Charges | IDC – Infrastructural Development Charges
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**9.** The Uttarakhand government has decided to convert waste generated in the state to electricity under an initiative titled 'Waste to Energy'. At present, 900 tonnes of waste is generated in the state and this waste can generate upto 5 megawatt of electricity and curb the pollution. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – decided to convert waste to electricity under initiative titled 'Waste to Energy'
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**10.** Haryana Government has decided to set up a mineral water plant for manufacturing of bottled mineral drinking water under the brand name 'Haryana Fresh' through Public Health Engineering Department. Further, the first rural sewerage system under the 'Mahagram Scheme' will be inaugurated in Sotai village in Faridabad, Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Haryana – decided to set up a mineral water plant 'Haryana Fresh'
- First rural sewerage system – under the 'Mahagram Scheme' – to be inaugurated in Sotai, Faridabad, Haryana
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**11.** Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the enhanced services of the scheme 'YSR Aarogyasri' in another 6 districts of Andhra Pradesh. With this, 'Aarogyasri Scheme' will cover 2,200 medical procedures instead of the existing 1,259. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh launched enhanced services of – 'YSR Aarogyasri' – in another 6 districts
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**12.** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched 'Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana' for an all round development of the Scheduled Castes. A financial assistance of Rs 17.42 Cr was transferred online to 3,484 people under the 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swarojgar Yojana'. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched 'Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana' – for the development of SCs
- A financial assistance of Rs 17.42 Cr – transferred under 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swarojgar Yojana'
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**13.** The Rajya Sabha secretariat has launched an Employees' Welfare Scheme in the name of former Union finance minister Arun Jaitley, who was also the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha. The Employee Welfare Scheme has been formulated and approved based on the decision of Sangeeta Jaitley. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Rajya Sabha launched – “Employees’ Welfare Scheme” – in the name of ‘Arun Jaitley’
- The scheme is formulated and approved on the decision of – Sangeeta Jaitley
- Present ex-officio chairman of Rajya Sabha – Venkaiah Naidu

**14.** Union Power Minister R K Singh has launched a joint initiative "Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve indoor air quality for safety and efficiency (RAISE)". This is a part of the larger initiative ‘Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings’ - a joint initiative by Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) and US Agency for International Development's (USAID) MAITREE programme. R K Singh has also unveiled India's first public EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza at Chelmsford Club in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- EESL + USAID = launched “RAISE” - Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve indoor air quality for safety and efficiency
- R K Singh – unveiled India's first public EV charging plaza – in New Delhi (established by EESL + NDMC)
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | Chairman – Rajeev Sharma
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Mark Green

**15.** The Chhattisgarh government has launched "Godhan Nyay Yojana" under which cow dung will be procured from cattle rearers for production of organic fertiliser. The state government will buy cow dung from registered animal husbandmen at Rs 2 per kg and after processing it into vermicompost, it will sell it back to farmers for Rs 8 per kg. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chhattisgarh – launched "Godhan Nyay Yojana" (Rs 2 per kg of cow dung)
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**16.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of the Rs 3,050-crore Manipur Water Supply Project under the Jal Jeevan Mission “Har Ghar Jal” Scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone Rs 3,050 Cr ‘Water Supply Project’ – in Manipur
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla



**17.** Delhi government has launched a scheme known as "Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Ration Yojna" for the doorstep delivery of ration to eligible beneficiaries terming it as a "revolutionary" move. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi launched – "Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Ration Yojna" scheme
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**18.** Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has launched 'Manodarpan', an initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health and well-being. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ramesh Pokhriyal launched – 'Manodarpan' initiative – under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' | Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand

**19.** The average completion time of houses being built under the restructured "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin" (PMAY-G) has come down to 114 days from the earlier 314. The objective of the scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016, aims to build 2.95 crore houses and achieve 'Housing for All' by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The average completion time of houses being built under 'PMAY-G' – come down to 114 days (From 314 days)
- The PMAY-G scheme launched in – 2016 | Aim: To achieve 'Housing for All' – by 2022

**20.** Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched a programme for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of Agarbatti and to develop village industry under the 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana'. Each targeted cluster of artisans will be supported with about 50 automatic agarbatti making machines and 10 mixing machines. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MSME launched a programme – under 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana' – to benefit artisans manufacturing Agarbatti
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)



# Sports & Games

1. China's two-time Olympic champion Lin Dan, arguably the greatest badminton player of all time, announced his retirement. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Lin Dan (China) – retirement – Badminton Player

2. Rising tennis star Sumit Nagal has become the first Indian to win an international tournament in the Covid-19 era after he lifted the PSD Bank Nord Open trophy, a locally organised clay court tournament in Germany. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Sumit Nagal (Tennis) – 1st Indian to win an international tournament in the Covid-19 era
- Sumit Nagal won – PSD Bank Nord Open Trophy (in Germany)

3. Lt. Col. Bharat Pannu, a serving Indian Army Officer created history by successfully securing a podium place at the first edition of the Virtual Race Across America (VRAAM) 2020 and became the first Indian ever to win a podium place at an international Ultra-cycling race. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Lt. Col. Bharat Pannu – 1st Indian to win a podium place at an international Ultra-cycling race at VRAAM-2020

4. India has bid for the 2027 Asian Cup hosting rights along with four other countries, the Asian Football Federation (AFC) has revealed. The other bidders for Asia's premier football tournament are Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- India has bid – for the 2027 Asian Cup (along with Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia & Uzbekistan)
- HQs of AFC – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa

5. Sports Ministry will soon launch Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for junior athletes in the country with an aim to produce Olympic champions by 2028. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Sports Ministry – to launch “TOPS” for junior athletes
- Aim – to produce Olympic champions by – 2028



- TOPS – Target Olympic Podium Scheme
- Sports Ministry – Kiren Rijiju | Constituency – Arunachal West

**6.** Asian Games champion and World Championships silver-medallist, Amit Panghal, has become the World No. 1 pugilist in his 52kg category in the newest list of world rankings released by the Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA). In women, Manju Rani, has become the highest-ranked Indian globally at No. 2 position in her 48kg weight division. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Panghal (Boxer) – topped – the list of world rankings released by AIBA
- Manju Rani (Boxer) – stood at 2nd position – in the list of world rankings released by AIBA
- HQs of AIBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | Interim President – Dr Mohamed Moustahsane

**7.** Tamil Nadu's G Akash became the country's 66th chess Grandmaster. Akash's GM title was confirmed at the second council meet of International Chess Federation (FIDE) for the year 2020 held recently. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- G Akash (Tamil Nadu) – became the country's 66th Chess Grandmaster
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Arkady Dvorkovich

**8.** Finland racing driver Valtteri Bottas has won the Formula One (F1) season-opening Austrian Grand Prix (GP). He drives Mercedes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Valtteri Bottas (Finland) – won 'Austrian Grand Prix' – drives Mercedes
- Finland – Helsinki – Euro | PM – Sanna Marin

**9.** The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) adopted a new branding and visual identity, including an institutional and a commercial logo, to celebrate a 100 years of participation of the country's athletes at the Summer Olympics. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IOA – adopted – a new visual identity – to celebrate a 100 years of participation – in Olympic Games
- HQs of IOA – New Delhi | President – Narinder Dhruv Batra | Secretary General – Rajeev Mehta



**10.** Two-time European champion weightlifter Andrei Demanov of Russia has been provisionally suspended by the International Weightlifting Federation for doping after testing positive for a banned steroid. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andrei Demanov (Russia) – suspended – Weightlifter
- IWF HQs – Budapest, Hungary | President – Tamas AJAN

**11.** India's squash star Joshna Chinappa has come back into the top-10 of the PSA world rankings. She has moved up a spot to be in 10th position. Egypt's Nouran Gohar is the new World No. 1 following the retirement of Raneem El Welily. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Joshna Chinappa (Squash) – came back into the top-10 of the PSA world rankings (at 10th Place)
- Nouran Gohar (Squash) – From Egypt – at 1st Place

**12.** Top-ranked women's squash player, Raneem El Welily, announced her retirement. The 31-year-old Egyptian was the first Arab woman to be world No. 1 in any sport. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Raneem El Welily (Egypt) – retirement – Squash (First Arab woman to be world No. 1 in Sports)
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

**13.** The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has postponed the Asia Cricket Cup tournament, scheduled for September, 2020 owing to an upsurge in COVID-19 cases in the region. Sri Lanka will host this rescheduled tournament expected in June 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ACC – postponed – the Asia Cricket Cup tournament
- Sri Lanka – to host – in June 2021
- HQs of ACC – Colombo, Sri Lanka | President – Nazmul Hassan Papon

**14.** Six-time formula one champion and Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton has won 'Styrian Grand Prix' in Spielberg, Austria in July, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lewis Hamilton (UK) – won 'Styrian Grand Prix' – Mercedes racer



**15.** Former Australia captain Mile Jedinak announced his retirement from Football. He was a Crystal Palace midfielder. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mile Jedinak (Australia) – retirement – from Football
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

**16.** American sprinter Deajah Stevens, an Olympic 200m finalist, has been banned for 18 months after violating anti-doping rules, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Deajah Stevens (USA) – banned for 18 months – Sprinter

**17.** Qatar will host the 22nd edition of “men's 2022 FIFA World Cup” at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Qatar – to host 22nd edition of “men's 2022 FIFA World Cup” – at Al Bayt Stadium
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani

**18.** Andre Schurrle, who has won the FIFA World Cup with Germany, has confirmed his retirement at the age of just 29. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andre Schurrle (Germany) – retirement – from Football
- Germany – Berlin – Euro

**19.** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has postponed the “2022 Dakar Youth Olympics” for 4 years to 2026 due to the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “2022 Dakar Youth Olympics” – postponed – to 2026
- IOC HQ – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach



**20.** Real Madrid Football Club has won the “La Liga Title” for the record 34th time and extended its record. This is Madrid’s first league title since the 2016-17 season. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Real Madrid FC (Span) – won the ‘La Liga Title’ for the record 34th time

**21.** Lewis Hamilton has won the “Hungarian Grand Prix” for the 8th time to equal Michael Schumacher’s single-venue record and take the championship lead. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes - UK) – won the “Hungarian Grand Prix” – for the 8th time

**22.** The Indian Super League (ISL) has been inducted into the prestigious World Leagues Forum (WLF). It has become the first league from South Asia and seventh in Asia to join the WLF. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ISL – 1st league from South Asia & 7th in Asia to join the World Leagues Forum (WLF)
- HQs of Football Sports Development Ltd (FSDL) – Mumbai, MH | Founder & Chairperson – Nita Ambani
- Chairman of WLF – Enrique Bonilla | Members – 42

**23.** Sri Lanka woman cricketer Sripali Weerakkody has decided to retire from international cricket with immediate effect. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sripali Weerakkody (Sri Lanka) – retirement – from Cricket

**24.** Indian women’s Cricket team was scheduled to tour England for the tri-series (also involving South Africa) but it has pulled out due to rising Covid-19 cases in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian women’s Cricket team – pulled out of the proposed tour of – England for the tri-series
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Ethics Officer – D K Jain

**25.** The 2020 T20 World Cup has been postponed to 2022 due to the coronavirus pandemic as per the announcement by the International Cricket Council (ICC). It was scheduled to be played in ‘Australia’. The ICC





has also revised dates for their 3 upcoming global events in men's cricket, including the 2023 World Cup which is to be played in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- T20 World Cup 2020 – scheduled to be played in ‘Australia’ – postponed to 2022
- ICC Men’s 2023 World Cup – to be hosted by – India
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Imran Khwaja | CEO – Manu Sawhney

**26.** The 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL 2020) will be held in United Arab Emirates (UAE), as per the announcement of Brijesh Patel, the chairman of the IPL Governing Council. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 13th edition of IPL-2020 – will be held in UAE
- Chairman of the IPL Governing Council – Brijesh Patel

**27.** The world-famous award ceremony "Ballon d'Or" has been cancelled for the first time in its 64-year history after coronavirus swallowed a huge chunk of the 2019-20 season. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Ballon d'Or" a Football Award ceremony – has been cancelled

**28.** Jon Rahm has become the first Spaniard since Seve Ballesteros in 1989 to hold golf's world number one ranking by winning US PGA Memorial tournament. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jon Rahm (Golf) – to hold Golf’s world number one ranking – by winning ‘US PGA Memorial tournament’

**29.** The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has extended the suspension of India's National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) by another 6 months citing non-conformation to international standards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WADA – extended the suspension of NDTL – by another 6 months
- HQs of WADA – Montreal, Canada | President – Sir Craig Reedie
- HQs of NDTL – New Delhi | CEO – RS Julaniya



**30.** The Indian 4x400m mixed relay team's silver medal in the 2018 Asian Games has been upgraded to gold after the disqualification of original winners Bahrain on account of a doping ban handed to one of its runners. Bahrain, which had topped the 4x400 mixed relay final, was disqualified after Kemi Adekoya was handed a four-year ban by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian 4x400m mixed relay team's silver medal in the 2018 Asian Games – upgraded to Gold
- Kemi Adekoya (Bahrain-Runner) – banned for 4 years – by AIU
- HQs AIU – Monaco
- World Athletics HQs – Monaco | President – Sebastian Coe
- HQs of Athletics Federation of India – New Delhi | President – Adille J. Sumariwalla

**31.** Haryana will host the 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, as per the announcement of chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and union sports minister Kiren Rijiju. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana – will host the 4th edition of 'Khelo India Youth Games' after '2021 Tokyo Olympics'
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**32.** Delhi all-rounder Rajat Bhatia has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket bringing an end to a first-class career spanning almost two decades. He last played a first-class match in 2019 Ranji Trophy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajat Bhatia – announced retirement – From Cricket (2019 Ranji Trophy)

**33.** The 32-year-old Benedikt Howedes has retired from Soccer. He was a defender who helped Germany win the World Cup title in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Benedikt Howedes (Germany) – retirement from – Football

**34.** England veteran Stuart Broad has become the 7th bowler to enter the 500 wickets club in Test cricket during the ongoing match against West Indies at Old Trafford. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Stuart Broad (UK) – became the 7th bowler – to enter the 500 wickets club in Test cricket
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

**35.** Bangladesh's pacer Qazi Onik Islam has been banned for two years for failing a dope test during the National Cricket League in November 2018. As per a report in ESPNcricinfo, Onik had tested positive for Methamphetamine. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Qazi Onik Islam (Bangladesh-Cricketer) – banned – For 2 years
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**36.** From the next Test series, "Wisden Trophy" tournament between England and West Indies will be renamed as "Richards-Botham Trophy" after Vivian Richards and Ian Botham, two iconic cricketers from both teams. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Wisden Trophy" tournament – between England and West Indies – renamed as "Richards-Botham Trophy"

**37.** Indian Grandmaster P Harikrishna has finished 2nd in the 53rd Biel International Chess Festival in Switzerland by defeating David Anton Guijarro of Spain in the seventh and final round. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- P Harikrishna (Chess) – stood at the 2nd – in the 53rd Biel International Chess Festival (Switzerland)
- Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc | President – Simonetta Sommaruga



# Important Days & Dates

1. The United Nations commemorated "International Day of Vesak", which marks the birth, enlightenment and passing of Lord Buddha. This year it was on May 7, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was pushed back. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- May 7 – International Day of Vesak – by UN

2. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Asadha Poornima celebrations being observed as "Dhamma Chakra Day", from Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 4. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- July 4 – "Dhamma Chakra Day" – inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind

3. The world celebrated "World Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Day" on July 2. The day is celebrated across the world on two different dates-some countries celebrate it on June 24 while some others celebrate it on July 2. The day was first celebrated by an organisation called World UFO Day Organisation (WUFODO) in the year 2001. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- July 2 – "World UFO Day" – since 2001
- The Day is also celebrated on – June 24 in some countries

4. Every year July 02 is celebrated as "World Sports Journalists Day" or "International Sports Journalists Day". It is to acknowledge the sports journalists and also mark the anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS). The association was established in 1924 during the Summer Olympics in Paris. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- July 02 – "World Sports Journalists Day" or "International Sports Journalists Day"
- On the Anniversary of – AIPS (established in - 1924)

5. "The World Allergy Week" was observed between June 28 to July 4 with a theme of "Allergy care does not stop with COVID-19". The World Allergy Organization (WAO) addressed the people about how to better understand and distinguish between the symptoms of COVID-19 and common allergies. The first World Allergy Week was observed in July 2011. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:



- June 28 to July 4 – "The World Allergy Week" – by WAO (1st time observed in – 2011)
- Theme – "Allergy care does not stop with COVID-19"

6. The United Nations "International Day of Cooperatives" is observed every year on the first Saturday of July. This year, the day was celebrated on July 4, 2020. The theme for this year is "Cooperatives For Climate Action". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 4 – UN "International Day of Cooperatives" (on the First Saturday of July)
- Theme – "Cooperatives For Climate Action"

7. In India, National Doctor's Day is celebrated on July 1 every year to honour eminent physician and second chief minister of West Bengal Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. Doctor's Day was established by the Government of India in 1991. The theme this year is "Lessen the mortality of COVID-19". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 1 – National Doctor's Day – since 1991
- To honour eminent physician & 2nd CM of West Bengal – Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy
- Theme – "Lessen the mortality of COVID-19"

8. 72nd edition of "Chartered Accountants Day" was celebrated on July 1 by ICAI. An act of Parliament gave birth to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on July 1, 1949. It is the national accounting body of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 1 – 72nd edition of "Chartered Accountants Day" – celebrated by ICAI
- HQs of ICAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Atul Kumar Gupta

9. "World chocolate day" also known as the "International chocolate day" observed on July 7th is all about celebrating one of the best creations of humankind- Chocolate. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 7 – "World chocolate day"



**10.** "GST Day" was celebrated on July 1. GST was launched on July 1, 2017, and the GST day is celebrated to commemorate commencement of "One Nation-One Market-One Tax". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 1 – "GST Day" (GST launched in 2017)

**11.** The state of Andhra Pradesh celebrated July 8 as "Rythu Dinotsavam" (Farmers' Day) as it marked the birth anniversary of Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, the 14th CM of Andhra Pradesh who served from 2004 to 2009. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 8 – "Rythu Dinotsavam" (Farmers' Day) – celebrated by Andhra Pradesh
- The birth anniversary of – Y S Rajasekhara Reddy (14th CM of Andhra Pradesh)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**12.** "World Zoonoses Day" was celebrated on July 6. Hundreds of street and pet dogs were administered anti-rabies vaccine at temple of Bhadrachalam in the district of Karnataka. It is observed to raise awareness of the risk of zoonotic diseases among people. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 6 – "World Zoonoses Day"
- An anti-rabies vaccine – at a temple of Bhadrachalam, Karnataka

**13.** When the world's population reached 5 billion on 11 July 1987, it was observed as the "Five Billion Day" by the United Nations. Taking inspiration from this, the Governing Council of the United Nations' Development Program for the first time in 1989 launched an initiative to observe 11 July as the "World Population Day" every year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 11 – "World Population Day" – by UNDP since 1989
- "Five Billion Day" was observed by UN – on 11 July 1987
- HQs of United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) – New York, USA
- Theme – "Putting the brakes on COVID 19: Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls"



**14.** College of fisheries at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Gadvasu) celebrated the “National Fish Farmers’ Day” on July 10 and tributed to fish farmers online. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- College of fisheries at Gadvasu – celebrated – “National Fish Farmers’ Day” – on July 10

**15.** “Malala Day” is commemorated on July 12, the birthday of Malala Yousafzai, to honour women and children’s rights around the world. On October 9, 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen after she publicly advocated for the education of girls. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 12– “Malala Day” – the birthday of Malala Yousafzai (from Pakistan)
- Malala was shot by Taliban gunmen – On October 9, 2012
- Malala Yousafzai – the youngest recipient of Noble prize (in 2014)

**16.** The “Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week” was held from 6-10 July and convened under the overarching theme of “Strategic and Practical Challenges of Countering Terrorism in a Global Pandemic Environment”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 6-10 – “Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week”
- Theme - “Strategic and Practical Challenges of Countering Terrorism in a Global Pandemic Environment”

**17.** 206th birth anniversary of Nepali poet Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya or ‘Bhanu Jayanti’ was celebrated in Sikkim. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 13 – 206th birth anniversary of Nepali poet Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya or ‘Bhanu Jayanti’
- Celebrated by – Sikkim
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

**18.** July 15 marked the 117th birth anniversary of the former CM of Tamil Nadu K. Kamaraj. It was observed as “Tamil Nadu’s Educational Development Day” to remember his contribution to enhance the school education facilities of Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 15 – “Tamil Nadu’s Educational Development Day”



- July 15 – 117th birth anniversary of former CM of Tamil Nadu – ‘K. Kamaraj’
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**19.** World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) is an event recognised by the United Nations and is celebrated on July 15 every year. It was designated by the General Assembly (UNGA) in 2014. This day marks the 5th anniversary of the launch of ‘Skill India Mission’. The conclave has been organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 15 – World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) – designated by UNGA – in 2014
- Theme – “Skills for a Resilient Youth”
- July 15 – marked the 5th anniversary of the launch of ‘Skill India Mission’
- HQs of UNGA – NewYork, USA | President – Volkan Bozkır

**20.** July 17 was marked as "World Day for International Justice" also known as "International Justice Day". It unites all those who wish to support justice, promote the rights of victims, and help prevent crimes that threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 17 – "International Justice Day"

**21.** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) celebrated its 92nd foundation day On 16, July 2020. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar. He also declared the 2019 ICAR Awards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 16 – 92nd foundation day of ICAR – inaugurated by Narendra Singh Tomar
- Narendra Singh Tomar declared – 2019 ICAR Awards

**22.** Chess was invented in India in the 5th century. It was then named “Chaturanga”. The International Chess Day is celebrated on July 20 every year as the founding day of the FIDE (World Chess Federation). This year has marked FIDE's 96th anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 20 – The International Chess Day & 96th anniversary of FIDE (World Chess Federation)
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Arkady Dvorkovich





**23.** The birth anniversary of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is every year observed as "Nelson Mandela International Day" on July 18 by The United Nations to recognize his contribution in creating a democratic South Africa. This year, the theme is "Take action, inspire change". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 18 – "Nelson Mandela International Day" – by UN
- Theme – "Take action, inspire change"

**24.** Every year, the "Pi Approximation Day" is observed on July 22 (22/7 in the day/month format), since the fraction 22/7 is a common approximation of  $\pi$ . The day is celebrated worldwide on July 22 to mark the Pi where the denominator 7 represents the 7th month (i.e., July and numerator 22 represents the 22nd day of the month). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 22 – "Pi Approximation Day"

**25.** July 23 is observed as "National Broadcasting Day" every year. On this day in 1927, the first ever radio broadcast in the country went on air from the Bombay Station under a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 23 – "National Broadcasting Day" (First radio broadcast in India – 1927 – from the Bombay Station)
- HQs of Prasar Bharati – New Delhi | CEO – Shashi Shekhar Vempati

**26.** July 20 holds a special place in the world of space and science as it is commemorated as the "Science/Space Exploration Day". Back in 1969 on the same date, Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first humans to land on the Moon's surface. The Science Exploration Day sometimes also called "Moon Day" was declared a holiday in 1984 by the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 20 – "Science Exploration Day" or "Moon Day" (declared a holiday in 1984)
- Neil Armstrong + Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin = the first humans to land on the Moon's surface – in 1969

