

SSC BANKING MANTHAN

Current Affairs Supplement

September 2020

Registered / Corporate Office:

CL Educate Limited, A - 45, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, New Delhi – 110044
Contact No. 011-41280800 / 1100

www.careerlauncher.com www.cleducate.com

[f/careerlauncher](https://www.facebook.com/careerlauncher)

[@careerlauncher](https://twitter.com/careerlauncher)

Preface

Dear Readers,

The “Current Affairs” section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the month for the upcoming exams like Banking, Insurance, CLAT, MBA etc. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfil aspirations.

Happy Reading!

Best Wishes

Team CL



Career
Launcher

CONTENTS

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE	4
National.....	4
International.....	30
ECONOMY AND FINANCE	40
Economy News	40
Banks in News.....	49
Firms in News.....	55
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.....	59
Inventions/ Discoveries.....	63
Health/ Disease.....	66
ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT.....	68
SPORTS.....	71
Sports Personalities in News.....	71
Sport Events.....	74
Awards	75
Persons in News	79
Miscellaneous.....	83
Important Days	89
QUESTIONS	92
ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION.....	114

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

National



Kesavananda Bharati, petitioner in landmark SC judgement on Constitution, is no more

- **Kesavananda Bharati**, the head of Edneer Mutt at Kasaragod in Kerala whose petition in the Supreme Court led to the landmark verdict of 1973 that outlined the basic structure doctrine of the Constitution, died on 6th September 2020.
- **Kesavananda Bharati** was the head of Jagadguru Shankaracharya Samsthanam mutt, which belongs to the Shankaracharya tradition. The mutt is believed to have been established by Totakacharya, one of the first four disciples of Adi Shankaracharya.
- He was the petitioner in the His Holiness Kesavananda Bharati] Sripadagalvaru and Ors. Vs. State of Kerala and others case in which the Supreme Court ruled that the basic structure of the Constitution is inviolable, and cannot be amended by Parliament.
- It was on March 21, 1970 that Bharati moved the apex court, challenging the Kerala government's takeover of land owned by the mutt as per the land reforms Act of 1969.
- The Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963 (Act 1 of 1964), in the principal land reform law in the State of Kerala and was included in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution. Following enactment of the law, the mutt had lost its property and was struggling for financial resources for its functioning and charitable activities.
- However, when the 29th Constitutional Amendment was adopted by Parliament giving protection to Kerala laws, the seer moved the Supreme Court challenging it. Veteran barrister M K Nambiar, the father of K K Venugopal, currently Attorney General of India, had introduced Bharati to jurist Nani Palkhivala and he had helped Bharati file the petition in Supreme Court.
- In his petition, Bharati had sought enforcement of rights guaranteed under Article 25 (Right to practice and propagate religion), Article 26 (Right to manage religious affairs), Article 14 (Right to equality), Article 19(1) (f) (freedom to acquire property), Article 31 (Compulsory Acquisition of Property).
- The petition was heard by a 13-member bench, the largest-ever bench in the history of the Supreme Court. The court heard the petition for 68 working days, from October 31, 1972 to March 23, 1973. The 13-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court deliberated on the limitations, if any, of the powers of the elected representatives of the people and the nature of fundamental rights of an individual.
- In a verdict divided 7-6, the court held that while the Parliament has 'wide' powers, it did not have the power to destroy or emasculate the basic elements or fundamental features of the constitution.
- The apex court ruled that the 29th Amendment is valid and held that the two Kerala land Acts that were included in the Ninth Schedule are entitled to the protection of Article 31B of the (validation of certain acts and regulations) Constitution. The verdict had held that though Parliament has power to amend under Article 368 of the Constitution, it did not have the power to emasculate its basic features.

Sarv Mittra Sikri was the 13th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India from 22 January 1971 until his retirement on 25 April 1973. **Kesavananda Bharati vs. The State of Kerala** is a major decision during his tenure as chief justice. He is credited with outlining the Basic Structure doctrine of the Constitution. The basic structure doctrine is an Indian judicial principle, most notably propounded by Justice Hans Raj Khanna, that the Constitution of India has certain basic features that cannot be altered or destroyed through amendments by the Parliament of India. Key among these “basic features”, as expounded by Justice Khanna, are the fundamental rights guaranteed to individuals by the constitution. The doctrine thus forms the basis of the power of the Supreme Court of India to review and strike down constitutional amendments and acts enacted by the Parliament which conflict with or seek to alter this “basic structure” of the Constitution.