**27.** "National Mango Day" is observed every year on July 22. Kannapuram in Kannur district of Kerala is being declared an 'Indigenous Mango Heritage Area'. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- July 22 – “National Mango Day”
- Kannapuram (Kerala) – declared an ‘Indigenous Mango Heritage Area’
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**28.** In order to raise awareness about nature and ensure sustainable life on earth, “World Nature Conservation Day” is observed on July 28 every year. The aim of marking the World Nature Conservation Day is to save our trees, water and other resources. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 28 – “World Nature Conservation Day”

**29.** The Income Tax department has marked the 160th “Income Tax Day” or “Aaykar Diwas” on July 24. It has been celebrated in India since 2010. On July 24, 1860, income tax was introduced in India by Sir James Wilson to compensate the British government for the losses incurred during the First War of Independence in 1857. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 24 – 160th “Income Tax Day” or “Aaykar Diwas” (since – 2010)
- Income tax introduced in India by – Sir James Wilson – in 1860

**30.** On the occasion of the 21st anniversary of India’s victory over Pakistan in the Kargil war, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tributes and recalled the valour of the Indian armed forces on "Kargil Vijay Diwas" that was observed on 26 July 2020. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has also paid tributes to the Kargil soldiers at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 26 – 21st anniversary of "Kargil Vijay Diwas"
- National War Memorial – New Delhi

**31.** Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched mobile-based application "MAUSAM" and a Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCN) on the occasion of 14th foundation day of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). It will relay weather forecasts and warnings for multiple cities and locations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched – "MAUSAM" application



- July 27 – 14th foundation day of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & MoES – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

**32.** “The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem” was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015. It is celebrated each year on July 26 and aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangroves as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 26 – “The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem” – by UNESCO – since 2015
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

**33.** On July 28, “World Hepatitis Day” is commemorated every year in order to increase the awareness of viral hepatitis. It is an inflammation of the liver which causes a series of health problems, including liver cancer. The theme of World Hepatitis Day 2020 is “Hepatitis-Free Future” with a strong focus on preventing hepatitis B among mothers and new-borns. According to WHO, ‘325 million people are living with viral hepatitis B and C globally’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 28 – “World Hepatitis Day”
- Theme – “Hepatitis-Free Future”
- According to WHO: 325 million people – living with viral hepatitis B and C globally

**34.** Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the CRPF personnel and their families on the 82nd raising day of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on July 27, 2020. The Central Reserve Police Force came into existence as Crown Representative’s Police on 27th July 1939. It became the Central Reserve Police Force on enactment of the CRPF Act on 28th December 1949. It has completed 81 years of glorious history. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 27 – 82nd raising day of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Enactment of the CRPF Act – in 1949
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari

**35.** The “World Day against Trafficking in Persons” is observed on July 30 every year in order to raise awareness about the condition of victims of human trafficking and to promote and protect their rights. It was observed for



the first time in 2013 by United Nations General Assembly. This year, the theme is “Committed to the Cause: Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 30 – “World Day against Trafficking in Persons” – by UNGA
- Theme – “Committed to the Cause: Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking”
- HQs of UNGA – NewYork, USA | President – Volkan Bozkir

**36.** 25th July is celebrated as the “World In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Day” every year to mark the greatest innovation in the field of reproductive medicine. Louise Brown’s birth is one of the biggest landmarks in the field of infertility treatment on July 25, 1978 in England. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 25 – “World In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Day”
- Louise Brown – the world’s first test tube baby or IVF baby – born on July 25, 1978 in England

**37.** A much-awaited occasion to celebrate the special relationship between friends, Friendship Day was celebrated on August 2 in India this year. The United Nations has declared July 30 as the “International Friendship Day”. In India, it is usually celebrated on the first Sunday of the month of August. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 30 – International Friendship Day – by UN
- August 2 – Friendship Day – in India (First Sunday of August)

**38.** “World Ranger Day” is observed worldwide every year on July 31 to commemorate the rangers killed or injured in the line of duty. A ranger is a person charged with protecting and preserving protected parklands and forests. It is promoted by the International Ranger Federation (IRF). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 31 – “World Ranger Day”
- HQs of IRF – Gland, near Geneva, Switzerland | President – Chris Galliers | Member Countries – 54



# Meetings, Conferences and Summits

**1.** Frans Timmermans, the EU's climate chief, hosted the 4th Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA) at a videoconference, along with the environment ministers of Canada and China, Jonathan Wilkinson and Huang Runqiu. From India, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar participated in meet. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 4th Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA) – hosted by European Union (EU), China and Canada
- Indian participant – Prakash Javadekar (Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – Maharashtra)

**2.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at 3-day virtual "India Global Week 2020", a virtual conference organised in the UK. The theme of the conference was 'Be The Revival: India and a Better New World'. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – delivered the inaugural address – at 3-day virtual "India Global Week 2020" – in UK
- Theme – “Be The Revival: India and a Better New World”
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

**3.** Mos for Defence, Shripad Yesso Naik has inaugurated 5th edition of the conference on Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies. Theme of the conference is “Empowering India with Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Mission”. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Shripad Yesso Naik – inaugurated 5th edition of conference on Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies
- Theme – “Empowering India with Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Mission”

**4.** The 15th Summit between India and the European Union was held in virtual format. India was represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The EU was represented by Charles Michel (President of the European Council) & Ursula von der Leyen (President of the European Commission). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 15th Virtual Summit – between India and the European Union
- India: represented by – PM Modi | EU: represented by – Charles Michel & Ursula von der Leyen



• HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27

**5.** An India Energy Modeling Forum was launched in the joint working group meeting of the Sustainable Growth Pillar. Sustainable Growth Pillar is an important pillar of India–US Strategic Energy Partnership co-chaired by NITI Aayog and USAID. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Joint working group meeting of the Sustainable Growth Pillar – co-chaired by = NITI Aayog + USAID
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**6.** Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan and US Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette have co-chaired the 2nd India-US Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) ministerial meeting through virtual meetings. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 2nd India-US Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) ministerial meeting – co-chaired by Dharmendra Pradhan
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Steel, Petroleum & Natural Gas (Constituency – Madhya Pradesh)

**7.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the keynote virtual address at this year's high-level segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) session at the UN headquarters in New York on the eve of 75th anniversary of the United Nations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – addressed “2020 high-level segment of ECOSOC” – in New York
- On the eve of 75th anniversary of UN (on July 17)
- HQs of ECOSOC – New York, USA | President – Mona Juul

**8.** Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Saudi Arabian Presidency through Video Conferencing. The Finance Minister specifically referred to India's comprehensive economic package to address recovery and growth amounting to over \$295 Billion, about 10% of India's GDP. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman – participated in the 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting
- Under the Presidency of – Saudi Arabia



- Italy – likely to hold G20 presidency in 2021
- The outlay of India's comprehensive economic package – \$295 Billion (10% of India's GDP)
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnatak

**9.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the 'India Ideas Summit'. The Summit is being hosted by the US-India Business Council. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the formation of the Council. The theme for this year's Summit is 'Building a Better Future'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – addressed the 'India Ideas Summit' – hosted by the US-India Business Council (UIBC)
- On 45th anniversary of the formation of UIBC (founded in 1975)
- Theme – "Building a Better Future"
- HQs of UIBC – Washington, D.C., USA | Chairman – Nisha Desai Biswal

**10.** Union information and technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has demanded digital platforms to be responsive, accountable and sensitive to the concerns of sovereign nations as far as safety, defence and privacy is concerned. Mr. Prasad raised the issue during the G20 Digital Minister's Meet hosted by Saudi Arabia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ravi Shankar Prasad – represented India – in G20 Digital Minister's Meet – hosted by Saudi Arabia
- Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Constituency – Patna Sahib, Bihar)

**11.** The Air Force Commanders' Conference (AFCC) was conducted from 22-24 July 2020 at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan) in New Delhi. The theme of the conference was "IAF in the Next Decade". The AFCC was chaired by the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AFCC was conducted – at Vayu Bhawan, New Delhi (from 22-24 July)
- Theme – "IAF in the Next Decade"
- Chaired by – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria (Chief of the Air Staff)



**12.** The Fintech Convergence Council (FCC), the fintech committee of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IMAI), in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Payments Council of India (PCI) has hosted "Global Fintech Festival" with a theme "Fintech: With and Beyond COVID". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FCC + NPCI + PCI = hosted "Global Fintech Festival"
- Theme – "Fintech: With and Beyond COVID"
- HQs of FCC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Naveen Surya
- HQs of IMAI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Dr. Subho Ray
- HQs of PCI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vishwas Patel
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe

**13.** UK and India have agreed to remove barriers to trade as part of a roadmap to a Free Trade Agreement at the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) meeting. It was co-chaired by Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Vedprakash Goyal and UK Secretary of State for International Trade, Elizabeth Mary Truss. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UK + India = Free Trade Agreement – at the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

**14.** Dr. Harsh Vardhan has digitally participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Health Minister's Digital Meet at Nirman Bhawan. The meet was chaired by Mr. Mikhail Murashko, Minister of Health of the Russian Federation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated – in SCO Health Minister's Digital Meet
- The meet was chaired by – Mr. Mikhail Murashko (Health Minister of the Russia)

**15.** The meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved the decision to host the Bank's 2021 annual meeting in the UAE during Dubai Expo. The announcement was made during the UAE's participation in the virtual annual meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which convened on July 28, under the theme 'Connecting for Tomorrow'. India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the Lead Speaker at the roundtable discussion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**





- 5th Virtual annual meeting of AIIB – conducted on July 28
- Theme – ‘Connecting for Tomorrow’
- UAE – to host 6th annual meeting of AIIB – in 2021
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**16.** Piyush Goyal has inaugurated the National Digital Conference on “Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat” organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the Department for Promotion of Investment and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to create a true Single Window System, which is completely digital and provides for unified and integrated business procedures. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal inaugurated – National Digital Conference on “Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat”
- It was organised by – CII & DPIIT – to create a true Single Window System
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)

**17.** Union Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar along with the Environment Ministers of the five BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa has participated in the 6th BRICS Environment Ministers’ Meeting through a video conference under the presidency of Russia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prakash Javadekar – participated in the 6th BRICS Environment Ministers’ Meeting (Presidency – Russia)
- Presidency of BRICS in 2021 – India
- BRICS Countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Constituency – Maharashtra)



# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. Pulitzer Prize-winning author and oncologist Siddhartha Mukherjee, and Professor of Economics at Harvard University Raj Chetty have been named by the Carnegie Corporation of New York as “2020 Great Immigrants” honourees. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Siddhartha Mukherjee + Raj Chetty = named as “2020 Great Immigrants” honourees
- Honoured by – Carnegie Corporation (New York)

2. AI-enabled ‘MyGov Corona Helpdesk’ received two awards - "Best Innovation for Covid-19 - Society" and "People’s Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner” at the CogX 2020 in London at a time when the flagship Digital India programme celebrated its 5th anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- “MyGov Corona Helpdesk” – received two awards
- Awards: "Best Innovation for Covid-19 - Society" + "People’s Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner’ award"
- July 1 – 5th Anniversary of ‘Digital India programme’ (started in 2015)

3. Kritika Pandey from India won “Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2020” for her short story ‘The Great Indian Tee and Snakes’. This time she is the overall winner of this Prize. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Overall winner of “Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2020” – Kritika Pandey (India)
- For her short story – “The Great Indian Tee and Snakes”

4. A 13-year-old schoolgirl from Delhi, Freya Thakral has been selected among the recipients of this year’s Diana Award, an honour given in the memory of Princess Diana to youngsters for humanitarian efforts. The award is given every year on the birth anniversary of Princess Diana. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Freya Thakral (Delhi) – selected among the recipients of “Diana Award-2020” – for her humanitarian efforts
- “Diana Award” is given in the field of – ‘Social Action or Humanitarian Work’

5. Marathi writer and playwright Ratnakar Matkari will be posthumously honoured with the ‘Natvarya Prabhakar Panshikar award’ for lifetime contribution to theatre. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Ratnakar Matkari (Marathi writer) – honoured with the ‘Natvarya Prabhakar Panshikar award’ – by Maharashtra

**6.** In Nagaland, Mon District Administration has been conferred the “SKOCH Awards” under three different categories at the 65th SKOCH Summit. 3 Categories: SKOCH crucible award 2020, SKOCH order of merit award 2020 & SKOCH honourable mention award 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mon District Administration (Nagaland) – conferred the “SKOCH Awards” – at the 65th SKOCH Summit
- Under 3 categories: SKOCH crucible + SKOCH order of merit + honourable mention
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

**7.** White-ball skipper Quinton de Kock was named the men's 'cricketer of the year' at Cricket South Africa's (CSA) Annual Awards Ceremony. While young opener Laura Wolvaardt took home the women's cricketer of the year and ODI cricketer of the year awards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Quinton de Kock (South Africa) – men's cricketer of the year Award – at CSA Annual Awards Ceremony
- Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa) – women's cricketer of the year + ODI cricketer of the year Awards
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

**8.** Arunachal Pradesh filmmaker Kezang D Thongdok has won 10th edition of "Dada Saheb Phalke Award-2020" for documentary "Chi Lupo" on honey hunting. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kezang D Thongdok – won – 10th edition of "Dada Saheb Phalke Award-2020" – for "Chi Lupo" documentary
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

**9.** The president of National Media Club (NMC) and Founder of Shri Ram Seva Mission, Sachin Awasthi has received 'Top Publicist' honor under 'Global Humanitarian Award 2020.' [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sachin Awasthi – received 'Top Publicist' honor under 'Global Humanitarian Award 2020'
- HQs of NMC – Noida, UP | President – Sachin Awasthi (Founder of Shri Ram Seva Mission)



**10.** Chicago based Rotary Foundation has honoured Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami with “Paul Harris Fellow” recognition. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Rotary Foundation’ honoured – Edappadi K Palaniswami – with “Paul Harris Fellow” recognition
- HQs of Rotary Foundation – Chicago
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**11.** An Indian battalion stationed with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has won an Environment Award for a project that aims to decrease waste generation, reuse plastic, build green houses and compost pits. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Indian battalion” won – an Environment Award – of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)
- HQs of UNIFIL – Naqoura, Lebanon

**12.** World Bank and Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) conferred Institute for Human Development (IHD) with ‘Development Marketplace Award 2020: Innovations to Address Gender-Based Violence’ for the project alcohol. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- World Bank + SVRI = conferred “IHD” with - ‘Development Marketplace Award 2020’
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- HQs of IHD – Patparganj, Delhi | Chairman – Prof. S.R. Hashim

**13.** Former India captain of Hockey Team, Pritam Rani Siwach has been recommended for the “Dronacharya Award” this year. Nominated by Indian Railways, Pritam has been part of the Indian women's team coaching set-up in the past (2010-12). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pritam Rani Siwach (Hockey) – recommended for the “Dronacharya Award” – nominated by Indian Railways
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi



**14.** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced that its new headquarters in Lausanne has been awarded the “European 2020 US Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership Award”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IOC – has received - “European 2020 US Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership Award”
- HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach

**15.** Indian hockey great Gurbux Singh and former Bengal cricketer and coach Palash Nandi will be conferred with prestigious 'Mohun Bagan Ratna' this year. The awards are given on July 29 every year which is celebrated as 'Mohun Bagan Day'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gurbux Singh (Hockey) + Palash Nandi (Cricket) = conferred with prestigious 'Mohun Bagan Ratna'
- July 29 – 'Mohun Bagan Day'

**16.** Dr. Kailasavadivoo Sivan, the Chief of ISRO is the 3rd recipient of the “Von Karman Award-2020”, announced by the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). The award will be presented to Dr. K. Sivan in March 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Kailasavadivoo Sivan – 3rd recipient of the “Von Karman Award-2020” – by IAA
- The award will be presented – in March 2021
- HQs of IAA – Paris, France | President – Peter Jankowitsch

**17.** National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), a Central PSU under Ministry of Power has won the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019, under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NTPC – won the prestigious “CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019” – under ‘Corporate Excellence Category’
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh

**18.** Tata group Chairman N Chandrasekaran and Lockheed Martin CEO Jim Taiclet will receive the “USIBC Global Leadership Award-2020”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- N Chandrasekaran + Jim Taiclet = "USIBC Global Leadership Award-2020"
- HQ of Tata Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran
- HQs of Lockheed Martin – Maryland, USA | CEO – Jim Taiclet

**19.** The Mukhyamantri Darpan and mobile App which contains the details of all the flagship schemes of the Chhattisgarh government including the ambitious 'Suraji Gaon Yojna' has been awarded "Elites Excellence Awards-2020" at the national level presented by the Elites Technomedia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chhattisgarh Mukhyamantri Darpan and mobile App – received "Elites Excellence Awards-2020"
- 'Suraji Gaon Yojna' – Chhattisgarh
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**20.** Ashok Kumar, a key member of India's 1975 World Cup-winning hockey team, was conferred with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by Mohun Bagan Athletic Club. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ashok Kumar (Hockey) – conferred with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' – by Mohun Bagan Athletic Club

**21.** Ved Parkash Dudeja, vice chairman, Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) was recently awarded the 'Infra Business Leader of the Year' award for 2020 by the Rail Infra and Mobility Business Digital Awards (RIMBDA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ved Parkash Dudeja – awarded with – 'Infra Business Leader of the Year' award for 2020 – by RIMBDA
- HQs of RLDA – New Delhi | Vice Chairman – Ved Parkash Dudeja

**22.** The Committee to Protect Journalists has announced that the recipients of the "2020 International Press Freedom Awards" include Shahidul Alam from Bangladesh, Mohammad Mosaed from Iran, Dapo Olorunyomi from Nigeria and Svetlana Prokopyeva from Russia. Human rights lawyer Amal Clooney will also be honoured by the Ney York-based watchdog with the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The recipients of the "2020 International Press Freedom Awards"
- Shahidul Alam(Bangladesh), Mohammad Mosaed(Iran), Dapo Olorunyomi(Nigeria), Svetlana Prokopyeva(Russia)



- Amal Clooney – to be honoured by “Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award”

**23.** Actor Kate Winslet will receive the 'Tribute Actor Award' during the 45th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) this year on 15th September. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kate Winslet (Actor) – will receive the 'Tribute Actor Award' – in the 45th TIFF on 15th September

**24.** The Ongole Sub-Division Office of South Central Railway Zone has won the “Water Heroes Award” from Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. The Ongone Sub-Divisional Office of Vijayawada Division, Andhra Pradesh, South Central Railway is led by Pratham Agarwal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ongole Sub-Division Office (South Central Railway Zone) – won the “Water Heroes Award”
- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan

**25.** T Purushothaman, a shrimp farmer from Kerala has received prestigious “Jagjivan Ram Innovative Farmer award” for the development of diversified aquaculture practices. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- T Purushothaman (Kerala) – received prestigious “Jagjivan Ram Innovative Farmer award”
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**26.** As per the announcement of General Assembly President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, the laureates of United Nations “Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize-2020” are Marianna Vardinoyannis of Greece and Morissana Kouyate of Guinea. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Marianna Vardinoyannis (Greece) + Morissana Kouyate (Guinea) = laureates of “Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize”
- HQs of UNGA – NewYork, USA | President – Volkan Bozkır

**27.** The 17 year old Swede girl 'Greta Thunberg' was named winner of the inaugural “Gulbenkian Prize” for Humanity. Climate activist Greta Thunberg has planned to donate this 1 million euro (\$1.14 million) prize to organizations focused on the environment and climate change. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Greta Thunberg (Sweden) – received “Gulbenkian Prize” for Humanity – 1 million euro (\$1.14 million) prize

**28.** Senior principal of Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) scientist Kannan C S Warriar has received the “National Award of Excellence” for Outstanding Research in Forestry for the year 2019 by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kannan C S Warriar – received “National Award of Excellence” – for Outstanding Research in Forestry – by ICFRE
- Location of IFGTB – Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- HQs of ICFRE – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | Director General – Arun Singh Rawat

**29.** Liverpool’s Premier League title winning captain 'Jordan Henderson' was named “England’s Footballer of the Year” in the annual vote of the Football Writers’ Association (FWA) for the 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jordan Henderson (Football) – “England’s Footballer of the Year” – in Football Writers’ Association (FWA)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

**30.** The ‘Legend of Animation’ Award instituted by the Toonz Media Group (TMG) as part of the Animation Masters Summit (AMS) 2020 - Digital Edition has been posthumously conferred to the legendary animation director Arnab Chaudhuri. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arnab Chaudhuri – posthumously conferred with – The ‘Legend of Animation’ Award – by Toonz Media Group
- HQs of TMG – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala | CEO – P. Jayakumar

**31.** A 59 year old Indian origin nurse ‘Kala Narayanasamy’ in Singapore has been conferred with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was among the five nurses given the award. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Kala Narayanasamy’ – a Nurse – conferred with the “President's Award” of Singapore
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob





**32.** Telangana state government has won a gold award and a silver award in Governance Category and another gold award for a blockchain-based property registration project at the 66th SKOCH Summit. 'T-Chits' is a blockchain-based system to govern chit fund operations across the State. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana – 2 Gold awards = in Governance Category + for a blockchain-based property registration
- Telangana – 1 Silver award – in Governance Category
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**33.** India's first solar ferry - "Aditya" has been declared winner for 'Gustave Trouve' or 'Gussies' Awards-2020, under category III - excellence in electric boats designed for paying passengers. The Aditya was selected as the world's most successful commercial ferry model. It has been designed and manufactured by NavAlt Solar and Electric Boats. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's first solar ferry - "Aditya" – won 'Gussies' Awards-2020
- "Aditya" – world's most successful commercial ferry model – manufactured by "NavAlt Solar & Electric Boats Ltd"
- HQs of NavAlt Solar & Electric Boats Ltd – Kochi, Kerala

**34.** Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science have been announced. This year the Life Time Excellence Award has been awarded to Professor Ashok Sahni for his significant contribution in the field of Geology, Vertebrate Paleontology and Biostratigraphy. The National Award for Ocean Science and technology is being awarded to Dr. V. V. S. S. Sarma. The National Award for Atmospheric Science and technology will be presented to Dr. S. Suresh Babu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Life Time Excellence Award' in National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science – to Prof. Ashok Sahni
- National Award for Ocean Science and technology – to Dr. V. V. S. S. Sarma
- National Award for Atmospheric Science and technology – to Dr. S. Suresh Babu
- Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

**35.** Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has received 'SKOCH Gold Award' for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project of Scholarship Division of the Ministry. The 66th SKOCH 2020 Competition was entitled "INDIA RESPONDS TO COVID THROUGH DIGITAL GOVERNANCE" and MoTA chose to participate in DIGITAL INDIA & E-GOVERNANCE - 2020 Competition. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – received ‘SKOCH Gold Award’ – at the 66th SKOCH 2020 Competition
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

**36.** Sunil Yadav SS is Founder & CEO of ‘SS Motivation’ which is one of the most Subscribed Motivational Telegram channel in India. He has been honoured with “Karamveer Chakra Award” instituted by International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO) & United Nations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sunil Yadav SS – honoured with “Karamveer Chakra Award” – instituted by iCONGO & UN

**37.** The West Bengal CMO’s public grievance system for “E-Samadhan” was awarded the prestigious and highest Digital India Platinum Award by Skoch Foundation at the 66th Skoch Summit in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “E-Samadhan” – CMO’s public grievance system of West Bengal – awarded with ‘Skoch Platinum Award’
- 66th Skoch Summit held in – New Delhi
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar



# Appointments & Resignations

1. The Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), Karnam Sekar has retired on June 30, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Karnam Sekar – retired as the MD & CEO of – IOB
- IOB HQs – Chennai, Tamilnadu
- IOB Tagline – "Good people to grow with"

2. Pakistan Army has appointed Major General Nigar Johar, a woman officer as Lieutenant General for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Nigar Johar – is appointed as the Lieutenant General – of Pakistan Army
- Present Army Chief General – Qamar Javed Bajwa
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

3. Senior bureaucrat Sukhbir Singh Sandhu is given 6 months extension, till mid January next year, as the chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Sukhbir Singh Sandhu – given 6 months extension – as the Chairman of NHAI
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

4. French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe resigned ahead of a government reshuffle by President Emmanuel Macron. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Edouard Philippe – resigned – from the post of PM of France
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

5. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya took charge as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. He succeeds Sanjiv Singh. Prior to his elevation, Vaidya was the Director (Refineries) on the IOC Board, since October 2019. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Shrikant Madhav Vaidya – took charge as the new chairman of – IOCL
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

**6.** Shashank Manohar has stepped down as the chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC). Manohar took charge as ICC Chairman in November 2015. His deputy Imran Khwaja, from Hong Kong, will be the interim chairman. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Shashank Manohar – stepped down as the Chairman of – ICC
- Imran Khwaja (Hong Kong) – appointed as the Interim Chairman of – ICC
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Interim Chairman – Imran Khwaja | CEO – Manu Sawhney

**7.** Rajasthan government appointed Rajeeva Swarup (additional chief secretary), as the new chief secretary of Rajasthan and transferred 103 IAS officers. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Rajeeva Swarup – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of “Rajasthan”
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**8.** Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Co. Ltd. has announced the retirement of S. S. Gopalarathnam as the MD and V. Suryanarayanan, currently President and COO, appointed as the Managing Director effective 1st July 2020. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- S. S. Gopalarathnam – retired as the MD of – Cholamandalam MS General Insurance
- V. Suryanarayanan – appointed as the MD of – Cholamandalam MS General Insurance
- HQs of CMGIL – Chennai, TN | Chairman – MM Murugappan | MD – V. Suryanarayanan

**9.** France's President Emmanuel Macron picked Jean Castex as the New Prime Minister of France after Edouard Philippe resigned. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Jean Castex – appointed as the PM of – France
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex



**10.** Indra Mani Pandey has been appointed as India's next Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva. Indra Mani Pandey, a 1990-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as an additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indra Mani Pandey – appointed as India's next Permanent Representative – to UN
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

**11.** Luxury Ride, the chain of pre-owned, multi-brand luxury car showrooms, has signed singer Sukhbir Singh as its brand ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sukhbir Singh (Singer) – appointed as the Brand Ambassador of – Luxury Ride
- HQs of Luxury Ride – New Delhi | Co-founder and MD – Sumit Garg

**12.** The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) extended the term of Justice Bansi Lal Bhat as acting chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) by three months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Justice Bansi Lal Bhat – extended as the Chairperson of NCLAT – for 3 month
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

**13.** The first CEO of Startup Village and founder of Re-think Foundation, Sijo Kuruvilla George has been selected as the member of central government's expert committee on the science and technology policy. The Expert Committee on India's 5th Science and Technology Policy is led by Harkesh Mittal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sijo Kuruvilla George – selected as the member of – Expert Committee on Science and Technology Policy
- India's 5th Science and Technology Policy is led by – Harkesh Mittal

**14.** The UK India Business Council has announced that Jayant Krishna will take over as its new Group Chief Executive Officer from August 3. Krishna will be the first Indian CEO of UK India Business Council (UKIBC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Jayant Krishna – appointed as the CEO of UKIBC (from Aug 3)
- HQs of UKIBC – London, UK | Chairman – Lord Davies of Abersoch

**15.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Injeti Srinivas as the 1st chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Injeti Srinivas – to be appointed as the 1st Chairman of IFSCA – for 3 years
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

**16.** Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has appointed SP Kochhar as its new Director General (DG), after Rajan Mathews quitting the position. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SP Kochhar – appointed as the new DG of – COAI (by replacing – Rajan Mathews)
- HQs of COAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Ravinder Takkar

**17.** Rahul Johri, the first CEO of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), will step down after the board accepted his resignation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rahul Johri – the first CEO of BCCI – resigned
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | President – Sourav Ganguly

**18.** Gyanendro Ningombam was named as the Officiating President of Hockey India in an Executive Board meeting after the resignation of Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad, who stepped down from the position on July 07. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Gyanendro Ningombam” – appointed as the President – of Hockey India (HQs – New Delhi)
- He will replace – Mushtaque Ahmad

**19.** Lee Hsien Loong has again become the Prime Minister of Singapore and has secured a “clear mandate” with his ruling People's Action Party (PAP) winning 83 of the 93 contested parliamentary seats in the general election held amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Lee Hsien Loong – became the PM of Singapore – with ruling party “People's Action Party (PAP)”
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

**20.** Dr Vidhu P Nair (IFS: 2002), presently Director in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr Vidhu P Nair – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan
- Turkmenistan – Ashgabat – Manat

**21.** Snapdeal's Co-founder & CEO Kunal Bahl has been appointed as the Chairman of e-commerce committee of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the year 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kunal Bahl – appointed as the Chairman of e-commerce committee – of CII
- HQs of Snapdeal – New Delhi | CEO – Kunal Bahl
- CII HQs – New Delhi | President – Vikram Kirloskar | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

**22.** IPL chief operating officer Hemang Amin has been appointed as the interim chief executive officer (CEO) of The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hemang Amin – appointed as the interim CEO of BCCI
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Interim CEO – Hemang Amin

**23.** "SportsAdda", Indian news and information website for cricket, football, and kabaddi, has signed former Australian fast bowler and cricket legend 'Brett Lee' as its brand ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Brett Lee (Cricket - Australia) – appointed as the Brand Ambassador – of "SportsAdda"
- HQs of SportsAdda – Gurugram, Haryana



**24.** Indian government is set to appoint Vikram Doraiswami as India's next Ambassador to Bangladesh while Rudrendra Tandon, is likely to be the new ambassador to Afghanistan. The government has also appointed Hemant Harishchandra Kotalwar as India's next envoy to the Czech Republic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vikram Doraiswami – to be appointed as India's next Ambassador to – Bangladesh
- Rudrendra Tandon – to be appointed as India's next Ambassador to – Afghanistan
- Hemant Harishchandra Kotalwar – appointed as India's next Ambassador to – Czech Republic

**25.** Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa has been appointed as the vice-president of Manila based Asian Development Bank (ADB). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ashok Lavasa – appointed as the vice-president of ADB
- HQs – [Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | President – [Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | VP – Ashok Lavasa

**26.** The National Assembly of Suriname has elected Chandrikapersad 'Chan' Santokhi as the new president. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chandrikapersad 'Chan' Santokhi – appointed as the new President of – Suriname
- Suriname – Paramaribo – Dollar | President – Chandrikapersad 'Chan' Santokhi

**27.** Tunisian Prime Minister 'Elyes Fakhfakh' has resigned over Conflict of Interest because of his stake in a waste processing company that won government contracts worth 15 million euro. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Elyes Fakhfakh – resigned from the post of PM of – Tunisia
- Tunisia – Tunis – Dinar

**28.** German technology major SAP has appointed Kulmeet Bawa as president and managing director of SAP for the Indian subcontinent, with effect from July 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kulmeet Bawa – appointed as the President & MD of – SAP India
- HQs of SAP – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Kulmeet Bawa





- HQs of SAP SE – Walldorf, Germany | CEO – Christian Klein

**29.** SBI Cards and Payment Services has appointed Ashwini Kumar Tewari as Managing Director & CEO by replacing Hardayal Prasad. Tewari would take over from August 1 for a term of two years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ashwini Kumar Tewari – appointed as the MD & CEO of – SBI Cards and Payment Services – for 2 years
- He will replace – Hardayal Prasad
- HQs of SBI Card – Gurugram, Haryana | Chairperson – Rajnish Kumar

**30.** P Praveen Siddharth, a 2001-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the new Private Secretary (PS) to the President Ram Nath Kovind in place of Vikram Singh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- P Praveen Siddharth – appointed as the new Private Secretary – to the President Ram Nath Kovind
- He will replace – Vikram Singh

**31.** The RBI has approved the reappointment of Shyam Srinivasan as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Federal Bank with effect from September 23 till September 22, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shyam Srinivasan – to be reappointed as the MD & CEO of – Federal Bank
- HQs Federal Bank – Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan

**32.** The President of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba has appointed the country's first woman Prime Minister 'Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda – has been appointed as the 1st woman PM of – Gabon
- Gabon – Libreville – Franc | President – Ali Bongo Ondimba | PM – Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda

**33.** Roshni Nadar Malhotra, currently non-executive director has been appointed as the Chairperson of HCL Technologies. He will replace Shiv Nadar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Roshni Nadar Malhotra – appointed as the Chairperson of HCL Technologies
- HQs of HCL Technologies – Noida, UP | CEO – C Vijayakumar

**34.** Arun Kumar, the Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), has been nominated to be the vice-chairman of the Security Platform of the Paris-based Union Internationale Des Chemins/International Union of Railways (UIC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arun Kumar (DG of RPF) – is nominated as the Vice-Chairman of UIC
- HQs of UIC – Paris, France | Chairman – Mr. Gianluigi Castelli | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of RPF – New Delhi | DG – Arun Kumar

**35.** Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has appointed Ramesh Babu Boddu as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer for three years. In January this year, Karur Vysya Bank's MD and CEO P R Seshadri had resigned. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ramesh Babu Boddu – appointed as the MD & CEO of – Karur Vysya Bank
- HQs of KVB – Karur, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Ramesh Babu Boddu

**36.** Sahil Seth, Deputy Commissioner of Mumbai Customs, has been appointed as an honorary adviser to the steering committee for the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) young leaders for the period 2020-2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sahil Seth – appointed as an honorary adviser to the steering committee for the BRICS CCI – for 2020-23
- BRICS Member Countries – 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

**37.** Sumit Deb has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC). He will succeed N Bajendra Kumar who superannuates in July-end. Deb will have tenure till February 28, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sumit Deb – appointed as the Chairman and MD of – NMDC (till February 28, 2023)
- He will replace – N Bajendra
- Location of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana



**38.** A professor at IIM Bangalore "R. Narayanaswamy", has been appointed as the Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA). The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) advises the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) on how it can fulfill its mandate to protect the public interest. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- R. Narayanaswamy (Professor at IIM Bangalore) – appointed as the Chair of TAC of – NFRA
- HQs of NFRA – New Delhi | Chairperson – R. Sridharan

**39.** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has extended BSV Prakash Kumar's tenure as Acting President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for 1 more month with effect from July 5. This extension is done for the second time. NCLT was set up under Section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013, on June 1, 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BSV Prakash Kumar – extended as Acting President of – NCLT – for 1 more month (Second extension in July)
- NCLT was set up – under section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013 (in 2016)
- HQs of NCLT – New Delhi | Chairman – Bansi Lal Bhat

**40.** Noted industrialist Rahul Bajaj will step down as Non-Executive Chairman of Bajaj Finance on July 31. He will be succeeded by Sanjiv Bajaj who is currently Vice Chairman. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sanjiv Bajaj – appointed as the Chairman of – Bajaj Finance
- He will replace – Rahul Bajaj
- HQs of Bajaj Finance – Pune, Maharashtra | Chief Financial Officer – S. Sreenivasan

**41.** SBI General Insurance - the non-life a subsidiary of State Bank of India has appointed Prakash Chandra Kandpal as its new managing director & chief executive officer. Pushan Mahapatra has been appointed as Director of Strategic Investments & Digital Initiatives and continues to be whole-time director of SBI General Insurance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prakash Chandra Kandpal – appointed as the MD & CEO of – SBI General Insurance
- Pushan Mahapatra – appointed as Director of – Strategic Investments & Digital Initiatives
- HQs of SBI General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | Tagline – ‘Suraksha aur Bharosa Dono’



**42.** Partha Pratim Sengupta has been appointed as new managing director and chief executive of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) until December 31, 2022. He will replace Karnam Sekar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Partha Pratim Sengupta – appointed as new MD & CEO of – IOB
- He will replace – Karnam Sekar
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta

**43.** Somalia's Deputy Prime Minister Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid has announced his appointment as the interim prime minister following the vote of no confidence against the previous head of government, Hassan Ali Khaire. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid – appointed as the interim Prime Minister – of Somalia
- Somalia – Mogadishu – Dollar/Shilling | Interim PM – Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid | President – Md Abdullahi

**44.** Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), the self-regulatory organization (SRO) for the microfinance industry has announced that Alok Misra will be taking over as its chief executive officer and director from August 1, 2020. He will take over from the present CEO, Harsh Shrivastava. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Alok Misra – appointed as the CEO and Director of – Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) – From August 1
- He will replace – Harsh Shrivastava
- HQs of MFIN – Gurgaon, Haryana | Vice President – Dibyajyoti Pattanaik

**45.** Tata AIA Life Limited has announced Naveen Tahilyani's appointment as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Managing Director (MD). He will take over from the current CEO Rishi Srivastava. Until 2019, Naveen Tahilyani served as the CEO of Hong Kong's AIA Group's partnership business distribution. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Naveen Tahilyani – appointed as the MD & CEO of – Tata AIA Life Limited
- He will replace – Rishi Srivastava
- HQs – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Naveen Tahilyani



**46.** Tunisia's President Kais Saied has appointed the 'Hichem Mechichi' as the new Prime Minister. Mechichi will succeed Elyes Fakhfakh, who resigned recently in July due to allegations of conflict of interest. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hichem Mechichi – appointed as the new Prime Minister – of Tunisia
- He will succeed – Elyes Fakhfakh
- Tunisia – Tunis – Dinar | President – Kais Saied | New PM – Hichem Mechichi

**47.** India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das has been appointed as the Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. She will succeed Vijay Thakur Singh, who superannuates on September 30. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Riva Ganguly Das – appointed as the Secretary (East) in – Ministry of External Affairs
- She will replace – Vijay Thakur Singh
- India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh – Riva Ganguly Das

**48.** Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Bhushan has been appointed as a new Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. He will succeed Preeti Sudan. In another move, Mines Secretary Sushil Kumar has been appointed secretary of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Ram Kumar Mishra has been appointed as Women and Child Development secretary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajesh Bhushan – appointed as Secretary in Health Ministry (He will succeed – Preeti Sudan)
- Sushil Kumar (Mines Secretary) – appointed as Secretary of – National Commission for SC (NCSC)
- Ram Kumar Mishra – appointed as Secretary of – Women and Child Development
- NCSC under – Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Thawaar Chand Gehlot – Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh)

**49.** Investment and wealth management "Paytm Money" the subsidiary of Paytm, has appointed Varun Sridhar as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to head and launch the company's foray into equity brokerage business. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Varun Sridhar – appointed as the CEO of – Paytm Money
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO of Paytm – Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar
- CEO of Paytm Payment Bank– Satish Kumar Gupta
- CEO of Paytm General Insurance Ltd. – Vineet Arora

**50.** Tata Motors Ltd has appointed Thierry Bollore as the new Chief Executive Officer of its British luxury arm Jaguar Land Rover (JLR). He will replace Ralf Speth and will assume office effective September 10, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Thierry Bollore – has been appointed – as the new CEO of – Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)
- HQs of JLR – Coventry, UK

**51.** Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi has handed over charge as the Commandant of Indian Naval Academy (INA) to Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi on 27 July 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MA Hampiholi – took charge as the Commandant of – Indian Naval Academy (INA)
- He will replace – Dinesh K Tripathi
- Location of Indian Naval Academy – Ezhimala, Kannur, Kerala

**52.** Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara has appointed Defence Minister Hamed Bakayoko as prime minister after his predecessor died suddenly in July, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hamed Bakayoko – appointed as the PM of – “Ivory Coast” or “Cote d'Ivoire”
- He will succeed – Amadou Gon Coulibaly (passed away)
- Cote d'Ivoire – Yamoussoukro – CFA franc | President – Alassane Ouattara

**53.** The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)'s board of governors has elected Jin Liqun as the President for the second term. AIIB President Jin's second five-year term will begin on January 16, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Jin Liqun – reappointed as the President of AIIB – For the second term (From January 16, 2021)
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun

**54.** Domestic rating agency ICRA has appointed N Sivaraman as its new Managing Director and group Chief Executive Officer. Sivaraman has spent over 34 years with engineering major L&T. [{Read more}](#)

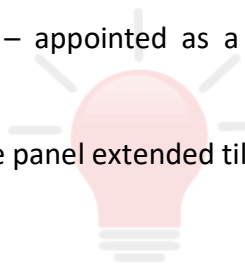
**Key Points:**

- N Sivaraman – appointed as the MD & CEO of – ICRA rating agency
- HQs of ICRA – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – N Sivaraman

**55.** The government has appointed former chairman of Coal India, Anil Kumar Jha, as a member of the Expert Appraisal Committee that deals with violation of environment rules and formed by the Environment Ministry. The panel was earlier constituted in June 2017 for three years. Its tenure has now been extended till June 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anil Kumar Jha – appointed as a member of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Formed by Environment Ministry)
- The tenure of the panel extended till – June 2021



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**56.** Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd has appointed former RBI Governor Urjit Patel as an additional and independent director for a term of 5 years. Urjit Patel had served as the 24th governor of the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Urjit Patel – appointed as an additional and independent director of Great Eastern Shipping Company – for 5 years
- Urjit Patel – 24th governor of the RBI
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)
- HQs of GESC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – K. M. Sheth

**57.** A 2010-batch IAS officer Hardik Satishchandra Shah has been appointed the Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He is currently serving as a Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hardik Satishchandra Shah – appointed the Private Secretary – to Prime Minister's Office (PMO)



# Amount & Agreements

**1.** Estimated cost for distribution of food grains (Rice and Wheat) and pulses under 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana' during April - November 2020 is around Rs 1,48,938 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Estimated cost – for distribution of food grains & pulses – under PMGKAY – Rs 1,48,938 Cr

**2.** The World Bank and the Government of India signed a loan agreement to enhance support for the Namami Gange Programme that seeks to rejuvenate the Ganga river. The World Bank has approved a loan of \$400 million. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- World Bank – approved – \$400 million loan to India – to support the 'Namami Gange Programme'
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

**3.** Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has released \$50 million in the first tranche of assistance to L&T Infrastructure Finance Ltd (LTIFL) for funding Renewable Energy projects in the country. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- AIIB – first tranche of assistance worth \$50 million – to L&T Infrastructure Finance Ltd
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Lique
- Larsen & Toubro HQs – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Dinanath Dubhashi

**4.** A new four-storey school building built with Indian assistance of Rs 1.94 Cr for students pursuing both vedic and modern education was inaugurated in Nepal's ilam district. The new building of 'Shri Saptmai Gurukul Sanskrit Vidyalaya' was set up in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India – funded Rs 1.94 Cr – For new school infrastructure inaugurated in – ilam, Nepal
- The new building named "Shri Saptmai Gurukul Sanskrit Vidyalaya" – was set up in 2009
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari





5. Karnataka Agriculture Minister B C Patil informed that Central Government has sanctioned Rs 4,000 Cr under 'Atmanirbhar Programme' to improve infrastructure for the Food Parks in the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central Government – sanctioned Rs 4,000 Cr – For the Food Parks in 'Karnataka'
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

6. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to a new pan India Central Sector Scheme "Agriculture Infrastructure Fund". Under the scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh Cr will be provided by banks and financial institutions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union cabinet – approved – New pan India Central Sector Scheme "Agriculture Infrastructure Fund"
- Outlay of the Scheme – Rs. 1 Lakh Cr

7. The Union cabinet has given its approval to provide budget rental accommodation to poor and migrant workers in urban areas. This is estimated to benefit more than 350,000 people. The government has kept aside Rs 600 Cr in the form of technology innovation grant. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union cabinet – approved Rs 600 Cr – to provide budget rental accommodation to poor and migrant workers

8. The union cabinet has decided to put on hold the proposed merger of the three state-run general insurers even as it approved ₹12,450 Cr in capital infusion. Three general insurance companies are Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL), National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) and United India Insurance Company Limited (UIICL). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union cabinet – approved ₹12,450 Cr capital infusion – in OICL + NICL + UIICL
- HQs of OICL – New Delhi | CMD – A V Girija Kumar
- HQs of NICL – Kolkata, WB | Chairman & MD – Tajinder Mukherjee
- HQs of UIICL – Chennai, TN | CEO – Shri Girish Radhakrishnan

9. To address the challenges occurred due to Covid-19, Mastercard has announced a investment of Rs 250 Cr (\$33 million) to help reboot Indian SMEs and enable business recovery. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Mastercard – to invest Rs 250 Cr (\$33 million) – to support Indian SMEs
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)

**10.** The USA has approved a possible USD 620 million upgrade package for Patriot surface-to-air missiles to Taiwan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- USA – approved ‘USD 620 million’ upgrade package – for Patriot surface-to-air missiles to “Taiwan”
- Taiwan – Taipei – New Taiwan Dollar | President – Tsai Ing-wen

**11.** The tech giant Google has announced an investment of Rs 75,000 Cr or \$10 billion Digitalization Fund over next five to seven years in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google – to invest Rs 75,000 Cr or \$10 billion as ‘Digitalization Fund’ in India – over next 5-7 years
- Google HQs – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

**12.** India has handed over outdoor fitness equipment for 61 islands across Maldives under a cash grant of 8 million US dollars. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – handed over outdoor fitness equipment for 61 islands – in Maldives – under cash grant of \$8 million
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

**13.** Pakistan and China have signed an agreement for the 700 MW ‘Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project’ on the Jhelum river in Sudhoti district of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). The \$ 1.5-billion project is the second power project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pakistan + China – an agreement for the 700 MW ‘Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project’ – on Jhelum river
- The project worth – \$ 1.5-billion
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi



**14.** Haryana is to get a financial aid of Rs 1,500 Cr from the Centre to expand its crop diversification scheme and rejuvenate ponds in the state. The state will get Rs 500 Cr for water conservation through 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' scheme and Rs 1,000 Cr for rejuvenation of ponds and treating water. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The Central Gov. – allotted Rs 1,500 Cr – to Haryana
- Rs 500 Cr – for 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' scheme | Rs 1,000 Cr – for rejuvenation of ponds
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**15.** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has launched a new utility for banks and post offices to help ascertain the applicable Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) for cash withdrawals above Rs 20 lakh for non-filers and above Rs 1 Cr for filers of income tax returns. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBDT – launched a new utility for banks and post offices
- Applicable TDS for cash withdrawals: For non-filers – above Rs 20 lakh | For filers – above Rs 1 Cr
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – P C Mody

**16.** In Karnataka, NABARD has extended a grant assistance of Rs 221.89 Cr to support 298 watershed projects in over three lakh hectares benefitting 66,500 families. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NABARD – extended a grant assistance of Rs 221.89 Cr – to Karnataka
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**17.** The NABARD has announced Rs 5,000 Cr of refinance scheme for banks and financial institutions for providing finance to the beneficiaries of its 2,150 watershed development projects. On July 13, NABARD organised its first 'Digital Choupal' to mark its 39th foundation day which was observed on July 12, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NABARD – Rs 5,000 Cr of refinance scheme – for banks and financial institutions
- July 12 – 39th foundation day of NABARD (also launched its first 'Digital Choupal')
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu



**18.** The Ministry of Shipping has approved Rs 107 Cr for augmentation of firefighting facilities on 5 jetties of Haldia Dock Complex, Kolkata Port. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Shipping – approved Rs 107 Cr – to augment firefighting facilities on 5 jetties of Haldia Dock Complex
- Haldia Dock Complex – Kolkata Port
- MoS I/C of Ministry of Shipping – Mansukh L. Mandaviya

**19.** The NABARD (National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development) has launched development Projects worth Rs. 44 lakhs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands with an objective to strengthen the concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NABARD – launched development Projects worth Rs. 44 lakhs – in Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor– Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

**20.** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 795 Crore for reconstructing infrastructure damaged by cyclone Amphan that ripped through West Bengal in May. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NABARD – sanctioned Rs 795 Cr to West Bengal – for reconstructing infrastructure damaged by ‘Amphan’
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu

**21.** USAID and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (USIDFC) are developing a concept to establish a new \$25 million credit guarantee for the Small and Medium Enterprise sector to deploy rooftop solar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- USAID + USIDFC = to establish \$25-million credit guarantee – For SMEs to deploy rooftop solar
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Mark Green
- HQs of USIDFC – Washington D.C., USA | CEO – Adam S. Boehler



**22.** Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Israel's National Cyber Directorate (INCD) have signed an agreement to further expand collaboration in dealing with cyber threats amid rapid digitisation due to the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Israel = an agreement to expand collaboration in dealing with cyber threats
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

**23.** India and Maldives have signed a contract to set up "Geydhoshu Mas Plants" or Fish Processing Plants at two of the islands namely Maradhoo and Hulhudhoo in the Maldives. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Maldives = to set up "Geydhoshu Mas Plants" or Fish Processing Plants at two islands
- Maradhoo & Hulhudhoo islands – Maldives
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

**24.** India and Maldives have signed an agreement for establishment of 'Emergency Medical Services' in capital Male. It is one of the several small and medium projects that are being financed by India under a grant assistance of around 20 million US dollars. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Maldives = an agreement for establishment of 'Emergency Medical Services' – in Male – For \$20 million
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

**25.** India and European Union have renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the next five years (2020-2025). This has been done by exchange of 'Note Verbale' between two sides. The Agreement was initially signed in on 23 November 2001 and renewed two times in past in 2007 and 2015. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + EU = renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation – For next 5 years
- It was done by exchanging – 'Note Verbale' | Agreement initially signed in – in 2001
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27



**26.** Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has held a meeting to review the performance of the Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH). The fund has so far approved 81 projects with an investment of Rs 8767 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 81 projects with an investment of “Rs 8767 Cr” – approved under “SWAMIH” Investment Fund
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

**27.** India and Russia have signed a Defence Logistics Sharing Pact that can enable seamless access to each other’s military bases and support facilities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shyok river – in Ladakh
- Ladakh Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

**28.** India has extended medical assistance worth about \$1 million in the form of anti-tuberculosis medicines to North Korea in response to a request received from the World Health Organisation (WHO). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India extended – medical assistance of \$1 million – to North Korea
- Under World Health Organization (WHO) anti-tuberculosis programme
- North Korea – Pyongyang – North Korean won | President – Kim Jong-un
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

**29.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed \$400 million currency swap agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The agreement signed under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2019-22 would be valid till November 13, 2022. The SAARC currency swap framework came into operation on November 15, 2012. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI + Central Bank of Sri Lanka = signed \$400 million currency swap agreement (valid till November 13, 2022)
- SAARC currency swap framework came into operation – in 2012
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- SAARC HQs – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary Generals – Esala Weerakoon



**30.** The Department of Science and Technology has launched Rs 15 Cr fund to support India-Russia collaboration joint R&D for tech development. India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialisation Programme has been jointly launched in partnership with FICCI and the Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE) of the Russian Federation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dept of S & T + FICCI + FASIE = launched Rs 15 Cr fund – to support India-Russia collaboration joint R&D
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Science
- Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sangita Reddy | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy

**31.** The Punjab Cabinet has approved a USD 285.71 million project for canal-based water supply for Amritsar and Ludhiana. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the lending arm of world bank would finance USD 200 million (70%) and Punjab Government USD 85.71 million (30%). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Punjab + World Bank(70%) = approved a USD 285.71 million Project – for water supply in Amritsar and Ludhiana
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

**32.** As per Minister of Chemicals & Fertilisers DV Sadananda Gowda, Department of Pharmaceuticals is finalising guidelines to select locations of upcoming 3 bulk drugs parks and 4 medical devices parks in the country. Union Cabinet on March 12, 2020 had approved scheme for development of 3 bulk drug and 4 medical device parks, in which the government will extend grants-in-aid to states with a maximum limit of Rs 1,000 Cr per bulk Drug Park and Rs 100 Cr per Medical Device Parks. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DV Sadananda Gowda – finalised guidelines to select locations of 3 bulk Drugs Parks & 4 Medical Devices Parks
- Outlay: Rs 1,000 Cr per bulk Drug Park (Total Rs 3000 Cr for 3 Parks)
- Outlay: Rs 100 Cr per Medical Device Parks (Total Rs 400 Cr for 4 Parks)



**33.** The State Bank of India (SBI) is providing liquidity support of USD 16.20 million for local businesses and deferred loan repayment for over 200 retail accounts in Maldives. On the occasion of Independence Day of the Maldives on July 26, Indian High Commissioner Sunjay Sudhir said India will soon announce another substantial financial assistance package to support the Maldivian economy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI – providing liquidity support of USD 16.20 million – For local businesses in Maldives
- July 26 – Independence Day of the Maldives | Sunjay Sudhir – Indian High Commissioner to Maldives
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

**34.** Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 3 million (about Rs 22 Cr) grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to further support the government's emergency response to COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB – approved USD 3 million (about Rs 22 Cr) grant – to India – From 'Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund'
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | VP – Ashok Lavasa

**35.** Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is looking to provide loans worth USD 3 billion for various large infrastructure projects in India over the next 12 months. India is the largest borrower, which accounts for 25% of the total lending by AIIB. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AIIB – to provide loans worth USD 3 billion – to India – over the next 12 months
- India (25%) – the largest borrower of AIIB
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Lique

**36.** The CSIR, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and the Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) have signed a tripartite agreement that will provide access to the research body's rural technologies. The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) is a flagship national programme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CSIR + UBA + VIBHA = signed a tripartite agreement
- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan – a flagship of Ministry of HRD (Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande





**37.** Maharashtra has approved Rs 1,000 Crore (\$142.9 million) "Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MagNet) project" for boosting fruit and vegetable production in the state. In this project, 70% would be lent by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the balance will come from state government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra + ADB (70%) = Rs 1,000 Cr (\$142.9 million) "Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MagNet) project"
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | VP – Ashok Lavasa

**38.** The Maldives has launched 9 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP), including a bottled water plant, which will use a \$5.6 million grant from the Indian government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maldives launched – 9 HICDPs – by using \$5.6 million grant – From India
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

**39.** Estimated cost for distribution of food grains (Rice and Wheat) and pulses under 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana' during April - November 2020 is around Rs 1,48,938 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Estimated cost – for distribution of food grains & pulses – under PMGKAY – Rs 1,48,938 Cr



# Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**1.** As per UN's "Global E-waste Monitor 2020" report, India is the third largest electronic waste (e-waste) generator in the world after China and the USA and these three countries together contributed 38% of total 53.6 million tonnes (Mt) of e-waste, generated worldwide in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- UN's "Global E-waste Monitor 2020" report
- World's Largest e-waste generator Countries in 2019 = 1st – China | 2nd – USA | 3rd – India
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

**2.** Tamil Nadu has overtaken Gujarat to occupy the top spot in annual fish production as per the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). The country's marine production registered a marginal increase of 2.1% in 2019 compared to the previous year. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- The report "Annual Marine Fish Landings in India for 2019" by CMFRI
- In Annual Fish Production: 1st – Tamil Nadu | 2nd – Gujarat
- Increase in Marine Fish Production of India – 2.1% in 2019 (compared to 2018)
- HQs of CMFRI – Kochi, Kerala | Director – Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan

**3.** According to a new report by UNCTAD, the world's tourism sector could lose at least 1.2 trillion dollars or 1.5% of the global GDP having been placed at a standstill for nearly 4 months due to the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- According UNCTAD – expected loss of 1.2 trillion or 1.5% of Global GDP in World Tourism Sector due to lockdown
- UNCTAD HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi

**4.** According to the 11th edition of the "Global Real Estate Transparency Index 2020", released by US based property consultant Jones Lang LaSalle's (JLL), India ranked 34th globally on the index with higher levels of transparency observed in the country. The list was topped by the UK. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 11th edition of the "Global Real Estate Transparency Index 2020" report – release by Jones Lang LaSalle's (JLL)



- India – 34th | UK – topped
- HQs of JLL – USA

5. India is expected to add only 60 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next 5 years, according to Bridge To India's India Renewable Energy CEO survey report 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – expected to add only 60 GW of renewable energy capacity – in the next 5 years
- Government's Target: 175 GW - by 2022 & 450 GW - by 2030

6. "INFORM Risk Index-2020" has been topped by Somalia with an inform risk of 8.9. India has ranked at 31st place with an inform risk of 5.4, means risk of humanitarian crises and disasters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UN's "INFORM Risk Index-2020" – topped by Somalia | India – 31st

7. India has been ranked eighth for cancer preparedness among 10 Asia-Pacific countries according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) report on "Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control" report – by EIU
- For cancer preparedness among 10 Asia-Pacific countries: India – 8th | Topped by – Australia
- HQs of EIU – London, UK | MD & CEO – Robin Bew

8. The 4th edition of India's 2018 Tiger Census has entered the Guinness Book of World Record for being the largest ever camera trap wildlife survey. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 4th edition of India's 2018 Tiger Census – entered the Guinness Book of World Record
- The 1st survey was conducted in – 2006

9. The world could see Average Global Temperatures 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial average for the first time in the coming five years, as per the report "Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2020-2024" released by World Meteorological Organization (WMO). [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2020-2024” released by – WMO
- Assumption of Average Global Temperatures – 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit)
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas

**10.** Union Ministry of Home Affairs released the ‘Ranking of Police Stations’ in a ceremony during a DGPs’ conference recently. Nadaun Police Station in Himachal Pradesh was declared as one of the best in the country. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ‘Ranking of Police Stations’ – released by Ministry of Home Affairs
- Nadaun Police Station (Himachal Pradesh) – declared as one of the best in the country
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

**11.** According to the ‘COVID-19 and Tourism’ report released by The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Global tourism revenues are expected to fall by up to \$3.3 trillion due to COVID-19 restrictions, with the United States standing to lose the most. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- According to the ‘COVID-19 and Tourism’ report – released by UNCTAD
- Global tourism revenues – expected to fall by – \$3.3 trillion – due to COVID-19
- The most affected country – USA
- UNCTAD HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi

**12.** On June 30, the RBI released the indicative data of market borrowings by the state governments for the second quarter of the fiscal. The largest amount was raised by Tamil Nadu (Rs 28,000 Cr), Maharashtra (Rs 25,500 Cr) & Rajasthan (Rs 16,000 Cr). The states' combined market borrowings as state development loans have doubled to Rs 1.7 lakh Cr during the first quarter of current fiscal. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- As per the RBI’s data of market borrowings by the state governments for the Q2 of the fiscal
- 1st – Tamil Nadu | 2nd – Maharashtra | 3rd – Rajasthan
- During Q1 – States' combined market borrowings – doubled to “Rs 1.7 lakh Cr”
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)



**13.** The world's costliest fungus "Ophiocordyceps sinensis" also known as "Himalayan Viagra", which is sold in international markets for more than Rs 20 lakh per kg, has entered the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species in the "Vulnerable Category". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Ophiocordyceps sinensis" or "Himalayan Viagra" a fungus – entered IUCN's Red List in the "Vulnerable Category"
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xincheng Zhang

**14.** "The World Wildlife Crime Report 2020" has been released by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The report highlighted the trafficking of wild species such as pangolins, which have been identified as a potential source of coronaviruses. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "The World Wildlife Crime Report 2020" – released by UNODC
- The report highlighted the trafficking of – Pangolins
- HQs of UNODC – Vienna, Austria | Director-General – Ghada Fathi Waly

**15.** As per the data on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index (BBI), Reliance Industries Limited Chairman Mukesh Ambani has become the 6th richest man in the world. Ambani's net worth now stands at \$72.4 billion (Rs 5.44 lakh crore) after a rise of \$2.17 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "World's Richest Persons List" – as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index (on July 14, 2020)
- Mukesh Ambani – 6th – \$72.4 billion | Topped by – Jeff Bezos (USA) – \$184 billion

**16.** According to the latest census report of Madhya Pradesh forest department, there are just 68 dolphins left in 435-kilometre-long Chambal river sanctuary which passes through three states (Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan). The dolphins' number in Chambal River has been reduced by 13% in last 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 68 dolphins left – in Chambal River sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh) – reduced by 13% in last 4 years
- Chambal River – The tributary of Yamuna river
- MP: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon



**17.** Nearly 690 million people, or 8.9% of people around the globe, are hungry (undernourished) according to a United Nations report titled "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World". Over 890 million people or 9.8% of the world's population could be affected by hunger by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A report titled "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" – released by UN
- 690 million people (8.9% population) – are affected by hunger
- 890 million people (9.8% population) – could be affected by hunger – by 2030
- Decline in undernourishment in the total population in India – 14% in 2017-19 (from 21.7% in 2004-06)
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – António Guterres

**18.** Billionaire Mukesh Ambani has moved three notches up to become the 5th richest man in the world, a position he shares with Tesla founder Elon Musk and Former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, according to data collected by 'Hurun's Research'. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos with a networth of \$200 billion still tops the chart. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "World's Richest Persons List" – as per Hurun's Research
- Mukesh Ambani + Elon Musk + Steve Ballmer = 5th - \$78 billion | Topped by – Jeff Bezos - \$200 billion

**19.** Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog has presented India's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) report titled 'Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local' at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog – presented India's second VNR report titled 'Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local'
- HQs of HLPF – New York, USA
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**20.** Tamil Nadu has emerged as the country's top investment destination in the first quarter of this financial year, even as overall fresh investment announcements in India have slumped to the lowest in 5 years amidst a period of lockdown. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Tamil Nadu emerged – as the country's Top investment destination in Q1 of this financial year
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**21.** As per “Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020” released by UNDP & the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), 273 million Indians have moved out of multidimensional poverty between 2005-6 and 2015-16 and with this, India has recorded the largest reduction in the number of people living in multidimensional poverty. The report also shows that 65 out of 75 countries studied significantly reduced their multidimensional poverty levels between 2000 and 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020” released by UNDP & OPHI
- India – recorded the largest reduction in the number of people living in multidimensional poverty
- 273 million Indians – moved out of multidimensional poverty (between 2005-6 and 2015-16)
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner
- HQs of OPHI – University of Oxford, UK | Director – Sabina Alkire

**22.** India ranks third in the list of most-suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions, according to a report released by Cushman & Wakefield. In cost scenario, India is at 3rd position after China and Vietnam. However, India ranks 3rd in Baseline scenario and 30th in risk scenario. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “2020 Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI)” report – released by Cushman & Wakefield (HQs – Chicago, USA)
- List topped by – China | India – 3rd
- India: 3rd – in cost scenario | 3rd – in Baseline scenario | 30th – in risk scenario

**23.** In total 218 countries, India has remained in the classification of 'Lower-Middle-Income Economy', as per the New World Bank’s report of country classifications by income level 2020-2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – 'Lower-Middle-Income Economy' – as per World Bank’s report of country classifications by income level
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



**24.** According to Coursera's report titled "Global Skill Index", within the data science domain, India ranks at 51 globally and 12 among APAC countries in data science overall. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A report titled "Global Skill Index" – released by Coursera
- In data science domain: India's rank – 51st globally & 12th among APAC countries

**25.** According to Assocham, India's spices exports has risen by 23% to USD 359 million (around Rs 2,690 Cr) in June 2020 from USD 292 million (Rs 2,190 Cr) in the same month last year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's spices exports – rose by 23% to USD 359 million (around Rs 2,690 Cr) in June 2020
- HQs of Assocham – New Delhi | President – Niranjan Hiranandani

**26.** The Indian direct selling industry has ranked 15th and recorded sales of USD 2.47 billion in 2019, reporting a growth of 12.1%, according to a report by World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A report by World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA)
- India – 15th (sales of USD 2.47 billion) | List topped by – USA
- HQs of WFDSA – Washington DC, USA | Head – Ms. Kim Drabik

**27.** India is among the top 10 worst countries for working people with a rating/score of 5, according to the 7th edition of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)'s "Global Rights Index" that ranks 144 countries on the degree of respect for workers' rights. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 7th edition of "Global Rights Index" – released by ITUC
- India (rating - 5) – in the Top 10 worst countries for 'working people'
- HQs of ITUC – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ayuba Philibus Wabba

**28.** Reliance Industries Ltd Chairman Mukesh Ambani became the world's fifth-richest person in the new Forbes list with an estimated wealth of \$75 billion. Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos still sits at top in the





richest list, with a net worth of \$185.8 billion followed by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates with net worth of \$113.1 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “World’s Richest Persons List” – as per Forbes (on July 23, 2020)
- Mukesh Ambani – 5th - \$75 billion | 1st – Jeff Bezos - \$185.8 billion | 2nd – Bill Gates - \$113.1 billion
- HQs of FORBES – Jersey City, New Jersey

**29.** India was ranked 63rd in the World Bank’s ease of doing business ranking last year, an improvement from its ranking of 134 before the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014. Now, the target of India is to reach at the 50th spot. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “World Bank’s ease of doing business ranking”
- India: Last Year – 63rd rank | This year’s Target – 50th
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

**30.** Reliance Industries (RIL) has hit another milestone on the bourses with the stock price crossing Rs 2,000 and with this it has become 1st Indian company to reach the market Capitalization of Rs 13 lakh Crore. RIL is now world’s 48th largest company by market- cap. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RIL – the 1st Indian Company to reach the market Capitalization of – Rs 13 lakh Crore
- RIL – became the 48th largest company by market- cap
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

**31.** Gold prices in India has hit a record high and crossed Rs. 50,000 per 10 grams. In overseas market, spot gold jumped more than 1% to its highest in nearly nine years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gold prices in India – crossed Rs. 50,000 per 10 grams
- In overseas market: Gold jumped more than – 1% (highest in last 9 years)
- HQs of World Gold Council (WGC) – London, UK | President – David Harquail



**32.** According to Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh, India will have around 60% of its installed electricity generation capacity from clean sources by 2030. Energy Transitions Commission (ETC) India has prepared two reports titled 'Renewable Power Pathways: Modelling the Integration of Wind and Solar in India by 2030' & 'Bending the Curve: 2025 Forecasts for Electricity Demand by Sector and State in the Light of the COVID Epidemic'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – will have 60% of its installed Electricity Generation Capacity from clean sources – by 2030
- Two reports prepared by – Energy Transitions Commission (ETC) India
- HQs of ETC – London, UK
- HQs of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Ajay Mathur

**33.** As per new research revealed by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), as many as 22 million children from South Asian countries, including India, have missed out on early childhood education in their critical pre-school year due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- As per UNICEF – almost 22 million children from South Asian countries – missed out on early childhood education
- UNICEF HQs – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore



**34.** The Reserve Bank of India has released its 'Financial Stability Report' on July 24, 2020 and has warned that the Gross Nonperforming Assets (GNPA) ratio of all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) may increase from 8.5% in March 2020 to 12.5% by March 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – released "Financial Stability Report" – GNPA may increase to 12.5% by March 2021
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

**35.** India has successfully brought down Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) by 9 points in one year, as per data released by the Registrar General of India. Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are among the states that have shown most decline. According to Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the ratio has declined from 122 in 2015-17 to 113 in 2016-18 (7.4 % decline)." [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maternal Mortality Ratio – declined by 9 points in one year – to 113 in 2016-18 (7.4 % decline)
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)



**36.** Reliance Industries has overtaken ExxonMobil to become the world's second most valuable energy company after its market capitalisation scaled to a record high of over Rs 14 lakh Crore. Reliance was ranked 48th and was behind ExxonMobil. Then its share price scaled an all-time high taking the company to 46th position. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Reliance Industries – became 2nd most valuable energy company in the world – to hit Rs 14 lakh Cr Market Cap
- 1st most valuable energy company in the world – Saudi Aramco
- RIL – became the 46th largest company by market-cap
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

**37.** India has ranked third among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas in the last decade, as per the latest Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) by the FAO. The assessment examined employment in the forestry sector in which India has reported the maximum employment in the forestry sector in the world. India accounts for 2% of the total global forest area. Globally, 12.5 million people were employed in the forestry sector. Out of this, India accounted for 6.23 million, or nearly 50%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Latest Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) – by the FAO
- Indian ranked – 3rd – among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas
- India – reported the maximum employment in the forestry sector
- India accounts for – 2% of the total global forest area.
- Global Employment in Forestry Sector – 12.5 million | India – 6.23 million (50%)
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu

**38.** With almost 30 cameras for every 1,000 people, Hyderabad has made it to the world's top 20 most surveilled cities. It has got the 16th position. The List was topped by Taiyuan, China. The Comparitech research has also highlighted the 20 most populated cities in the world. Delhi ranked 2nd and the list was topped by Tokyo, Japan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'World's Most Surveilled Cities' list = Topped by – Taiyuan, China | Hyderabad – 16th
- 'World's Most Populated Cities' list = Topped by – Tokyo, Japan | Delhi – 2nd



- HQs of Comparitech – London

**39.** Demand for electricity in India will be lower by 7 to 17% due to covid-19 by 2025, as per a new report by TERI. All 10 of India's largest power-consuming states will see a demand drop between 5 to 15%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- As per TERI – Demand for electricity in India will be lower by 7 to 17% due to covid-19 – by 2025
- HQs of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Ajay Mathur

**40.** As per "Cooling Emissions and Policy Synthesis Report" released on July 17, 2020 by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), the world will need more than 10 billion new cooling appliances by 2050. An estimated 3.6 billion appliances are currently in use. The report was authored by nine experts under the guidance of a 15-member steering committee. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Cooling Emissions and Policy Synthesis Report" – released by UNEP & IEA
- The world will need more than 10 billion new cooling appliances – by 2050 (currently 3.6 billion appliances in use)
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol

**41.** The Union Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has virtually launched a report titled 'India Report-Digital Education June 2020', on the innovative measures adopted by the states and union territories to bridge learning gaps during the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched – a report titled 'India Report-Digital Education June 2020'
- Ministry of HRD – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

**42.** Around 28 important road-projects along with other construction works worth Rs 175 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna 2 (PMGSY-II) were inaugurated by Jitendra Singh in Jammu and Kashmir. Himachal Pradesh has topped in terms of performance under PMGSY II followed by Jammu & Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jitendra Singh inaugurated – Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna 2 (PMGSY-II) – in J & K



- Ranks: Topped by – Himachal Pradesh | 2nd – J & K
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya
- J & K Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – G C Murmu

**43.** Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar has released the detailed report of the 4th All India Tiger Estimation-2018 on the eve of 'Global Tiger Day' in New Delhi. LIDAR survey technology will be used for the first time for effective fodder and water augmentation in forest area. India's tiger population now stands at 2967 which is 70% or 7 out of every 10 tigers in the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prakash Javadekar released – 4th "All India Tiger Estimation-2018" report
- July 29 – Global Tiger Day
- LIDAR survey technology – to be used for the first time in forest area
- India's tiger population – 2967 (70% of world's tiger population)

**44.** According to report titled "The Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of potential" released by UNICEF along with Pure Earth, India has over 275 million children with blood lead levels higher than considered safe. This is also the highest number of lead poisoning cases in children of any country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "The Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of potential"
- Report released by = UNICEF + Pure Earth
- India – the highest number of lead poisoning cases in children (over 275 million children)
- UNICEF HQs – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore
- HQs of Pure Earth – New York, USA | President – Richard Fuller

**45.** England all-rounder Ben Stokes has become the No. 1 all-rounder in Tests after beating West Indies captain Jason Holder to the top spot. He has also jumped to the 3rd spot in ICC Test rankings for batsmen. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ben Stokes (England) – became No.1 all-rounder in latest ICC test ranking
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Shashank Manohar | CEO – Manu Sawhney



**46.** As per the report titled "Status of Tigers Co-predators and Prey in India" released by Environment Ministry, Uttarakhand's "Corbett Tiger Reserve" has reported the highest tiger density among India's 50 reserves with 14 tigers per 100 sq km and total 231 inside the reserve. Out of the 50 tiger reserves in the country, 3 reserves - Dampa (Mizoram), Buxa (West Bengal) & Palamau (Jharkhand) have no tigers left now. There are currently 13 tiger range countries in the world. In the state-wise distribution of tigers, Madhya Pradesh was found with maximum tigers at 526 followed by Karnataka at 524 and 442 in Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Corbett Tiger Reserve" reported the highest Tiger density per 100 sq km (231) – located in Uttarakhand
- State-wise distribution of tigers: 1st Madhya Pradesh | 2nd – Karnataka | 3rd – Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**47.** As per the report titled, "Implications of AI on the Indian Economy" released by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), a substantial increase in Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Indian firms can result in a 2.5% increase in India's GDP in the immediate term. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Implications of AI on the Indian Economy" report – by ICRIER
- Substantial increase in AI by Indian firms can increase India's GDP – by 2.5%
- HQs of ICRIER – New Delhi | Chairperson – Isher Judge Ahluwalia

**48.** Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of 'Aspirational Districts' ranked by government think-tank Niti Aayog for the February-June 2020. Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh) have been placed at the second and third positions respectively. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The list of 'Aspirational Districts' – released by Niti Aayog (for Feb-June 2020)
- 1st – Bijapur (Chhattisgarh) | 2nd – Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) | 3rd – Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**49.** According to a report released by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) and an international anti-slavery organisation Walk Free, Commonwealth countries accounts for about 40% of people living in conditions of modern slavery in the world and 54 nations were found lacking in actions to eradicate modern slavery by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- According to a report released by = CHRI + Walk Free
- Commonwealth countries accounts for about = 40% of people living in conditions of modern slavery
- HQs of CHRI – New Delhi | Director – Sanjoy Hazarika

**50.** According to research published in the Nature Climate Change journal, Polar bears could go extinct by 2100. There are approximately 25,000 polar bears left in the wild today. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- According to research published in 'Nature Climate Change' journal – “Polar bears” may go extinct – by 2100



# Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Bharti Airtel climbed 2% by selling 25% stake of its Data Centre business known as "Nxtra" for \$235 million to the US based Carlyle Group. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Carlyle Group (USA) – acquired 25% stake (\$235 million) – in "Nxtra" - an arm of Bharti Airtel
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal

2. Reliance Industries (RIL) announced a stake sale of 0.39% in its digital services subsidiary, Jio Platforms, to US based Intel Capital for Rs 1,894.50 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Intel Capital – to acquire 0.39% stake (Rs 1,894.50 Cr) – in Jio Platforms
- HQs of Intel – California, USA | CEO – Robert (Bob) H. Swan
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

3. US private equity giant KKR has agreed to acquire about 54% stake in Mumbai-based drug manufacturer JB Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals for Rs 3,100 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- KKR (USA) – to acquire 54% stake (Rs 3,100 Cr) – in JB Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals (Mumbai)

4. The online financial services provider Paytm will acquire general insurance company Raheja QBE in a deal worth around \$76 million or Rs 570 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Paytm – to acquire – Raheja QBE – worth around \$76 million or Rs 570 Cr
- Paytm HQs – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Paytm CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- Paytm Payment Bank CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta | Paytm General Ins. CEO – Vineet Arora
- HQS of Raheja QBE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Pankaj Arora

5. Qualcomm Ventures, the investment arm of Qualcomm Incorporated will invest Rs 730 Cr in Jio Platforms for a 0.15% stake. This is the 12th investor to pick up a stake in Reliance Industries Ltd. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- Qualcomm Ventures (12th investor) – acquired 0.15% stake (Rs 730 Cr) – in Jio Platforms
- HQs of Qualcomm Ventures – California, USA | Head – Quinn Li
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

**6.** The Competition Commission (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 9.09% stake in Escorts Ltd by Kubota Corporation, and 40% stake acquisition in Kubota Agricultural Machinery India by Escorts under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI approved – acquisition of 9.09% stake in Escorts Ltd – by Kubota Corporation
- CCI approved – acquisition of 40% stake in Kubota Agricultural Machinery India – by Escorts
- Acquisition approved under – Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.
- CCI HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta
- HQs of Escorts – Haryana | Chairperson – Mr. Nikhil Nanda

**7.** Google will acquire a 7.7% stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 33,737 Cr. Global investments have cumulatively brought more than Rs 1.52 lakh Cr (\$20 billion) into Reliance Industries' technology and telecom arm. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google – will acquire a 7.7% stake (Rs 33,737 Cr) – in Jio Platforms
- Google HQs – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

**8.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its nod to Aceso Company Pte Ltd's acquisition of 58.92% stake in HealthCare Global Enterprises Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aceso Company Pte – to acquire 58.92% stake – in HealthCare Global Enterprises
- HQs of HCEG – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – BS Ajai Kumar
- CCI HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta



**9.** L&T Technology Services will acquire 100% stake in Texas-based Orchestra Technology, which provides engineering services and solutions for telecom network management for USD 25 million or about Rs 187 crore. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- L&T – will acquire 100% stake (Rs 187 Cr) – in Orchestra Technology
- HQs of L&T Tech – Vadodara, Gujarat | CMD – Keshab Panda
- HQs of Orchestra Technology – Texas, USA | Founder and CEO – Anuj Jain

**10.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its nod to acquisition of Krishnapatnam Port Company Ltd by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. The proposed transaction involves acquisition of equity shareholding along with management control of 100% of the total issued. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI approved – acquisition of ‘Krishnapatnam Port Company Ltd’ – by Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd
- HQs of KPCL – Nellore, Andhra Pradesh | Managing Director – C. Sasidhar
- HQs of APSEZ – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani
- CCI HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta

**11.** Tata Capital will invest Rs 225 Cr or \$30 million for acquiring 0.85% stake in Biocon's biosimilar business Biocon Biologics. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Capital – to acquire 0.85% stake (Rs 225 Cr or \$30 million) – in Biocon Biologics India
- HQs of Tata Capital – Mumbai | CEO – Rajiv Sabharwal
- HQs of Biocon Biologics – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Dr. Christiane Hamacher



# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

1. Chandigarh based 3 Base Repair Depot (BRD) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the city-based Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) have developed an indigenous control system for two Mi-17 helicopters for spraying atomised pesticides to arrest locust breeding. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- 3 BRDs of IAF + CSIO = developed – an indigenous control system for two Mi-17 helicopters
- Pesticides namely – “Malathion” – to arrest locust breeding
- IAF Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
- HQs of CSIO – Chandigarh, Punjab | Director – Ravindra Kumar Sinha

2. “Kotak Mahindra Bank” has partnered “Innoviti Payment Solutions” to enable the bank’s customers to make debit-card purchases on equated monthly instalments (EMI) from stores. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + Innoviti Payment Solutions = partnership to enable debit-card purchases on EMI
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Uday Kotak
- HQs of Innoviti Payment Solutions – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Rajeev Agrawal

3. NLC India has signed a pact with state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) to form a joint venture (JV) to develop 5,000 megawatts of solar and thermal power assets across the country. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- NLC India + CIL = to form a JV to develop 5,000 megawatts of solar and thermal power
- HQs of NLC – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CMD – Rakesh Kumar
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, WB | Director – Anil Kumar Jha | CMD – Pramod Agrawal

4. Resident doctors of AIIMS with the help of IIT-Delhi students have developed a mobile application named "COPAL-19" to track real-time COVID-19 patients in the hospital, who can become potential plasma donors 28 days after recovery. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- AIIMS + IIT-Delhi = developed a mobile application named "COPAL-19"
- HQs of AIIMS – New Delhi | Director of AIIMS-Delhi – Dr Randeep Guleria



5. Maharashtra Government and the UK India Business Council Business Council signed an MoU to Foster Sustainable Business Relations Between UK And India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UK IBC + Maharashtra = MoU to Foster Sustainable Business Relations Between UK And India
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

6. IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life), promoted by Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India, has associated with BOB Financial Services Limited (BOB Financial), to offer a unique group insurance covering that provides financial support upon hospitalisation or on COVID-19 diagnosis. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IndiaFirst Life Ins. + BOB Financial = to offer a unique group insurance on COVID-19 diagnosis
- IndiaFirst Life Insurance Co. – promoted by = BOB + UBI
- HQs of IndiaFirst Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – R. M. Vishakha
- BOB HQs – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha

7. With an objective to support and build a strong ecosystem for Indian Apps, MeitY in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission – Niti Aayog launched “Digital India AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge” for Indian tech entrepreneurs and Startups. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MeitY + Atal Innovation Mission = “Digital India AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge”
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)
- Atal Innovation Mission – under “NITI Aayog” (HQs – New Delhi)
- CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

8. Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed a License Agreement and Transfer of Technology (LATOt) with DRDO for Akash Missile Weapon System (Indian Army Variant). BDL is the lead integrator for Akash Weapon System. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BDL + DRDO = License Agreement & LAToT – For “Akash Missile Weapon System”



- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra
- DRDO: HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddyz

**9.** Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has entered into a corporate agency partnership with Bajaj Allianz Life to offer the life insurance solutions of the latter to its customers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- KVB + Bajaj Allianz Life = Bancassurance agreement
- HQs of KVB – Karur, Tamil Nadu | CEO – P. R. Seshadri
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Life – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tarun Chugh

**10.** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced a partnership with Facebook to provide training on digital safety, online well being and training on Augmented Reality (AR) to students and teachers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBSE + Facebook = to provide training on digital safety & Augmented Reality to students & teachers
- Parent Org. of CBSE – HRD Ministry (Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shri Manoj Ahuja
- Facebook: HQs – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg

**11.** The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) have announced the launch of a partnership between the USAID-supported South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE) and MNRE's national technical institutions for clean energy development. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SAGE (USAID) + MNRE = partnership for clean energy development
- USAID HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Mark Green
- Raj Kumar Singh – Minister of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

**12.** India and Afghanistan have signed 5 agreements for developing educational infrastructure in 4 Afghan provinces. The five memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed under the High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) programme being implemented by India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- India + Afghanistan = signed 5 agreements – for developing educational infrastructure in 4 Afghan provinces
- Under – HICDP programme
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani

**13.** Indian Railways has set up a solar power plant in Bina, located in the state of Madhya Pradesh to directly power the Railway Overhead Line. The pilot project of 1.7 mega watt solar power plant has been set up by Indian Railways in collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL) on railway land. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways + BHEL = set up a solar power plant – in Bina, Madhya Pradesh
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal

**14.** The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Microsoft have announced a strategic partnership aimed at providing digital skills to over 1 lakh youth in the country over the next 12 months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NSDC + Microsoft = strategic partnership – to provide digital skills to over 1 lakh youth – in next 12 months
- Microsoft: HQs – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella

**15.** Ride-hailing platform Ola has entered into a partnership with Flipkart-owned PhonePe to allow users to pay for rides using PhonePe within the Ola app. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ola + PhonePe = to allow users to pay for rides using PhonePe
- HQs of Ola – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Bhavish Aggarwal
- PhonePE HQs – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam

**16.** Deutsche Bank has agreed a strategic, multiyear partnership with Google to give the German lender access to cloud services and drive innovation in technology-based financial products for clients. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Deutsche Bank + Google = multiyear partnership – to give access to cloud services and drive innovation



- HQs of Deutsche Bank – Frankfurt, Germany | CEO – Christian Sewing | President – Karl von Rohr
- Google HQs – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

**17.** SBM Bank India, the first bank to receive universal banking license from the Reserve Bank of India, has announced its partnership with Mastercard to revolutionise domestic and cross-border payments and remittances through “Mastercard Send”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBM Bank India + Mastercard = to revolutionise domestic and cross-border payments and remittances
- SBM Bank India – 1st bank to receive universal banking license from RBI
- SBM Bank India - is promoted by the government of Mauritius
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)

**18.** Star Health and Allied Insurance has entered into a strategic partnership with Karur Vysya Bank to offer innovative health insurance solutions to the bank’s customers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Star Health Ins. + KVB = to offer innovative health insurance solutions
- HQs of KVB – Karur, Tamil Nadu | CEO – P. R. Seshadri
- HQs of Star Health Insurance – Chennai, TN | CEO – V. Jagannathan

**19.** National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under Ministry of AYUSH and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) under Department of Agricultural Research and Education have signed an MoU to conserve Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources (MAPGRs). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NMPB + ICAR-NBPGR = an MoU – to conserve Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources
- NMPB – comes under Ministry of AYUSH
- ICAR-NBPGR – comes under Dept of Agricultural Research and Education | HQ – New Delhi
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | President – Narendra Singh Tomar



**20.** Indian Coast Guard and Indonesian Coast Guard have signed a MoU on 'Maritime Safety and Security' as part of their Indo-Pacific visions to establish rules-based order amid China's growing belligerence in the region. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Coast Guard + Indonesian Coast Guard = MoU on 'Maritime Safety and Security'
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan,
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

**21.** IIT Hyderabad collaborated with NVIDIA, a multinational technology company, to establish India's first "NVIDIA AI Technology Centre" (NVAITC) to accelerate research on Artificial Intelligence and its commercial adoption. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Hyderabad + NVIDIA = to establish India's first "NVIDIA AI Technology Centre"
- HQs of NVIDIA – California, USA | President and CEO – Jensen Huang

**22.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has signed an MoU with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for data exchange between the two organizations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI + CBDT = an MoU for data exchange
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – P C Mody

**23.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has renewed an MoU with the International Energy Agency (IEA) to increase collaboration and advance progress on sustainability with an increased focus on energy sector resilience in Asia and the Pacific. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB + IEA = to increase collaboration and advance progress on sustainability of energy sector resilience
- ADB: HQs – [Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | President – [Masatsugu Asakawa](#)
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol





**24.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Qatar-based Education Above All (EAA) Foundation have signed an agreement to carry out \$100 million in joint projects to put out-of-school and at-risk children into quality primary education. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB + EAA = signed agreement to carry out \$100 million – in joint projects related to Education
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa
- HQs of EAA – Doha, Qatar | Chairperson – Sheikha Moza bint Nasser

**25.** CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) and IIT Alumni Council signed an MoU for COVID-19 disease research and patient data analysis. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CSIR-IGIB + IIT Alumni Council = an MoU for COVID-19 disease research and patient data analysis
- HQs of IGIB – New Delhi | Director – Anurag Agrawal

**26.** The Jharkhand government has signed an MoU with private lender HDFC Bank to offer digital payment solutions to traffic violators or the state's transport departments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jharkhand + HDFC Bank = an MoU to offer digital payment solutions to traffic violators
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Aditya Puri
- Tagline – "We understand your world"

**27.** India and UAE have agreed to have an 'Open Sky Agreement' by operating special repatriation flights between the two countries from July 12 to 26. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + UAE = 'Open Sky Agreement' by operating special repatriation flights
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**28.** Loyal Textile Mills Limited has launched world's 1st reusable PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) with Triple Viral Shield. The series has been launched in collaboration with Reliance Industries India and HeiQ from Switzerland. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Loyal Textile Mills + Reliance + HeiQ = launched world's 1st reusable PPE – with Triple Viral Shield
- HQs of Loyal Textile Mills – Chennai, Tamilnadu | Chairperson – Valli M. Ramaswami
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
- HQs of HeiQ – Switzerland | CEO – Carlo Centonze

**29.** Flipkart has signed an MoU with Karnataka MSME and Mines department to promote the states arts, crafts and handloom sectors by bringing them on to e-commerce and providing market access. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Flipkart + Karnataka = to promote the states arts, crafts and handloom sectors
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**30.** National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) in collaboration with the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) will establish 'Fish Cryobanks' in different parts of the country. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NFDB + NBFGR = to establish 'Fish Cryobanks'
- HQs of NFDB – Hyderabad, Telangana | HQs of NBFGR – Lucknow, UP

**31.** The government of Maharashtra along with the State Bank of India is setting up a stress fund to restart stuck slum rehabilitation projects in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and other urban areas of the state. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Maharashtra + SBI = setting up a stress fund to restart stuck slum rehabilitation projects in the state
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- SBI Bank HQs – Mumbai, Maharashtra | SBI Bank Chairman – Rajnish Kumar
- SBI Bank MD & CEO – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Deputy MD & CFO – Chalasani Venkat Nageswar
- SBI Life CEO – Sanjeev Nautiyal



**32.** Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has signed an agreement with the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) to promote electric vehicles and install public EV charging stations and related infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- EESL + NOIDA = to promote electric vehicles and install public EV charging stations
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | Chairman – Rajeev Sharma
- HQs of NOIDA – Noida, UP | Chairman – Alok Tandon

**33.** “T-Hub” has partnered with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Digital India. T-Hub will lead Digital India’s Scale Up program for hardware and IoT startups across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “T-Hub” + MeitY + Digital India = to lead Digital India’s Scale Up program for hardware and IoT startups
- HQs of T-Hub – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Ravi Narayan
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)

**34.** Ministry of Tribal Affairs has hosted a Webinar along with Facebook India for sensitization of Members of Parliament (MPs) from Scheduled Tribe (ST) Constituencies of India on “Going Online As Leaders (GOAL) Project”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs + Facebook India = hosted a Webinar for sensitization of Members of Parliament
- ‘GOAL’ Project – Going Online As Leaders
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jhrakhand)
- Facebook: HQs – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg

**35.** Visa has announced its partnership with Federal Bank to avail ‘Visa Secure’ to the bank’s cardholders. Visa Secure is a global authentication program that uses the latest standards of the EMV 3DS (3D Secure) protocol. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Visa + Federal Bank = to avail ‘Visa Secure’ to the bank’s cardholders
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly
- HQs Federal Bank – Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan



**36.** Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has signed a contract for the construction and supply of two autonomous electric ferries for ASKO Maritime AS of Norway with an option to build two more identical vessels. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cochin Shipyard – to construct two autonomous electric ferries for ASKO Maritime AS – of Norway
- Norway – Oslo – Krone

**37.** The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has signed an MoU with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to access the centralised online database on FIRs and stolen vehicles. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NATGRID + NCRB = to access the centralised online database on FIRs and stolen vehicles
- HQs of NATGRID – Bengaluru, Karnataka
- HQs of NCRB – New Delhi | Director – Ram Phal Pawar

**38.** Google has announced a new partnership with Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to digitise classrooms across the country. Google will train over 1 million teachers in 22,000 schools across India by the end of 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google + CBSE = to digitise classrooms across the country
- Google – to train over 1 million teachers by the end of 2020
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shri Manoj Ahuja
- Google HQs – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

**39.** The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed an MoU with Defence PSU Bharat Electronics (BEL), to explore emerging global opportunities in the airport business. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AAI + BEL = signed an MoU – to explore global opportunities in the airport business
- HQs of AAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Arvind Singh
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava



**40.** India joined Chile and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) to co-host the High-Level Political Forum side-event “On the road to the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021: Highlighting health and nutritional benefits through sustainable production and consumption of fruits and vegetables”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Chile + FAO = to co-host the High-Level Political Forum side-event
- Chile – Santiago – Peso
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu

**41.** NITI Aayog’s flagship Atal Innovation Mission, (AIM) has teamed up with other Ministries and partners to support Startups with COVID-19 innovative Solutions and to further fight Covid- 19 pandemic. AIM today has also coordinated and concluded a series of virtual COVID-19 Demo-Days. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AIM + other Ministries = to support Startups with COVID-19 innovative Solutions
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant)
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**42.** Leading stock exchange BSE has signed a pact with IIT Alumni Council to encourage listing of startups and develop a 'high investor depth' platform for such new generation companies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BSE + IIT Alumni Council – to encourage listing of startups and develop a 'high investor depth'
- HQs of IITAC – New Delhi | President – Ravi Sharma
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sethurathnam Ravi

**43.** UNICEF India has partnered with FICCI to jointly develop “#Reimagine Campaign” to support the most vulnerable populations and children during the ongoing COVID-19 response and its aftermath in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UNICEF + FICCI = to jointly develop “#Reimagine Campaign” to support the most vulnerable populations
- UNICEF HQs – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sangita Reddy



**44.** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs along with Smart Cities Mission and The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) opened registration for India Cycles4Change Challenge. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoHUA + SCM + ITDP = opened registration for India Cycles4Change Challenge
- SCM works under – Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoS – Hardeep Singh Puri)
- HQs of ITDP – New York, USA | Exec. Director – Clayton Lane

**45.** On World Youth Skills Day, UNICEF India has announced a partnership with SAP India to provide career counselling to young people in the country that will improve their employability skills in a Covid and post-Covid era. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UNICEF India + SAP India = partnership to provide career counselling to young people in the country
- UNICEF HQs – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore
- HQs of SAP SE – Walldorf, Germany | MD & President – Kulmeet Bawa

**46.** NTPC Ltd has signed an MoU with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to explore opportunities for investments in areas like renewable energy, power distribution among other areas of mutual interest in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NTPC + NIIF = an MoU to explore opportunities for investments in renewable energy & power distribution
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh
- HQs of NIIFL – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Sujoy Bose

**47.** U.S. DOE National labs and India U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) have signed an MoU to collaborate on India's first-ever Solar Decathlon competition in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- U.S. DOE National labs + IUSSTF = India's first-ever Solar Decathlon competition – in 2021



**48.** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the high school curriculum for Grade XI and XII for the current academic year (2020 – 2021) has been developed in collaboration with IBM. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBSE + IBM = to develop an integration of 'AI' in the High School for Grade XI and XII for 2020-21
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shri Manoj Ahuja
- IBM HQs – Armonk, New York, United States | CEO – [Arvind Krishna](#)

**49.** The Tamil Nadu government has signed 8 new MoUs worth Rs 10,399 Cr. These projects will create 13,507 jobs across the state in solar cells, data centres and industrial parks. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – signed 8 new MoUs – to create employment in the state
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**50.** India and Russia are exploring joint investment projects in Asia and Africa, as well as interaction in the field of digital technologies. Both India and Russia also plan to jointly create an ecosystem of startups and venture funds for the development of information technologies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Russia = to explore joint projects in Asia and Africa & to create an ecosystem of startups and venture funds
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**51.** India and the USA have signed an MoU to create India's 1st strategic petroleum reserves in the USA. The USA has 714 million barrels of oil storage capacity in its strategic petroleum reserve (SPR), the world's largest supply of emergency crude oil. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + USA = an MoU to create India's 1st strategic petroleum reserves in the USA
- USA's oil storage capacity – 714 million barrels (world's largest supply of emergency crude oil)
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Donald Trump