Former President Pranab Mukherjee passed away

- **Former President of India and Congress party veteran Pranab Mukherjee passed away.** The veteran politician, who spent five decades in politics, had undergone brain surgery at Delhi’s Army Research and Referral hospital.
- **Fondly called ‘Pranab Da’** by his peers and friends, **Mukherjee was born on December 11, 1935 in Birbhum district, West Bengal.** He completed Masters in Political Science and History and LLB degree from University of Calcutta. Impressed with his political acumen, **Indira Gandhi brought Mukherjee into the Congress and initiated his parliamentary journey through the Rajya Sabha in 1969.**
- **Mukherjee first became the general secretary of the Congress in 1998.** He was a member of the Congress Working Committee for 23 years. It’s a mixed bag legacy for the politician who won his first election in 2004 from Jangipur in West Bengal. **Mr Mukherjee was also Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission.** He was **elected to Rajya Sabha five times and twice to Lok Sabha.** Mr Mukherjee served as Leader of both houses of Parliament.
- **Mukherjee became India’s youngest finance minister in 1982 at the age of 47.** From 2004, he went on to head three crucial ministries — external affairs, defence and finance — and became the first occupant of the Rashtrapati Bhavan to have this distinction. The Union Budget of India for 2012–2013 was presented by Pranab Mukherjee, on 16 March 2012, which was the 7th budget of his career.
- **Mukherjee was the 13th President of India from 2012 to 2017.** A tough taskmaster, avid reader and history aficionado, Mukherjee ensured that he leaves his mark on the presidency. He made it easier for common people to visit the Rashtrapati Bhavan. **Pranab Mukherjee was honored with Bharat Ratna, India’s highest civilian award in 2019.**

Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India. Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is conferred in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order, without distinction of race, occupation, position, or sex. The first recipients of the Bharat Ratna were: the last Governor-General of the Dominion of India – C. Rajagopalachari, second President and the first Vice President of India – Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, and Nobel Prize Laureate, Physicist C. V. Raman; who were honoured in 1954. Since then, the award has been bestowed upon 48 individuals, including 16 who were awarded posthumously. On 25 January 2019, the government announced the award to social activist Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously), singer-music director Bhupen Hazarika (posthumously) and to the former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee. In 2014, cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, then aged 40, became the youngest recipient; while social reformer Dhondo Keshav Karve was awarded on his 100th birthday. The first singer to be awarded Bharat Ratna was M. S. Subbulakshmi.

India’s First Regional Voters’ Awareness Centre to come up in Jaipur

- **The Election Commission will set up the country’s first regional voters’ awareness centre in Jaipur,** which will cater to four states Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.
- **The centre will carry out various awareness activities under the Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme.** “Jaipur is set to be distinguished as being the first SVEEP Regional Centre of the ECI in the country, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said. He re-emphasised the need for ensuring maximum utilisation of digital media platforms for organising meetings, webinars, video conferences and training, a statement said.

Election Commission of India operates under the authority of Constitution per Article 324. The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country. Chief Election Commissioner of India is usually a member of the Indian Civil Service and mostly from the Indian Administrative Service. It is very difficult to remove the authority of the Chief Election Commissioner once appointed by the president, as two-thirds of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha need to vote against him for disorderly conduct or improper actions. Sukumar Sen was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India, serving from 21 March 1950 to 19 December 1958.

India to host summit of SCO council of heads of government

- India will host a summit of the council of heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on November 30 with a focus on contributing to the trade and economic agenda of the influential grouping.
- India has been focussing on expanding its cooperation with the SCO, an eight-nation regional grouping that represents around 42% of the world's population and 20% of the global GDP.
- India's chairmanship of the SCO council of heads of government during 2020 culminating in the summit in India on November 30, affords us an opportunity to contribute in a substantive way on the trade and economic agenda of SCO that will be the main mandate of the summit.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. India and Pakistan have become latest full members in SCO in 2017. The Secretariat of the SCO is the primary executive body of the organisation. It is headquartered in Beijing.