**52.** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) and YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India) of UNICEF have signed a partnership to empower young people and to mobilise 1 Crore youth volunteers in India to achieve the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoYAS + UNICEF (YuWaah) = partnership to empower young people and to mobilise 1 Crore youth volunteers in India
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – Kiren Rijju (Constituency – Arunachal West)

**53.** A formal MoU was signed between the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for sharing of data by CBDT to MSME. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBDT + MSME = an MoU for sharing of data
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Pramod Chandra Mody
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

**54.** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the exchange of information. This MoU supersedes the MoU signed between CBDT and CBIC in the year 2015. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBDT + CBIC = signed an MoU for the exchange of information
- It supersedes the MoU signed – in 2015
- CBDT & CBIC – both works under – Ministry of Finance
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Pramod Chandra Mody
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar

**55.** The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India and Union Bank of India, after its amalgamation with Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank, have announced a Corporate Agency Tie-up by which LIC policies will be distributed through the bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- LIC + UBI = Corporate Agency Tie-up to distribute LIC policies
- Amalgamation = UBI + Andhra Bank + Corporation Bank





- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G.
- Tagline of UBI – “Good People to Bank With”

**56.** The Ministry of Defence has signed a Rs 557 Cr contract with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) for procurement of 1,512 mine plough (MP) for the Indian army’s main battle tank T-90. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Defence Ministry + BEML = contract for procurement of 1,512 mine plough for Army’s main battle tank ‘T-90’
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)
- HQs of BEML – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Deepak Kumar Hota

**57.** Amazon Pay has tied up with Acko General Insurance Ltd to offer two-wheeler and four-wheeler insurance policies in India. Now, customers can buy auto insurance from Amazon Pay page, Amazon app or mobile website. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amazon Pay + Acko General Insurance Ltd = to offer two-wheeler & four-wheeler insurance policies
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos
- HQs of AGIL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Varun Dua

**58.** ICICI Lombard, under its Group Safeguard Insurance policy, has launched Hospital Daily cash benefit, a sachet-based group insurance product, in collaboration with PhonePe. It is a customized hospitalization policy that will allow PhonePe users to get an assured amount if they are hospitalized due to injury or illnesses, including COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICICI Lombard + PhonePe = launched ‘Hospital Daily cash benefit’
- PhonePE HQs – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

**59.** In a bid to develop floating solar power projects with a total capacity of 500 MW, the Green Energy Development Corporation of Odisha Limited (GEDCOL) and the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) have signed an agreement to form a joint venture company. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- GEDCOL + NHPC = signed an agreement to develop floating solar power projects (Capacity - 500 MW)
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh

**60.** To promote healthy lifestyle through holistic measures, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in association with hygiene brand "Savlon", has launched an awareness programme titled "Illness to Wellness". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ASSOCHAM + Savlon = launched "Illness to Wellness" - an awareness programme
- HQs of ASSOCHAM – New Delhi | President – Niranjan Hiranandani

**61.** The Punjab government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, in the area of skill development. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Punjab + IIT Ropar = signed an MoU in the area of skill development
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

**62.** Airtel Payments Bank and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have announced a partnership to skill the youth in rural India and enable them to find employment opportunities in the financial services sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Airtel Payments Bank + NSDC = partnership to skill the youth in rural India
- HQs of APB – New Delhi | CEO – Anubrata Biswas
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar

**63.** Andhra Pradesh Government has signed an MoU with the milk cooperative giant AMUL (Anand Milk Union Limited) to provide encouragement to the empowerment of women self-help groups and by encouraging the milk cooperatives in government sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh + AMUL = to encourage the empowerment of women self-help groups
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



- HQs of AMUL – Anand, Gujarat | MD – Rupinder Singh Sodhi

**64.** The state-owned Bank of Maharashtra has joined hands with 'Uniken' to secure its Internet banking channels as also mobile, card, call centres and ATMs, among others, against cyber fraud. The bank will use Uniken's "REL-ID technology" for Omni-channel security. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BoM + Uniken = partnership for Omni-channel security
- Technology to be used by BoM – "REL-ID technology"
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – One Family One Bank
- HQs of Uniken – New Jersey, USA | CEO – Bimal Gandhi

**65.** All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Nagpur in collaboration with IIT Jodhpur and IIT Nagpur has indigenously designed and developed a smart wristband for effective tracking and monitoring of COVID positive and suspect patients. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AIIMS Nagpur + IIT Jodhpur + IIT Nagpur = designed and developed a smart wristband for suspect patients

**66.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have agreed to partner toward a 'green recovery' for members confronting the harsh economic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB + GCF = agreed to partner toward a 'green recovery'
- ADB: HQs – [Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | President – [Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | Member countries – 68
- HQs of GCF – Inche on, South Korea | Executive Director – Yannick Glemarec

**67.** IIT-Delhi and Wells Fargo have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of a peptide-based 'ELISA' test - a home kit for Covid-19 testing. ELISA is short for 'serological enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT-Delhi + Wells Fargo = to develop peptide-based 'ELISA' test - a home kit for Covid-19 testing
- HQs of Wells Fargo – California, USA | CEO – Charles W. Scharf



**68.** Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has signed an exclusive worldwide marketing and management agreement with IMG Reliance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shikhar Dhawan + IMG Reliance = signed an exclusive worldwide marketing and management agreement
- HQs of IMG Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**69.** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched RuPay commercial card for entrepreneurs and business owners. Fintech startup EnKash and SBM Bank India will become the first two organisations to offer this card. The card is powered by API platform Yap. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI + EnKash + SBM Bank India + Yap = launched 'RuPay Commercial Card'
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe
- HQs of EnKash – Mumbai

**70.** The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has entered into a partnership with IIT Delhi under the HRD Ministry's flagship 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' (UBA). It will boost livelihood opportunities and income generation for tribal communities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- TRIFED + IIT Delhi = partnership to boost livelihood opportunities
- 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' is a flagship of – HRD Ministry (Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna

**71.** In a bid to bring increased investments into the state, the Tamil Nadu government has signed 16 MoUs worth Rs 5,137 crore aimed at creating employment opportunities for over 6,555 people. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – signed 16 MoUs – to create employment opportunities in the state
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



**72.** The Serum Institute of India has partnered with 'AstraZeneca' for manufacturing the Oxford vaccine candidate for COVID-19. It has submitted its application to the DCGI, seeking permission for conducting the phase 2 and 3 trials of the potential vaccine 'Covidshield'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SII + AstraZeneca = to manufacture Oxford vaccine candidate for COVID-19
- 'SII' submitted its application to the DCGI – For conducting the phase 2 and 3 trials of 'Covidshield' vaccine
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla
- HQs of AstraZeneca – Cambridge UK | CEO – Pascal Soriot

**73.** Facebook Inc's WhatsApp is planning to team up with more Indian lenders to expand banking services in rural areas and for lower income individuals. WhatsApp, which counts India as its biggest market with 400 million users, has already tied up with banks including ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WhatsApp – to team up with more Indian lenders – to expand banking services in rural areas
- India – the biggest market for Whatsapp – with 400 million users
- HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum

**74.** The Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to an agreement between India and Zimbabwe on cooperation in the field of traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy. The MoU was signed on November 3, 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Zimbabwe = agreement on cooperation in traditional systems of medicine & homeopathy (MoU-2018)
- Zimbabwe – Harare – Dollar

**75.** The SIDBI has launched an online knowledge portal "MSMESaksham" for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in partnership with credit information company TransUnion CIBIL. It will guide MSMEs seeking seamless and quick access to finance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SIDBI + TransUnion CIBIL = launched an online knowledge portal "MSMESaksham" – For MSMEs
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa
- HQs of TransUnion CIBIL – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajesh Kumar



**76.** BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) has collaborated with Fiserv Inc. to advance its digital strategy and keep pace with rapidly changing consumer expectations and support the release of a variety of non-high-tech products, including contactless credit cards, tokenisation, and integration with brand wallets and virtual credit cards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BFSL + Fiserv = collaboration for digital transformation
- HQs of of BFSL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Manish Banerjea
- HQs of Fiserv – Brookfield, USA | Executive Chairman – Jeffery W. Yabuki

**77.** The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) has signed an MoU with Industrial Extension Bureau (iNDEXTb) of Government of Gujarat focused on accelerating industrial development in the state. It will also aim to proactively enhance the business environment and strengthen collaboration with British businesses in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UKIBC + Gujarat = an MoU for accelerating industrial development in the state
- HQs of UKIBC – London, UK | New CEO – Jayant Krishna
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**78.** GAIL (India) and Carbon Clean Solutions (CCSL) have signed an MoU for exploring project development opportunities in Compressed Biogas (CBG) value chain in India. The MoU aims at building a closer strategic partnership between the two companies by jointly working on CBG projects. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GAIL + CCSL = MoU for exploring project development opportunities in CBG value chain in India
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | CMD – Manoj Jain
- HQs of CCSL – Lodon, UK | CEO – Aniruddha Sharma

**79.** The Centre, in collaboration with the World Bank, has decided to convert large area of ravines in Gwalior-Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh into arable (cultivable) land. It will also create employment opportunities and lead to substantive development of the region. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government + World Bank = to convert large area of ravines into arable (cultivable) land



- Ravines Landform – in Gwalior-Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh

**80.** Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and Praj Industries have announced signing an MoU under which they will jointly drive application development of advanced biofuels for use in industry and transportation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ARAI + Praj Industries = an MoU to jointly drive application development of advanced biofuels
- HQs of ARAI – Pune, Maharashtra | HQs of Praj Industries Ltd – Gandhidham, Gujarat

**81.** State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed an agreement with IIT Kanpur for training, research, and entrepreneurship development in smart grid technology. As per the memorandum of association, the PFC will provide financial assistance of Rs 2.38 Cr to IIT-K under its CSR initiative. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PFC + IIT Kanpur = Training, research, and entrepreneurship development in smart grid technology – Rs 2.38 Cr
- HQs of PFC – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon

**82.** World's prominent Financial software solution provider, "Craft Silicon" has announced a partnership with 'PayU' to innovate and accelerate digital loan repayment solutions for Small Finance Banks, Micro-Lending institutions and NBFCs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Craft Silicon + PayU = partnership to innovate and accelerate digital loan repayment solutions for SFBs & NBFCs
- HQs of Craft Silicon – Nairobi, Kenya | CEO – Kamal Budhabhatti
- HQs of PayU – Netherlands | CEO – Laurent le Moal

**83.** French energy giant Total SA and the country's top oil firm Indian Oil Corp (IOC) have announced a 50:50 joint venture partnership to manufacture and market high-quality bitumen derivatives and specialty products for the growing road-building industry in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Total SA + IOC = Joint Venture partnership – to manufacture and market high-quality bitumen
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya



- HQs of Total SA – Paris, France | Chairman & CEO – Patrick Pouyanne

**84.** The United Kingdom and India are extending their existing scientific research collaboration with 5 new medicinal research projects worth 8 million pounds to tackle anti-microbial resistance (AMR). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + UK = extending their existing scientific research collaboration with 5 new projects – worth 8 million pounds
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

**85.** Reliance Power has signed a loan agreement, along with Japanese utility JERA, for \$642 million with banks for a new 745 megawatt gas-based project in Bangladesh. This is a natural gas combined-cycle power plant. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Reliance Power + JERA = loan agreement to set up 745 megawatt gas-based project – in Bangladesh
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
- HQs of JERA – Tokyo, Japan | CEO – Toshiro Kudama

**86.** NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has joined hands with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation to launch "AIM iCREST" - an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a Robust Ecosystem focused on creating high performing Startups. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AIM + Bill & Melinda Gates + Wadhvani = launched "AIM iCREST" an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program
- AIM Director – Ramanan Ramanathan
- Atal Innovation Mission – under "NITI Aayog" (HQs – New Delhi)
- CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of Wadhvani Foundation – Bangalore, New Delhi & Palo Alto, USA | President & CEO – Ajay Kela





# Books & Authors

1. Vice President of India - M Venkaiah Naidu virtually released a book on "Future of Higher Education - Nine Mega Trends" authored by CA V Pattabhi Ram. The Virtual event was hosted by ICT Academy. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- "Future of Higher Education - Nine Mega Trends" book – authored by V Pattabhi Ram
- The book released by – M Venkaiah Naidu

2. Maruti Suzuki chairman R C Bhargava authored a book on industrialising India namely "Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India". [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- "Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India" book – authored by "R C Bhargava"
- HQs of Maruti Suzuki – New Delhi | Chairman – R C Bhargava | MD & CEO – Kenichi Ayukawa

3. A political thriller, interesting author and journalist Mr Kamlesh Sutar, titled his book as "36 Days: A Political Chronicle of Ambition, Deception, Trust and Betrayal" published by Rupa Publications.

## Key Points:

- "36 Days: A Political Chronicle of Ambition, Deception, Trust and Betrayal" book – by Kamlesh Sutar

4. In the midst of the rising tensions between India and China, a novel named "Mahaveer: The Soldier who never died" tells the tale of the Indo-Chinese battle of Nuranang in 1962. It is authored by A.K. Srikumar along with his wife Rupa Srikumar. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- "Mahaveer: The Soldier who never died" a novel – authored by A.K. Srikumar + Rupa Srikumar

5. Former RBI governor Urjit Patel authored a book titled "Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver". The book focuses on the non-performing assets (NPAs) issue that has afflicted Indian banking in recent years. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- "Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver" book – authored by "Urjit Patel" (Former RBI governor)
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)



**6.** A new biography titled "His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography" on the life and times of Tibetan spiritual leader 'Dalai Lama'. The book is written by Tenzin Geyche Tethong and will be published by Roli Books. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography" book – authored by Tenzin Geyche Tethong
- Dalai Lama – Tibetan spiritual leader

**7.** Ruskin Bond's new book, "A Song of India" is all set to release in July this year. Published by Puffin Books, the book is set in 1951. The illustrated book will mark 70th year of the author's writing journey. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "A Song of India" book – authored by 'Ruskin Bond'
- The book marks 70th year of his writing journey

**8.** Stephen King is back with his new book titled "If It Bleeds" published by Hachette India. Stephen King is one of the most distinguished contemporary authors. He has been the recipient of the 2014 National Medal of Arts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "If It Bleeds" – authored by "Stephen King" (the recipient of the 2014 'National Medal of Arts')
- Published by – Hachette India

**9.** Former Australian captain Steve Waugh, in his book 'The Spirit of Cricket - India' has tried to encapsulate the madness revolving the sport in the country, by travelling the lengths and breadths of the nation before COVID-19 hit globally. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'The Spirit of Cricket - India' book – authored by Steve Waugh (Australian Cricketer)

**10.** Sahitya Akademi Award winner Baldev Singh Sadaknama has written a book 'Suraj Kade Marda Nahi' (sun never dies). The book is on the life of Udhham Singh, whose 80th death anniversary will fall on July 31. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- 'Suraj Kade Marda Nahi' (sun never dies) book – written by Baldev Singh Sadaknama
- The book is on the life of – a martyr "Udham Singh" (80th death anniversary - on July 31)

**11.** Crime writer S Hussain Zaidi has come out with a new novel namely "The Endgame". It talks of politics, betrayal and unimaginable terror. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "The Endgame" novel – written by 'S Hussain Zaidi'

**12.** A book titled "The Pandemic Century" by British medical historian Mark Honigsbaum combines science history, medical sociology and front-line reportage to tell the history of global contagion dating from the Spanish Flu (1918) to the present day coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A book titled "The Pandemic Century" – authored by 'Mark Honigsbaum'

**13.** The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has made some remarks in his new book "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World", about India's foreign policy that carries "three major burdens". The book is scheduled for release on September 7. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World" book – S Jaishankar
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat

**14.** Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Viral Acharya has alleged in his new book "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India" that former Governor Urjit Patel quit prematurely because of attempts to weaken the central bank's autonomy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India" book – Viral Acharya (Former RBI Deputy Governor)

**15.** "Padi Bhavajaalalu" - a Telugu translation of 'Ten Ideologies' book authored by former Union Minister 'S Jaipal Reddy' was unveiled on the occasion of his first death anniversary by Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Padi Bhavajaalalu" - a Telugu translation of 'Ten Ideologies' book – authored by 'S Jaipal Reddy'



**16.** Oscar winner Matthew McConaughey is writing a book titled "Greenlights" based on life-changing adventures. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Greenlights" book – authored by 'Matthew McConaughey' (USA)

**17.** Dubai-based Indian-origin author Avni Doshi released her book in India last year as 'Girl in White Cotton' and it gets a UK release as 'Burnt Sugar'. She is among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2020 Booker Prize for her debut novel 'Burnt Sugar', alongside double Booker winner Hilary Mantel for 'The Mirror and The Light'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Girl in White Cotton' or 'Burnt Sugar' – authored by Avni Doshi (Dubai-based Indian-origin)
- Avni Doshi – shortlisted for the “2020 Booker Prize” – For her novel “Burnt Sugar”
- 'The Mirror and The Light' – authored by Hilary Mantel (UK)



# Obituaries

**1.** Writer, Producer, Director & Actor, Carl Reiner has passed away recently at the age of 98. He was a famous Comedian too. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Carl Reiner (USA) – passed away – Comedian, Writer, Producer, Director & Actor
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Donald Trump

**2.** Former Mizoram Assembly speaker Upa Rokamlova died at a hospital due to prolonged illness. He was 79. [{Read more}](#)

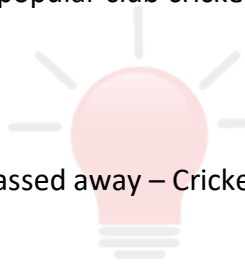
## **Key Points:**

- Upa Rokamlova – passed away – Former Mizoram Assembly speaker

**3.** Sanjay Dobal, a popular club cricketer passed away due to Covid-19-related complications. He was 53. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Sanjay Dobal – passed away – Cricketer



**Smartkeeda**  
The Question Bank

**4.** Everton Weekes, the last surviving member of the famous three 'Ws' passed away recently. He was 95. In his career, Everton Weekes played 48 test matches and made 4,455 runs at an average of 58.61 per innings. That included a world-record five consecutive centuries in 1948. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Everton Weekes (Barbados) – passed away – Cricket
- Barbados – Bridgetown – Barbados Dollar

**5.** Three-time National Award winner, veteran Bollywood Choreographer, Saroj Khan, passed away due to cardiac arrest. She was 71. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Saroj Khan – passed away – Bollywood Choreographer (3 time National Award winner)



6. Italian composer and two times Oscar winner, Ennio Morricone has passed away recently. He was 91. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ennio Morricone (Italy) – passed away – Composer

7. Earl Cameron, who was one of the first Black actors to perform in mainstream British Films has passed away. He was 102. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Earl Cameron (Bermuda) – passed away – Actor
- Bermuda – Hamilton – Bermuda Dollar

8. Noted Journalist and Writer Nagindas Sanghvi has passed away recently. He was 100. He was conferred with 'Padma Shri' by the central government in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nagindas Sanghvi – passed away – Journalist and Writer (Padma Shri in 2019)

9. Ivory Coast's Prime Minister 'Amadou Gon Coulibaly' has passed away after falling ill at a ministerial meeting. He was 61. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amadou Gon Coulibaly – passed away – PM of “Ivory Coast” or “Cote d'Ivoire”
- Cote d'Ivoire – Yamoussoukro – CFA franc

10. Veteran Actor-comedian Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri (Jagdeep), best known for his role as Soorma Bhopali in "Sholay" movie, has passed away. He was 81. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri (Jagdeep) – passed away – Actor

11. Actor Susheel Gowda died by suicide in his home town Mandya, Karnataka. He was 30. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Susheel Gowda – passed away – Actor



**12.** Country Music Hall of Fame musician Charlie Daniels has passed away recently in July. He was 83. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Charlie Daniels (USA) – passed away – Musician

**13.** 1966 World Cup winner and a renowned Football Player, Jack Charlton has passed away recently. He was 85. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jack Charlton (UK) – passed away – Football Player (1966 World Cup winner)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

**14.** Former health minister of Goa, Dr Suresh Amonkar has passed away due to Covid-19 infection. He was 68. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr Suresh Amonkar – passed away – Former Health Minister of Goa
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

**15.** 'Brahm Vasudeva' has passed away recently. He was the Chairman of Hawkins Cookers Ltd. He was 84. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Brahm Vasudeva – passed away – Businessman (Chairman of Hawkins Cookers Ltd)

**16.** Renowned cartoonist Avad Bin Hassan Jami, popularly known as "Jami" passed away in Jamnagar, Gujarat. He was 77. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Avad Bin Hassan Jami – passed away – Cartoonist

**17.** Dutch football player Wim Suurbier, a trusted teammate of Johan Crujff, has passed away recently in July. He was 75. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Wim Suurbier (Netherlands) – passed away – Football player

**18.** Arjuna awardee and Para-Badminton player Ramesh Tikaram has died of coronavirus in Bengaluru. He was 51. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ramesh Tikaram – passed away – Para-Badminton (Arjuna Award)

**19.** Renowned Mathematician and Padma Bhushan awardee C S Seshadri, who founded Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) has passed away recently in July. He was 88. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- C S Seshadri – passed away – Mathematician and Padma Bhushan awardee

**20.** Neela Satyanarayan, Maharashtra's first woman chief election commissioner and celebrated author, poet, succumbed to Covid-19. She was aged 72. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Neela Satyanarayan – passed away – Author, Poet & first woman chief election commissioner of Maharashtra

**21.** One of India's best-known ceramic artists 'Jyotsna Bhatt' passed away. She belongs to Baroda, Gujarat. She was 80. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jyotsna Bhatt (Baroda) – passed away – Ceramic Artists

**22.** The Rev. Cordy Tindell Vivian, a Civil Rights Veteran (Social Worker) has passed away recently. He was 95. He had worked alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and served as head of the organization co-founded by the civil rights icon. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cordy Tindell Vivian – passed away – Social Worker

**23.** US lawmaker John Lewis, a pioneer of the civil rights movement and a long-time member of the US House of Representatives, has passed away recently in July. He was 80. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**





- John Lewis (USA) – passed away - US lawmaker & a pioneer of the civil rights movement

**24.** Shree Purushottam Priyadasji Swamishree Maharaj, the head priest of Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan, Ahmedabad, popularly known as “P P Swami” has recently passed away due to Covid-19. He was 78. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shree Purushottam Priyadasji Swamishree Maharaj (P P Swami) – passed away – Priest
- Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan – Ahmedabad, Gujarat

**25.** Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon has passed away at the age of 85. Lalji Tandon has served in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council for two terms, as MP in the 15th Lok Sabha & as a Governor of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lalji Tandon – passed away – served as the Governor of Bihar & Madhya Pradesh (22nd)

**26.** Former Australian test wicketkeeper and ex-International Cricket Council match referee Barry Jarman has passed away in July. He was 84. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Barry Jarman (Australia) – passed away – Cricket

**27.** Veteran Odia Actor Bijay Mohanty has recently passed away in Bhubaneswar. He was 70. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bijay Mohanty – passed away – Odia Actor