GI tag on Sikkim's red chilli

- "Dalle khursani" or the red cherry pepper chilli, which is grown in Sikkim and considered as one among hottest varieties in the world, has earned a geographical indication (GI) tag from the Union department of industry promotion and internal trade.
- Although the plant is cultivated in the neighbouring Darjeeling hills also, it was included in the Geographical Indications Registry of the Government of India on the basis of an application filed by the Guwahati-headquartered North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (Neramac) on behalf of Sikkim.

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place. In addition, the qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin. Geographical Indications protection is granted through the TRIPS Agreement of WTO. India, as a member of the WTO, enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15 September 2003. GIs have been defined under Article 22 (1) of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement. Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004–2005.

India, Australia and Japan to launch resilient supply chains for Indo-Pacific

- India, Australia and Japan agreed to launch an initiative to ensure the resilience of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific, with the move coming against the backdrop of tensions created by China's aggressive actions across the region.
- The creation of the "Supply Chain Resilience Initiative" was mooted by Japan amid the Covid-19 crisis, which has played havoc with supply and manufacturing chains, and the three countries held preliminary discussions on the issue over the past few weeks, people familiar with developments said.

Tripura-Bangladesh inland waterways route made operational

- **The Sonamura-Daudkandi inland waterways protocol route connecting Tripura to Bangladesh made operational** in presence of Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb and Chairman of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), Aditya Mishra, Secretary of Tripura's Industry and Commerce Department, Kiran Gitte said.
- **The 90 km long Sonamura-Daudkandi route, included in the list of Indo-Bangla protocol (IBP) routes** in May this year, is expected to boost trade, Gitte, who visited the spot. Director of Land Port Authority of India (LPAI) Ajit Kumar Singh, said that a barge carrying goods would arrive at Sonamura on September 5.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was created by Government of India on 27 October 1986 for development and regulation of Inland waterways for shipping and navigation. There are 111 officially notified Inland National Waterways (NWs) in India identified for the purposes of inland water transport, as per The National Waterways Act, 2016. Out of the 111 NWs, 106 were created in 2016. The NW network covers around 20,275.5 km. NW-1, 2, & 3 are already operational. National Waterway 1 or NW-1 or Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system is located in India and runs from Haldia (Sagar) to Prayagraj across the Ganges, Bhagirathi and Hooghly river systems. National Waterway 2 (NW-2) is a section of the Brahmaputra River having a length of 891 km between the Bangladesh border near Dhubri and Sadiya in Assam.

PM SVANidhi scheme is helping street vendors and small traders become self-reliant

- **Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan said Odisha has been among the top 10 States to benefit from the PM SVANidhi scheme.** He added that collateral-free loans up to Rs 10,000 have been provided to street vendors in Sambalpur, Cuttack, Berhampur, Baleswar and other towns of Odisha.
- **Union Minister has said that the PM SVANidhi scheme is helping street vendors and small traders become self-reliant.** He said, more than 1 lakh loans have been sanctioned under this scheme since its launch in June 2020.

The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020 for providing affordable Working Capital loan to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown. The duration of the scheme is until March 2022. Vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year. On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on quarterly basis. There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan. The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month. The vendors can avail the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan.

September to be observed as 'Nutrition Month,' schools must introduce nutrition

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that **September will be observed as "Nutrition Month"**. "For our children and our students to display their optimum potential, show their mettle; nutrition and proper nourishment play a very big role."
- **The month of September will be observed as 'Nutrition Month' in the entire nation," said the Prime Minister during his monthly "Mann ki Baat" radio programme.** "During nutrition month, a food and nutrition quiz will be organized on MyGov portal and there will be a meme competition. You should participate in it and motivate others to take part," he added.
- **Prime Minister said that we have a maxim 'Yatha Annam Tatha Mannam' which means our mental and intellectual development is directly related to the quality of our food intake.** The schools must introduce 'nutrition monitor' like the class monitor to raise awareness"

17th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' consultations held

- Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways **Piyush Goyal** and **Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam Tran Tuan Anh** co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations held virtually.
- The meeting was attended by the Trade Ministers of all the 10 ASEAN countries **Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam**.
- The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to take collective actions in mitigating the economic impact of the pandemic and **resolved to ensure macroeconomic and financial stability and resilient supply chain connectivity**, particularly the unimpeded flow of essential goods and medicines in the region in compliance with the WTO rules. The Ministers' discussion **centred on the review of the ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)**.
- The ASEAN India Business Council (AIBC) Report** has recommended that the AITIGA be reviewed for mutual benefit. The Ministers instructed the senior officials to **start the discussions to determine the scope of the review at the earliest to, inter-alia, make the Free Trade Agreement more user-friendly, simple, and trade facilitative for businesses**.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising ten countries in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates **economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural** integration among its members and other countries in Asia. ASEAN was established on **8 August 1967 in Bangkok** by the five original member countries: **Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand**. The current member countries are **Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam**. Its headquarter is in **Jakarta (Indonesia)**.

Cabinet approves introduction of Jammu & Kashmir Official Languages Bill 2020 in Parliament

- The Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the introduction in Parliament of the **Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill 2020** in which **five languages** will be official languages.
- These are **Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi and English**. Union Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** said inclusion of **Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri as official languages in Jammu and Kashmir** is not only a fulfillment of a long-pending public demand but is also in keeping with the spirit of equality.

The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India. At the time when the Constitution was enacted, inclusion in this list meant that the language was entitled to representation on the **Official Languages Commission**, and that the language would be one of the bases that would be drawn upon to enrich Hindi, the official language of the Union. As per **Articles 344(1) and 351 of the Indian Constitution**, the eighth schedule includes the recognition of the 22 languages. Of these 22 languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. Subsequently, **Sindhi** was added in 1967 by 21st constitutional amendment act; **Konkani, Manipuri (Meitei) and Nepali** were added in 1992 by 71st Constitutional Amendment Act; and **Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santali** were added in 2004 by 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act.

Uttarakhand, Karnataka paired under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme

- Uttarakhand and Karnataka** are paired under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme** to promote national integration through mutual understanding. Both the states have established relations through sports, trade and culture. **Uttarakhand had inspired people in Karnataka in forest conservation**.
- The famous **Chipko Andolan** or hug the trees movement of Uttarakhand had inspired **Appiko Andolan** in **Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka**. Appiko is the Kannada word for Chipko. It was **Sunderlal Bahuguna**, one of the leaders of Chipko movement who visited the state in 1983 to inspire villagers in **Gubbigadde in Uttara Kannada** on the non-violent struggle to save trees.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat was announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Subsequently, the Finance Minister announced the initiative in his Budget Speech for 2016-17. The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme, aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them. As per the programme, each year, every State/UT would be paired with another State/UT in India for reciprocal interaction between the people. Ministry of Education is the nodal ministry for the EBSB programme.

Naveen Patnaik launches citizen-centric apps

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dedicated 100 functional micro composite centres and 50 functional material recovery facilities in various urban local bodies of the State. He also laid the foundation stone for establishment of 51 fecal sludge treatment plants to ensure larger coverage of this facility across all cities and towns, to mark the State-level Local Self Government Day.
- As a part of 5T mandate, Naveen also launched mobile App 'AMA SAHAR' and 'SWACHHA SAHAR ODISHA' web app to provide citizen centric services. With launching of the web app, the ULBs will be able to submit utilisation certificate online which will bring better fiscal management.

With schools unable to start new academic sessions due to the lockdown, the Odisha State Government has started online education for Class X students through 'Diksha' application after April 14, 2020.

Union Cabinet approves Mission Karmayogi

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for Mission Karmayogi, a new national capacity building and performance evaluation programme for civil servants.
- The scheme will cover 46 lakh Central government employees at all levels, and involve an outlay of Rs. 510 crore over a five-year period. An annual subscription of Rs. 431 will be charged per civil servant.
- The programme will support a transition from "rules-based to roles-based" HR management, so that work allocations can be done by matching an official's competencies to the requirements of the post.
- The capacity building programme will be delivered through an Integrated Government Online Training or iGOTKarmayogi digital platform, with content drawn from global best practices rooted in Indian national ethos.
- The Prime Minister's Public Human Resource Council will be set up as the apex body to direct the reforms, with an autonomous Capacity Building Commission to be established to manage the reformed system and harmonise training standards across the country, so that there is a common understanding of India's aspirations and development goals