**28.** The Russian illustrator ‘Viktor Chizhikov’ who designed “Misha”, the mascot of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, has passed away recently in July. He was 84. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Viktor Chizhikov (Russia) – passed away – illustrator (designed “Misha” - the mascot of 1980 Moscow Olympics)

**29.** Actor John Saxon, best known for character roles in Westerns and horror films, has passed away recently due to pneumonia. He was 83. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- John Saxon (USA) – passed away – Actor

**30.** Tanzania's former President 'Benjamin Mkapa' has passed away recently in July. Mr Mkapa became Tanzania's president following the country's first multiparty election in 1995 and went on to lead the country up to 2005. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Benjamin Mkapa (Tanzania) – passed away – Former President of Tanzania
- Tanzania – Dodoma – Tanzanian shilling | President – John Magufuli

**31.** Eminent dancer and choreographer Amala Shankar has passed away recently in July. She was 101. Eminent dancer and choreographer Amala Shankar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amala Shankar (West Bengal) – passed away – Dancer & Choreographer

**32.** Annabella Allan popularly known as 'Annie Ross,' a British-American Jazz Vocalist (Singer) & Actress of the 1950s, has passed away recently in July. She was 89. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Annabella Allan or 'Annie Ross' (British-American) – passed away – Jazz Vocalist (Singer) & Actress

**33.** Olivia de Havilland, a two-time Oscar winner and an off-screen fighter has passed away recently in July in Paris. She was 104. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Olivia de Havilland (British-American) – passed away – Actress

**34.** Malayalam Actor Anil Murali has passed away in Kochi, Kerala due to liver-related ailments. He was 56. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anil Murali (Kerala) – passed away – Malayalam Actor



- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**35.** Veteran actor 'Zaibunnissa', known as 'Kumkum', who featured in over 100 Hindi Films has passed away recently in July. She was 86. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kumkum or Zaibunnissa – An Actress – passed away

**36.** Folk Musician and Padma Shri awardee 'Sonam Tshering Lepcha' has passed away at Kalimpong, West Bengal to old age ailments. He was 92. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sonam Tshering Lepcha (West Bengal) – passed away – Folk Musician (Padma Shri awardee)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**37.** Tamil writer and documentary filmmaker Sa Kandasamy has passed away due to heart attack in Chennai. He was 80. In 1998, his "Vicharanai Commission" won the Sahitya Akademy award for the best Tamil novel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sa Kandasamy (Tamil Nadu) – passed away – Tamil Writer & Documentary Filmmaker

**38.** Bollywood Action Director 'Parvez Khan' has passed away after suffering a massive heart attack. He was 55. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Parvez Khan – passed away – Action Director

**39.** Former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui, considered the "father of Taiwan's democracy", has passed away recently in July. He was 97. He served as president of Taiwan, from 1988 to 2000. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lee Teng-hui (Taiwan) – passed away – Former President of Taiwan
- Taiwan – Taipei – New Taiwan dollar | President – Tsai Ing-wen



**40.** West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee President Somendra Nath Mitra has passed away recently in July. He was 78. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Somendra Nath Mitra (West Bengal) – passed away – Politician (Congress Committee President)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar



# Persons in News

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a national level committee headed by Ranbir Singh for reform in criminal law. The committee, which has several leading legal academicians on board, would be gathering opinions online, consulting with experts and collating material for their report to the government. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Ministry of Home Affairs – constituted a national level committee for reform in criminal law
- The committee is headed by – Ranbir Singh
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

2. Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar flagged off a “Bell Helicopter” with a pesticide-carrying capacity of 250 litres in one trip for locust-control. It can cover about 25 to 50 hectares of area in one flight. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – flagged off – “Bell Helicopter” with a pesticide-carrying capacity of – 250 litres
- Narendra Singh Tomar – Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Minister of Rural Development, Minister of Panchayati Raj
- Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh

3. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a 9-member working group headed by G Srinivasan (Director of National Insurance Academy) to study the legal framework and suitability of the Indian insurance industry or any other sector to offer surety bonds. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- IRDAI – set up a 9-member working group – to study the legal framework and suitability of the Indian insurance industry to offer surety bonds
- The group is headed by – G Srinivasan (Director of National Insurance Academy)
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash C. Khuntia

4. In order to generate investment in highway sector, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has set up India's first government or semi government promoted Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) and has also formed a ‘Search-Cum-Selection’ committee with NHAI chairman Sukhbir Singh Sandhu as the convenor of the Committee. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:



- NHA – to establish India’s first Government Or Semi Government promoted “InvIT”
- NHA – formed a ‘Search-Cum-Selection’ committee
- Convenor of the committee – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | Chairman – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

5. Union Minister of Human Resource Development Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ and Minister of State (MoS) for Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs Kiren Rijju launched “Fit Hai To Hit Hai India” webinar program under the India’s flagship Fit India campaign. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ + Kiren Rijju = launched “Fit Hai To Hit Hai India” webinar program
- Sports Ministry – Kiren Rijju | Constituency – Arunachal West
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ | Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand

6. Prof. Rattan Lal and Dr. Uma Lele are among the Scientific Group Members named UN chief Antonio Guterres for 2021 food summit. It is aimed to offer foremost scientific evidence for sustainable food systems. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prof. Rattan Lal + Dr. Uma Lele = among the Scientific Group Members – for Food Summit-2021
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

7. Current India skipper Virat Kohli’s position has been questioned by Sanjeev Gupta in a mail to Ethics Officer D K Jain. Virat Kohli has been put under the scanner due to BCCI's conflict of interest laws. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Virat Kohli – has been put – under the Conflict of Interest scanner
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Ethics Officer – D K Jain

8. Wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson has been named Instagram's highest-paid celebrity. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dwayne Johnson (American-Canadian) – named Instagram's highest-paid celebrity



**9.** American rapper Kanye West, a vocal supporter of US President Donald Trump, announced that he would contest the Presidential election of USA in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kanye West (hip-hop musician) – to contest in the ‘USA Presidential election-2020’
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Donald Trump

**10.** The National Human Rights Commission has constituted an 11-member expert committee headed by Dr K S Reddy to study impact of Covid-19 on human rights and future response of the government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NHRC – constituted an 11-member expert committee – headed by Dr K S Reddy
- HQs of NHRC – New Delhi | Chairman – Justice H L Dattu

**11.** The World Health Organisation (WHO) has set up an independent panel that will look into the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The panel will be co-chaired by Helen Elizabeth Clark (former PM of New Zealand) & Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (former President of Liberia). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WHO – set up an independent panel – to look into the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- The panel will be co-chaired by = Helen Elizabeth Clark (New Zealand) + Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Liberia)
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

**12.** The IRDAI has set up a nine-member committee headed by IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur to set up a “Pandemic Risk Pool” in order to address various risks which have been triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic and offer protection in case of a similar crisis in the future. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDAI – set up a 9-member committee – headed by Suresh Mathur – to set up a “Pandemic Risk Pool”
- IRDAI HQs – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

**13.** Indian teenager Soham Mukherjee, in UAE has made 101 one-leg hops over stationery ruler and brought Guinness World Records title. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Soham Mukherjee – 101 one-leg hops & brought Guinness World Records title



**14.** The SEBI has revamped its committee that advises the capital markets regulator on matters related to regulation and development of mutual fund industry. The 20-member advisory committee on mutual funds is headed by Usha Thorat, former deputy governor of RBI. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI revamped – its 20-member advisory committee on mutual funds headed by – Usha Thorat
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi

**15.** Andrzej Sebastian Duda has won Poland's presidential election with 51.2% of votes and defeated Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andrzej Sebastian Duda – won Presidential Election – of Poland
- Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty | President – Andrzej Sebastian Duda

**16.** Madeline Swegle has become the first Black female Tactical Aircraft pilot of US Navy. Rosemary Mariner was the first woman to fly a tactical fighter jet in 1974. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madeline Swegle – became the first Black female Tactical Aircraft pilot of – US Navy
- Rosemary Mariner – the first woman to fly a tactical fighter jet in 1974
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Donald Trump

**17.** Actress Priyanka Chopra has been chosen as the ambassador of the 45th edition of Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020. Priyanka has joined the list of 50 celebrated filmmakers and actors who are invited as the ambassadors of the TIFF. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Priyanka Chopra – chosen as the ambassador of 45th edition of TIFF-2020

**18.** The United Nations has designated Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud as a global terrorist. He is the leader of Pakistan based terror organisation 'Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud – a leader of 'Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan' – designated as a Global Terrorist by UN





- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

**19.** Marcus Rashford is set to become the youngest ever recipient of an honorary degree from The University of Manchester, in recognition of his achievements as a footballer and as a passionate campaigner against child poverty. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Marcus Rashford – the youngest recipient of honorary degree from “The University of Manchester”
- He is a Footballer – from the UK

**20.** Union Minister Jitendra Singh has launched the "Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration" for ensuring economic development of districts and improving service delivery among other criteria. The scheme was restructured in 2014 and it has been restructured again in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jitendra Singh – launched restructured scheme "Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration"
- Jitendra Singh – MoS of DoNER, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space

**21.** Nitin Gadkari, the minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise sector has launched "RestartIndia" a mentoring platform primarily aimed at aiding the MSME sector to restart businesses across the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nitin Gadkari – launched "RestartIndia" – to support MSME sector
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

**22.** The Civil Aviation Ministry has set up a single-window clearance mechanism - an "Investment Clearance Cell (ICC)" to expedite various investment proposals in the domestic aviation industry. The 10-member ICC is headed by Amber Dubey, joint secretary in the aviation ministry. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Civil Aviation Ministry – set up a 10-member "Investment Clearance Cell (ICC)" – headed by Amber Dubey
- Civil Aviation Ministry MoS – Hardeep Singh Puri



**23.** Actor Sonu Sood has launched "Pravasi Rojgar" app to offer support to workers in finding right job opportunities in various sectors across the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sonu Sood (Actor) – launched "Pravasi Rojgar" app

**24.** The Lucknow Municipal Corporation has renamed a road and a crossing in the city after former Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon. The Chauk Chauraha will now be known as 'Lalji Tandon Chauraha' and the Lucknow-Hardoi Road will be known as 'Tandon Marg'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chauk Chauraha (in Uttar Pradesh) – renamed as – 'Lalji Tandon Chauraha'
- Lucknow-Hardoi Road (in Uttar Pradesh) – renamed as – 'Tandon Marg'
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**25.** The HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has set up "Stay in India and Study in India" committee under UGC chief 'D P Singh' to give suggestion on retaining Indian students in the country's institutions and to increase seat capacity in all premier institutions by 50% by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HRD minister set up a committee – headed by D P Singh – to give suggestion on retaining Indian students
- Increase in seat capacity in all premier institutions by 50% – by 2024
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

**26.** The Reserve Bank of India has placed on its website the 'Report of the Committee for Analysis of QR (Quick Response) Code'. The Committee was constituted by RBI on December 23, 2019 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Deepak B. Phatak (Professor Emeritus, IIT-Bombay) to review the prevalent system of QR Codes in India for facilitating digital payments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – released 'Report of the Committee for Analysis of QR Code'
- Under the Chairmanship of – Prof. Deepak B. Phatak (at IIT-Bombay)
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

**27.** Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched 'CREDAI Awaas App' and NAREDCO's online portal 'HousingforAll.com' to market residential properties. Hardeep Singh Puri has also released the



knowledge pack of the government's 'Affordable Rental Housing Complexes' (ARHCs) programme to provide rental accommodations to migrant and urban poor. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hardeep Singh Puri launched – 'CREDAI Awaas App' & NAREDCO's online portal 'HousingforAll.com'
- Hardeep Singh Puri also released – ARHCs programme

**28.** Dr Harsh Vardhan has released an e-book titled "Standard Treatment Guidelines for the Management of Substance Use Disorders and Behavioural Addictions" through video conference, in the presence of Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MoS (HFW). It aims to tackle substance abuse and behavioural addiction in the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – released an e-book titled "Standard Treatment Guidelines for the Management of Substance Use Disorders and Behavioural Addictions"
- Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr. Harsh Vardhan | Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi
- MoS for Health & Family Welfare – Ashwini Kumar Choubey

**29.** The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has constituted a Selection Committee for selecting awardees for the "National Sports Awards-2020" including Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Dronacharya Awards, Arjuna Awards, Dhyan Chand Awards, Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar Award & Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA). Retired Justice of Supreme Court Justice Mukundakam Sharma is the Chairperson of the Committee. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports constituted – a Selection Committee for "National Sports Awards-2020"
- Chairperson – Justice Mukundakam Sharma
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – Kiren Rijju (Constituency – Arunachal West)

**30.** Archana Soreng, a climate activist from India, has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders who will provide perspectives and solutions to tackle the worsening climate crisis as part of the COVID-19 recovery efforts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Archana Soreng – became member of Antonio Guterres's "Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change"
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres



**31.** A 'Committee for the Draft National Education Policy' was constituted in June 2017 under the Chairmanship of famous scientist Dr. K. Kasturirangan, who submitted the Draft National Education Policy, 2019 to the Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister on 31st May, 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Committee for the Draft National Education Policy' was constituted – in June 2017
- Chairmanship – K. Kasturirangan



# Science & Technology

1. Swedish Institute of Space Physics will return to Venus for the second time through Indian Space Mission "Shukrayaan-1" which is scheduled to be launched at end of 2023. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Indian Space Mission to explore Venus – named – "Shukrayaan-1" – to be launched by 2023
- In collaboration with – Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF)

2. Researchers at IIT Gandhinagar have developed an artificial intelligence-based deep learning tool for detection of Covid-19 from chest X-ray images. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- IIT Gandhinagar – developed an AI-based deep learning tool for detection of Covid-19 from chest X-ray images

3. The planet, called TOI-849b, orbits a star a bit smaller and cooler than the sun, located 730 light years from Earth was found by researchers recently. It is 39-times bigger than Earth. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- "TOI-849b" – a 39-times bigger planet than Earth – is found
- It is located – 730 light years from Earth

4. The Mars Colour Camera (MCC) onboard ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) has captured the image of "Phobos", the closest and biggest moon of Mars. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- ISRO's MOM – captured the image of "Phobos" – the closest and biggest moon of Mars
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

5. IIT Kanpur has developed an innovative virtual classroom aid titled "Mobile Masterjee" in the backdrop of the disruption in normal classroom teaching owing to Covid-19 lockdown. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- IIT Kanpur – developed virtual classroom aid titled "Mobile Masterjee"



6. Pune-based Mylab Discovery Solutions has launched 'Compact XL' a machine claimed to fully automate the manual lab operations and test multiple samples concurrently including RT-PCR tests for COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mylab Discovery Solutions – launched – 'Compact XL' machine
- HQs of Mylab Discovery Solutions – Pune, Maharashtra

7. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a mobile application namely "Self Scan", developed by the state's information technology department, to scan documents as an alternative to CamScanner. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- West Bengal – launched – "Self Scan" mobile app – as an alternative to CamScanner
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

8. Australian scientists have discovered 7,000 years old ancient underwater Aboriginal sites. Archaeologists in Western Australia discovered hundreds of stone tools made by aboriginal people. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Australian scientists – discovered – 7000 years old ancient underwater Aboriginal sites
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

9. In a study recently published in Nature Astronomy, the scientists from Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have provided a robust observational evidence for the first time that Lithium (Li) production is common among low mass Sun-like stars during their He-core burning phase. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIA – provided evidence for the first time – related to 'Lithium (Li) production'
- The study was published in – "Nature Astronomy" journal
- HQs of IIA – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Annapurni Subramaniam

10. Quidich Innovation Labs and Asteria Aerospace have successfully completed India's First No-Permission No-Takeoff (NPNT) compliant drone flight on the A200 Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS). The flight was carried out in a green zone identified by the DGCA, near Tumkur in Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Quidich Innovation Labs + Asteria Aerospace = discovered – completed India’s 1st NPNT compliant drone flight
- On – A200 Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)
- Carried out in – Green Zone, Near Tumkur, Karnataka

**11.** Bengaluru-based National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) has discovered a new species of a fan-throated lizard, “Sitana dharwarensis”, from the barren lands of northern Karnataka’s Bagalkot district. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NCBS – discovered a new species – “Sitana dharwarensis” a fan-throated lizard – in Bagalkot, Karnataka
- HQs of NCBS – Bengaluru, Karnataka

**12.** Israel’s Defence Ministry has successfully launched “Ofek 16” a new spy satellite from central Israel into space. It described the “Ofek” as an electro-optical reconnaissance satellite with advanced capabilities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Israel – launched “Ofek 16” a new spy satellite
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

**13.** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will set up a research cell at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) to meet future defence technological requirements of the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO – will set up a research cell – at IIT Hyderabad
- DRDO: HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

**14.** With the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) fast-tracking efforts to develop "Covaxin" in partnership with Bharat Biotech, The first made-in-India coronavirus vaccine may be launched by August 15 for public health use. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Covaxin" – to be launched by “August 15, 2020” – for Public health use
- Developed by = ICMR + Bharat Biotech + NIV



- Bharat Biotech HQs – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Dr. Krishna Ella
- ICMR HQs – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava
- HQs of NIV – Pune, Maharashtra | NIV comes under – ICMR

**15.** A NASA astronaut who is currently onboard the International Space Station (ISS) captured several images of the newly discovered comet “Neowise” and shared them on social media. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASA’s astronauts – captured several images of – comet “Neowise”
- NASA HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

**16.** India's first social media super application “Elyments” was launched by the Vice President of India, Venkiah Naidu on Sunday. The app allows users to stay in touch through a vibrant feed, free audio/video calls, and private/group chats. This app is being seen as a massive boost to Indian startups and a major push towards 'Make in India' initiative. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Elyments” India's first Social Media Super Application – launched by Venkiah Naidu

**17.** A team of researchers at IIT-Roorkee has developed a disinfection box named "Unisaviour box" that can be used for sterilizing a wide variety of personal belongings including medical equipment, Personal Protection Equipment, apparels among others, against coronavirus. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT-Roorkee – developed "Unisaviour box" a disinfection box

**18.** The Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog, has launched a free online app development course named "ATL App Development Module" for school students across the country. The course has been jointly developed by NITI Aayog’s AIM and Indian startup "Plezmo". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AIM + Plezmo = jointly developed "ATL App Development Module for school students across the country
- HQs of Plezmo – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Amol Palshikar





**19.** Researchers have now found fungi namely “Ophicordyceps nutans” for the first time in central India during a plant survey at the “Kanger Valley National Park” in Chhattisgarh. The fungus was found on its specific host insect ‘Halyomorpha halys’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Researchers found – “Ophicordyceps nutans” fungi – in “Kanger Valley National Park” (Chhattisgarh)
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**20.** In Tripura, a team of wildlife researchers has rediscovered ‘Ypthima watsoni’ butterfly commonly known as ‘Looped three-ring’ after 61 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Ypthima Watsoni’ butterfly – rediscovered – in Tripura – after 61 years
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**21.** "Eulophia obtusa", a rare orchid species, also known as 'Ground orchid', has been rediscovered after 118 years in the forests of “Dudhwa Tiger Reserve” in Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Eulophia obtusa" or “Ground orchid” – rediscovered after 118 years in “Dudhwa Tiger Reserve” (Uttar Pradesh)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**22.** The UAE is planning to make history with the scheduled launch of the "Hope" mission, which will make it the first Arab nation to send a probe to Mars. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UAE – first Arab nation to send a probe to Mars – with the launch of "Hope" mission
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**23.** The Indian Space Research and Research Organisation (ISRO) gets ready to launch Brazil’s “Amazonia-1” satellite next month onboard PSLV. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ISRO – to launch Brazil’s “Amazonia-1” satellite – next month onboard PSLV
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969



- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real

**24.** Facebook's photo sharing app Instagram has announced to launch its short video format “Reels” in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Instagram – to launch “Reels” short video feature similar to TikTok’s format – in India

**25.** First launch of China’s “Kuaizhou-11” carrier rocket has failed as malfunction occurred during the flight. The rocket was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 1st launch of China’s – “Kuaizhou-11” carrier rocket – failed
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**26.** Internet search giant Google has relaunched its social networking platform Google+ as Google Currents. The company has rebranded the app to “Google Currents” on both Google Play Store and Apple App Store. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google – relaunched – Google+ as “Google Currents”
- Google HQs – California, USA | CEO – Sundar Pichai

**27.** On July 9, China has successfully launched the “APSTAR-6D” commercial telecommunication satellite into orbit from the southwestern Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – launched the “APSTAR-6D” commercial telecommunication satellite – from Sichuan Province
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**28.** The Twitter accounts of some of the world's top businessmen, politicians and celebrities were hacked in an alleged Bitcoin scam. Billionaires Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, Barack Obama & Joe Biden are among many prominent figures targeted by hackers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Twitter accounts – of the world's top businessmen, politicians and celebrities were hacked – in Bitcoin scam



- HQs of Twitter – San Francisco, California, USA | CEO – Jack Dorsey

**29.** IIT Kanpur has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitising product named “SHUDH” that can disinfect a room in 15 minutes. The “SHUDH” (Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper) has 6 UV lights of 15 watts each that can be individually monitored from a distance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Kanpur – developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitising product named “SHUDH” to disinfect rooms 15 minutes
- SHUDH – Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper

**30.** Serum Institute of India (SII) has got an approval from Drug Controller and General of India (DCGI) to manufacture pneumococcal vaccine which is the first indigenous pneumonia vaccine. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Serum Institute of India – to manufacture first indigenous pneumonia vaccine
- Approved by – The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) – V G Somani
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla

**31.** The launch of UAE’s “HOPE” Mars mission has now been delayed twice due to poor weather conditions at the launch site in Tanegashima Space Center, Japan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “HOPE” Mars mission – UAE (Launch site: Tanegashima Space Center, Japan)
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**32.** Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Minister of State (HRD) Sanjay Dhotre have launched world’s most affordable Covid-19 test kit namely "Corosure" developed by IIT Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HRD Ministry launched – "Corosure" - world’s most affordable Covid-19 test kit – developed by IIT Delhi
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- MoS of HRD – Sanjay Dhotre



**33.** A new Android malware namely "BlackRock" has been discovered that steals data such as password and credit card details from 337 apps including some of the popular ones like Gmail, Amazon, Netflix, Uber, and more. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "BlackRock" a new Android malware – discovered – that steals password and credit card details from 337 apps

**34.** IIT-Madras incubated start-up, 'Modulus Housing' has developed a portable hospital unit called "MediCAB" that can be installed anywhere within two hours by four people. [{Read more}](#)

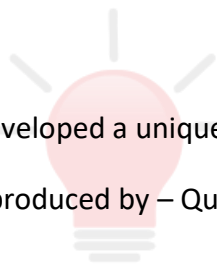
**Key Points:**

- IIT-Madras incubated start-up 'Modulus Housing' – developed "MediCAB" a portable hospital unit

**35.** Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode (IIM-K) has come out with a unique user friendly wearable device "Veli Band" that alarms proximity for helping implement social distancing norms. It is designed and produced by 'Qual5 India', an IIMK-based incubated start-up. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIM Kozhikode – developed a unique user friendly wearable device - "Veli Band"
- It is designed and produced by – Qual5 India



Smartkeeda  
The Question Bank

**36.** To fill the massive gaps in our understanding of the Sun, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the NASA have launched the "Solar Orbiter Mission" on 9 February 2020. The spacecraft has completed its first close pass of the Sun in mid-June and the first images from it have now been released. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ESA + NASA = launched the "Solar Orbiter Mission"
- HQs of ESA – Paris, France | CEO – Johann-Dietrich Wörner
- NASA HQs – Washington, D.C., United States | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

**37.** Boeing, NASA's lead industry partner has won an almost \$916 million contract to support the operations of the International Space Station (ISS) for 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Boeing – won an almost \$916 million contract to support the International Space Station – for 4 years
- HQs of Boeing – Chicago, USA | CEO – Dave Calhoun



**38.** International Centre of Automotive Technology (ICAT) has launched the automotive technology e-portal 'ASPIRE', which stands for 'Automotive Solutions Portal for Industry, Research and Education'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICAT – launched the automotive technology e-portal 'ASPIRE'
- ASPIRE – Automotive Solutions Portal for Industry, Research and Education
- HQs of ICAT – Manesar, Haryana | Director – Dinesh Tyagi

**39.** CSIR-CMERI (Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute) Durgapur, has unveiled the COVID Protection System (COPS) for workplace in the current COVID-19 pandemic scenario. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CSIR-CMERI (Durgapur) – unveiled the COVID Protection System (COPS) for workplace
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande

**40.** South Korea's first-ever military communications satellite "ANASIS-II" has been successfully launched by private operator SpaceX. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- South Korea's first-ever military communications satellite – "ANASIS-II"
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

**41.** Digiantra Research and Technology (DRT) has been selected for the SID (Society for Innovation and Development) incubation program at the IISc Bangalore. Digantara is India's first air and space Surveillance Company. It has developed India's first in-orbit space debris monitoring and tracking system. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Digiantra – developed India's first in-orbit space debris monitoring and tracking system
- Digiantra – selected for the SID (Society for Innovation and Development) incubation program – at IISc Bangalore
- HQs of DRT – Kotdwara, Uttarakhand | Founded by – Anirudh Sharma & Rahul Rawat



**42.** A unique and rare Yellow Turtle was rescued by locals from Sujapur village of Balasore district in Odisha. In June, a rare species of 'Trionychidae turtle' was caught by fishermen at Deuli Dam under the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yellow Turtle – discovered – in Sujapur village, Balasore district, Odisha
- 'Trionychidae Turtle' – caught by fishermen – at Deuli Dam, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**43.** "Tianwen-1" the first spacecraft of China to the Red Planet - Mars, was launched recently as Mars came close to the Earth in its orbit. The Mars probe will travel as far as 400 million kilometers into deep space. China's heavy-lift Long 'March 5 rocket' has been used for this Lunar mission. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Tianwen-1" – the first spacecraft of China to the Mars Mission – launched by long 'March 5 rocket'
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**44.** After two years of study, a team of researchers from Singapore has confirmed the discovery of a new species called 'Bathynomus raksasa' which has been described as the "cockroach of the sea" with 14 legs in Indonesia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Researchers from Singapore – discovered 'Bathynomus raksasa' a cockroach of the sea with 14 legs in – Indonesia

**45.** Vehant Technologies & International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad have jointly developed "KritiScan" UV Baggage Disinfection System for hotels, commercial and private complexes, airports, terminals and railway stations for the disinfection of baggage. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vehant Technologies + ARCI = developed "KritiScan" UV Baggage Disinfection System
- HQs of Vehant Tech – Noida, UP | HQs of ARCI – Hyderabad, Telangana

**46.** The University of Oxford has developed a coronavirus vaccine with AstraZeneca Plc and it has showed promising results in human testing. The results were published in The Lancet medical journal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- University of Oxford + AstraZeneca Plc = developed a coronavirus vaccine – showed results in human testing
- The results published in – “The Lancet medical journal”

**47.** Indian and Israel have joined hands to work together to develop rapid testing for Covid-19 in under 30 seconds. Merging Israeli technology with Indian development and production capabilities aims to allow a swift resumption of normal life alongside the virus.” [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian + Israel = to develop rapid testing for Covid-19 – in under 30 seconds
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

**48.** The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has begun work on a balloon that will carry a 2.5-meter telescope into the stratosphere to observe wavelengths of light. The mission is named “ASTHROS - Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observations at Submillimeter-wavelengths” and it will tentatively be launched by December 2023 from Antarctica. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASA – will launch “ASTHROS” mission – by December 2023 – from Antarctica (with 2.5-meter telescope)
- NASA HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

**49.** China has sent a new high-resolution mapping satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern province of Shanxi. The “Ziyuan III 03 satellite” was launched by a Long March-4B rocket. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – sent “Ziyuan III 03 satellite” – a new high-resolution mapping satellite – by Long March-4B rocket
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**50.** In the fight against the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, the Mumbai Division of Central Railway (CR) has designed a health assistant robot ‘Rakshak’ who can remotely communicate between doctor and patient. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mumbai Division of Central Railway – designed a health assistant robot ‘Rakshak’
- HQ of Central Railway Zone – Mumbai, MH



**51.** FinTech company 'MobiKwik' has launched "mpay.me" - a UPI payment link service to send and receive money from any UPI payment app. Founded in 2009 by Bipin Preet Singh and Upasana Taku, MobiKwik has raised over \$100 million in funding from marquee investors. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MobiKwik launched – "mpay.me" - a UPI payment link service
- HQs of MobiKwik – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder, CEO & Director – Bipin Preet Singh

**52.** NASA has launched its latest mission to Mars with a United Launch Alliance (ULA) 'Atlas V 541 rocket' carrying the spacecraft into orbit and beginning a 7-month journey to the red planet. The rocket is carrying the rover "Perseverance", which will be the 9th robot that NASA has landed on Mars. The rover will land on Jezero Crater of Mars on February 18, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASA's latest mission to Mars: Rocket – Atlas V 541 | Rover – Perseverance (9th robot of NASA landed on Mars)
- HQs of NASA – Washington, D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

**53.** International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Organization has celebrated the Start of Assembly of the ITER Tokamak with a ceremony on 28th July 2020 at Saint-Paul-Lez-Durance, France. It is the world's largest fusion reactor device. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ITER Organization – celebrated the Start of Assembly of the ITER Tokamak – at Saint-Paul-Lez-Durance, France
- ITER – the world's largest Fusion Reactor Device – located in France
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

**54.** Northeast has got its first-ever manhole cleaning robot named 'BANDICOOT' to end manual scavenging. The robot is given by Indian Oil Corporation and has been procured by Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Northeast – got its first-ever manhole cleaning robot named 'BANDICOOT' (Guwahati – 1st city)
- Given by – IOC | Procured by – GMC





**55.** Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has developed 'Aashray', a medical bed isolation system to combat COVID-19 by preventing or minimising the spread of the virus. It is a low cost, reusable solution to maintain proper isolation of COVID-19 patients. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DIAT developed – 'Aashray' a medical bed isolation system to combat COVID-19
- HQs of DIAT – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairperson – C. P. Ramanarayanan

**56.** China has formally launched full global services of its “BeiDou-3” Navigation Satellite System (BDS) to rival the widely-used American GPS. It will provide independent navigation structure for its increasingly modernising military. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China launched – “BeiDou-3” Navigation Satellite System – to rival ‘American GPS’
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**57.** Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), along with AMESYS INDIA has developed a microorganism decontamination box named as ‘Suraksha’. UVC light and heat are used in the box. It can sanitize an object in 10-15 minutes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CSIR-CSIO + AMESYS INDIA = developed ‘Suraksha’ - a microorganism decontamination box
- HQs of CSIO – Chandigarh | Director – S. Anantha Ramakrishna



# Ordinance, Bills and Acts

1. Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan promulgated 'The Telangana Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020'. According to sources in the Finance Department, the gross borrowing was Rs 34,000 Cr in 2020-21 Budget. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Telangana – amended – FABM Act (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management)
- Gross borrowing – Rs 34,000 Cr in 2020-21 Budget
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

2. The Haryana Cabinet has approved a proposal to bring an ordinance to give 75% reservation in private sector jobs to the youth of the state. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Haryana – ordinance – to give 75% reservation – in private sector jobs to the youth of the state
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

3. On recommendations of MHA, MeitY has issued orders under Sec 69A of the I.T. Act, 2000, for blocking 40 websites linked to pro-Khalistan group 'Sikhs for Justice (SFJ)' for a campaign for registering supporters for its cause. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- MeitY – blocked 40 websites – linked to 'Sikhs for Justice (SFJ)'
- The order issued under – Sec 69A of the IT Act 2000

4. The legal and legislative committee of Kuwait's National Assembly has approved the draft expat quota bill, according to which Indians should not exceed 15% of the population. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Indians should not exceed 15% of the population in Kuwait – according to the draft expat quota bill
- Kuwait – Kuwait City – Kuwaiti Dinar | PM – Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah

5. The Ministry of Shipping has issued the draft of Aids to Navigation Bill, 2020, proposed to replace the almost 9 decades old "Lighthouse Act, 1927". [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Shipping – will replace 9 decades old “Lighthouse Act, 1927”
- MoS I/C of Ministry of Shipping – Mansukh L. Mandaviya

**6.** The Consumer Protection Act (CPA), which was passed by the Parliament in 2019, has come into effect from July 20. The new law is aimed at protecting consumers against errant manufacturers, distributors, and sellers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The Consumer Protection Act (CPA) – passed by the Parliament in 2019 – came into effect from July 20, 2020

**7.** Jharkhand state government has passed an ordinance mandating Rs 1 lakh fine and 2-year jail term for violation of Covid-19 safety protocols like wearing masks and social distancing etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jharkhand – mandated Rs 1 lakh fine and 2-year jail term – For violation of Covid-19 safety protocols
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

**8.** The Centre has amended the Rule 144 of ‘General Financial Rules – 2017’ titled “Fundamental principles of public buying” to restrict public procurement from countries which share a land border with India on grounds of national security, a move squarely aimed at China. India shares its land border with 7 countries – Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The Centre – amended the Rule 144 – of ‘General Financial Rules – 2017’
- India shares its land border with – 7 countries



# Current GK

1. "Tribes India Outlet" of TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs was opened at Prayagraj Airport. The Tribes India outlet at Prayagraj Airport is the second one in the city of Prayagraj and the 4th in the State of Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- "Tribes India Outlet" of TRIFED – opened at Prayagraj Airport (Uttar Pradesh)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

2. The Forest Department will soon put in place a traffic monitoring mechanism along the roads adjacent to "Nagarahole National Park" which is also known as "Rajiv Gandhi National Park". [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- "Nagarahole National Park" or "Rajiv Gandhi National Park" – Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

3. The world has known 'Hagia Sofia Museum' in Turkey's capital city Istanbul as an iconic museum has turned into a mosque after Turkey Government's decision. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- 'Hagia Sofia Museum' – in Istanbul, Turkey – converted into – a Mosque
- Turkey – Ankara – Lira

4. The southern Africa country of Botswana is struggling to investigate the reasons for the mysterious deaths of over 350 elephants in the popular "Okavango Delta Nature Reserve". Botswana has the world's largest elephant population, believed to be more than 130,000. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Deaths of over 350 elephants – in "Okavango Delta Nature Reserve" – in Botswana
- Botswana – has the world's largest elephant population
- Botswana – Gaborone – Pula



5. The clash had taken place in Asharodi forest range of “Rajaji Tiger Reserve” where 8 Van Gujjar families reside. Reportedly, the forest officials escaped the spot in a rush fearing that one of the Van Gujjar had died. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Rajaji Tiger Reserve” – Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

6. The Environment Ministry has reconstituted the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) to include an expert from the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, and a molecular biologist. The CZA is a statutory body chaired by the Environment Minister and tasked with regulating zoos across the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Environment Ministry – reconstituted – Central Zoo Authority (CZA)
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Info. & Broadcasting
- Constituency – Maharashtra

7. Lepidopterists in Arunachal Pradesh have discovered two species of butterflies namely “Striped Hairstreak” & “Elusive Prince” in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh while Elusive Prince is discovered at Namdapha National Park. It has been published in the April-June edition of the ‘Bionotes Journal’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Striped Hairstreak” & “Elusive Prince” – species of Butterfly – discovered in Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh
- Namdapha National Park – Arunachal Pradesh
- The Discovery is published in – “Bionotes Journal”

8. The Ekadashi that takes place during Shukla Paksha in the Hindu month of Ashadh is called “Devshayani Ekadashi” or “Ashadhi Ekadashi”. This year, the auspicious day was celebrated on July 1 in Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Devshayani Ekadashi” or “Ashadhi Ekadashi” – Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

9. The Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust introduced a new shipping service through the inland waterways route between the West Bengal capital and the seaside town of Chittagong in Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port – introduced a new shipping service between West Bengal & Bangladesh
- Port located at – Kolkata, West Bengal
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**10.** The Uttarakhand government decided to allow pilgrims from all the districts in the state to visit the "Char Dham shrines" from July 1. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttarakhand – allowed Pilgrims to visit "Char Dham shrines"
- Char Dham Yatra consists = Badrinath + Kedarnath + Gangotri + Yamunotri
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**11.** The Uttarakhand government has cleared diversion of about 70 hectares of forest land in the "Gangotri National Park" for construction of three strategically important roads to China border. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Gangotri National Park" – Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**12.** Flood caused by heavy rains continued to wreak havoc in Assam affecting not just people but also the animals at the world-famous Kaziranga National Park. Nearly 80% area of the sanctuary is inundated by flood waters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Kaziranga National Park" – Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**13.** Scientists in Italy are investigating the mysterious appearance of pink glacial melting ice in the Alps, caused by algae known as "Ancyronema Nordenskiöldii" that accelerate the effects of climate change. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Scientists in Italy – investigating – pink glacial melting ice – in the Alps
- It is caused by – "Ancyronema Nordenskiöldii" – an algae



**14.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated Asia's largest 750 MW Solar Power plant Project, the Rewa Solar Power Project in Madhya Pradesh, to the nation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – dedicated – 750 MW Rewa Solar Power Project – in Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

**15.** The government of Assam has decided to upgrade the 111.942 sq km “Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary” into a National Park. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Assam Government – to upgrade “Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary” – into a National Park
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**16.** In Uttarakhand, Police has issued a notice of suspension of “Kanwar Mela” due to COVID-19 and requested devotees not to come to Haridwar as the district's borders have been sealed. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttarakhand – suspended – “Kanwar Mela”
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain
- CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**17.** In a very rare discovery, a red coral Kukri snake was spotted at the "Dudhwa National Park" in Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A red coral Kukri snake – spotted in – "Dudhwa National Park" – Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**18.** The Jharkhand government has decided not to celebrate “Shravani Mela” this year at the famous Shiva temple of Deoghar district due to Covid-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Shravani Mela” – Deoghar, Jharkhand



• Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

**19.** A centuries-old folk theatre form and the worship of a forest goddess (ie. Bon Bibi) has helped the islanders understand the power of nature and the limits to human need in this precarious tide country. The Sundarbans is one of the most ecologically vulnerable terrains in the world. It spans from the Hooghly River in India's state of West Bengal to the Baleswar River in Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

• Sundarbans – spans from the Hooghly River (West Bengal) to Baleswar River (Bangladesh)

**20.** Bangladesh will not move the Rohingyas settled on the 'Bhashan Char Island' amid Corona pandemic. More than 300 Rohingya refugees were sent to the Bhashan Char in April. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

• 'Bhashan Char Island' – Bangladesh

• Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**21.** Due to delays of funding from India, Iran has decided to drop India from the project of construction of Chabahar Port rail line and decided to proceed with the project without any Indian aid. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

• Iran – decided to drop India from the project of construction of "Chabahar Port" rail line

• Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei

**22.** Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has announced that "Poba Reserve Forest" in Dhemaji district would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

• "Poba Reserve Forest" – to be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary – in Assam

• Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**23.** Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu released a book titled "Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh". Tangam language is spoken by the Tangam community, which has reportedly 253 speakers left now and has been marked 'critically endangered' by the UNESCO World Atlas of Endangered Languages. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**





- Pema Khandu – released a book titled “Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh”
- Tangam community – Arunachal Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

**24.** The country’s first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge "Anji Khad Bridge" will soon connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir. The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. It is being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Country’s first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge – "Anji Khad Bridge" – in J & K
- It is being developed by – Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL)
- J & K Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – G C Murmu

**25.** A Tiger halted traffic on Madhya Pradesh Flyover. The incident occurred on National Highway 7, which falls inside the buffer zone of “Pench National Park”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pench National Park – Madhya Pradesh
- MP: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

**26.** The Odisha State Road Transport Corporation began the bus service following private services after the construction of the “Gurupriya bridge” in 2018, which connected Swabhiman Anchal with the rest of the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Gurupriya bridge” – Odisha (construction in – 2018)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**27.** Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has claimed that India on his government's request has decided not to seek a joint venture with it to run the “Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport” in the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport – Sri Lanka



- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**28.** The National Green Tribunal has directed NTPC Vindhyachal “Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station” to pay an interim compensation of ₹10 crore for breach of its fly ash dyke into the Govind Vallabh Pant Sagar "Rihand Reservoir". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NGT – directed NTPC Vindhyachal – to pay an interim compensation of ₹10 crore
- “Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station” – Uttar Pradesh
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh

**29.** The Supreme Court has restored the right of Managership or the Shebaitship of “Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple” at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala to the royal family of Travancore. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Supreme Court – restored the right of Managership of “Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple” to Travancore
- The temple located in – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

**30.** Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has sought alternative routes for the proposed gauge conversion of a railway line passing through the ‘Melghat Tiger Reserve’ in Amravati district. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Melghat Tiger Reserve’ – Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**31.** France's Lourdes Roman Catholic shrine has organised its first ever e-pilgrimage following the coronavirus crisis. It has drawn a virtual audience of 80 million from around the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lourdes Roman Catholic shrine (France) – organised its first ever e-pilgrimage
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

**32.** The Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone notification has mandated the State Government of Uttarakhand to prepare ZMP (Zonal Master Plan) to be implemented under the supervision of the Monitoring Committee. The



approval of ZMP will give a boost to conservation and ecology of the area and also to undertake developmental activities as permitted under ZMP. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone – mandated Government of Uttarakhand to prepare ZMP
- Bhagirathi river originates at – Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**33.** After reports of Iran moving forward on the Chabahar-Zahidan railway project without Indian assistance, Tehran has decided to go alone on another major project - the development of the Farzad-B block. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Iran – to develop ‘Farzad-B block Gas Field’ alone – without India’s assistance
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei

**34.** A rare black panther was spotted in Karnataka’s “Nagarhole National Park” in Kabini forest recently in July. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A rare black panther – spotted in “Nagarhole National Park” (Karnataka)
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**35.** Country’s only Golden Tiger "Kazi 106F" was recently spotted in ‘Kaziranga National Park’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Country’s only Golden Tiger "Kazi 106F" – spotted in ‘Kaziranga National Park’ (Assam)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**36.** NTPC's Unit-1 of its Singrauli power plant has emerged as the country's top-performing unit in the first quarter of this fiscal. The unit has registered a Plant Load Factor (PLF) or capacity utilisation of 101.96% in the April-June period. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NTPC's Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station (Uttar Pradesh) – emerged as the country's top-performing unit
- PLF – Plant Load Factor



- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh

**37.** 'Ker Puja' celebrated at Royal Palace in Agartala, Tripura on July 14. Ker Puja is a century-old celebration observed in Tripura and it is celebrated two weeks after 'Kharchi Puja' in the Royal Palace in Agartala. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Ker Puja' + 'Kharchi Puja' = celebrated in Tripura
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**38.** The 10-day Hornbill Festival in Nagaland is unlikely to be held this year in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hornbill Festival – Nagaland – unlikely to be held this year
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

**39.** The indigenously built 3rd unit of Gujarat-based Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP-3) achieved criticality. KAPP-3 is India's first 700-megawatt electric unit. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 3rd unit of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project – achieved criticality
- KAPP-3 (Gujarat) – India's first 700-megawatt electric unit
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**40.** Fishermen on the shores of Kenya's Lake "Turkana", the world's biggest desert lake, have no doubt about what is to blame for their dwindling fish stocks: a giant hydroelectric dam built by Ethiopia on the River Omo, which feeds the lake. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Turkana" lake (Kenya) – the world's biggest desert lake
- Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling



**41.** NTPC's 1,600 MW "Lara Super Thermal Power Station" in Chhattisgarh has been fully operational after 800 MW Unit-2 of the project was made fully functional. Earlier in September, the 800 MW Unit-1 of the project was made commercially operational. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NTPC's 1,600 MW "Lara Super Thermal Power Station" – in Chhattisgarh
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh

**42.** The National Green Tribunal has issued notices to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Assam State Biodiversity Board, Assam State Pollution Control Board and Oil India Limited (OIL) asking how environmental clearances for the seven proposed drilling sites in the "Dibru- Saikhowa National Park" were given without a Biodiversity Impact Assessment as mandated by the Supreme Court in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dibru- Saikhowa National Park – Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**43.** The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court has recently noted that the "Nag river", from which Nagpur city derives its name, is now polluted due to industrialisation and urbanisation and alienation of the river. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Nag river" – in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**44.** The coal ministry has withdrawn 'Bander mine' in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra from the list of 41 coal blocks put up for auction for commercial mining as the mine lies in the eco sensitive zone of 'Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Coal Ministry withdrew – 'Bander mine' – in Chandrapur, Maharashtra – From the list of 41 coal blocks
- 'Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve' – Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



**45.** Over 100 litres of fuel could have leaked into Russia's Lake Baikal from a banked vessel. Baikal Lake is the deepest lake in the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Possibility of over 100 litres of fuel leakage – into “Baikal Lake” (Russia)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**46.** The conservation efforts undertaken at “Mudumalai Tiger Reserve” (MTR) have led to the reserve being recognised as home to the highest population of tigers in Tamil Nadu. MTR has a population of 103 adult tigers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve – recognised as home to the highest population of tigers in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**47.** The colour of “Lonar lake” water in Maharashtra’s Buldhana district turned pink due to a large presence of the salt-loving ‘Haloarchaea’ microbes. Haloarchaea or halophilic archaea is a bacteria culture which produces pink pigment and is found in water saturated with salt. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Lonar lake” water (Maharashtra) – turned Pink – due to ‘Haloarchaea’ microbes
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**48.** To mark the 72nd Van-Mahotsav, the Department of Wildlife Protection has kick started the Green J&K Drive 2020 at Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary on 29th July of 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Department of Wildlife Protection – started ‘Green J&K Drive 2020’ – at “Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary”
- Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary – J & K
- July 29 – 72nd Van-Mahotsav
- J & K Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – G C Murmu

**49.** For the second time in a week, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) had to reduce water production capacity by 25% after high levels of ammonia were detected in the Yamuna river. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Delhi had to reduce water production capacity – by 25% due to ammonia detected – in Yamuna River
- Yamuna River originates from – Uttarakhand (the second-largest tributary river of the Ganga)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**50.** Two rhinos were spotted in a residential area near ‘Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary’ in Assam on July 28. Forest areas remain flooded following rainfall in Assam. [{Read more}](#)

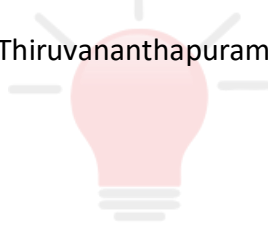
**Key Points:**

- Two rhinos – spotted in an area near ‘Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary’ (Assam)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**51.** The ecologically sensitive Thudiyurulippara hill has been given the status of biodiversity heritage site on the recommendations of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Thudiyurulippara hill – located in Kerala – has been given the status of ‘Biodiversity Heritage Site’
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



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