During the British raj, Warren Hastings laid the foundation of civil service and Charles Cornwallis reformed, modernised, and rationalised it. Hence, Charles Cornwallis is known as 'the Father of civil service in India'. The Constitution, under Article 312 gives authority to the Rajya Sabha (the upper house of Parliament) to set up new branches of the All India Services with a two-thirds majority vote. The Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) have been established under this constitutional provision. The present modern civil service was formed after the partition of India in 1947. It was Sardar Patel's vision that the civil service should strengthen cohesion and national unity who called civil servants the 'steel frame' of independent India. The values of integrity, impartiality, and merit remain the guiding principles of the Indian civil services. The highest ranking civil servant is the Cabinet Secretary. He is ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board. Satyendranath Tagore was the first Indian to join the Indian Civil Service.

Assam re-launches SVAYEM scheme to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths

- The Assam government re-launched a scheme to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths of the state. Known as Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment (SVAYEM), it would provide 50 thousand rupees each as seed money to selected youths to start business ventures.

Brahmaputra called **Yarlung Tsangpo** in Tibet, **Siang/Dihang River** in **Arunachal Pradesh** and **Luit, Dilao** in **Assam**, is a **trans-boundary river** which flows through **Tibet, India and Bangladesh**. It is the **ninth largest river in the world by discharge, and the 15th longest**. With its origin in the **Manasarovar Lake** region, near the **Mount Kailash**, located on the northern side of the Himalayas in **Burang County** of Tibet as the **Yarlung Tsangpo River**. Major tributaries are **Dihang, Lohit, Subansiri, Teesta, Meghna (Barack in Assam), Manas**.

Uttar Pradesh to allocate outlets under Public Distribution System to women SHGs

- In a major step towards self-reliance of the women in the state, **Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to allocate outlets under Public Distribution System to women self-help groups**. These are the outlets which are lying unattended in state. The move will expedite the food distribution to the needy hit by the pandemic.
- **The State Government has decided to give women self-help groups priority during reallocation of PDS shops in rural and urban areas**. Currently, there are more than **2,000 PDS shops ready for reallocation in the state** whose licences have been cancelled earlier due to different reasons. Rural Development Ministry has been asked to provide the details of those self-help groups who are functioning effectively and are able to run the PDS outlets.
- **With a network of more than 400,000 Fair Price Shops (FPS), the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India** is perhaps the **largest distribution machinery of its type in the world**. PDS is said to distribute each year commodities worth more than **Rs 15,000 crore** to about **16 crore families**.

The basic education department of **Uttar Pradesh, UP** in collaboration with **Tata Trust**, has **launched an e-magazine for children in primary and upper primary classes of the state called Library Khidki**. **UP is the second state after Rajasthan to opt for such alternative solution** ensuring all-round development of students from classes 1-8. The first edition of the e-magazine was released on **June 30, 2020**.

J-K LG Launches SPARROW System for J-K Administrative Service Officers

- **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) system for Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service officers**, at **Raj Bhavan**.
- **The SPARROW system is aimed at bringing more transparency, avoiding loss of Appraisal Reports during the transition**, ensuring better monitoring and timely completion of performance appraisals.

Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 re-constituted the erstwhile state of **Jammu and Kashmir** into two union territories, **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**, with effect from **31 October 2019**. **Girish Chandra Murmu** is the **first lieutenant governor of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir**. **Manoj Sinha** is the **second and current Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir**. **Ladakh** is a region administered by India as a **union territory**; **Radha Krishna Mathur** is the **first Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**.

Indian Railways develops remote-controlled medical trolley 'MEDBOT' to deliver food, medicines to COVID-19 patients

- During **Corona crisis**, apart from **providing transport facilities and essential items like foodgrains to people**, **Indian Railways has also provided facilities for COVID-19 patients**.
- **Indian Railways has developed a remote-controlled medical trolley named 'MEDBOT' to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients**. It is providing service in the **Central Hospital of the Diesel Rail Engine Factory of Indian Railways**.

Indian Railways (IR) is the **fourth-largest railway network in the world by size**. There are a total of **18 Railway zones**. **South Coast Railway Zone** is the **newest and 18th railway zone**, headquartered at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**. **Piyush Vedprakash Goyal** is currently serving as the **Minister of Railways and Commerce** in the Government of India. He was elected as the **BJP candidate from Maharashtra for the Rajya Sabha** on **3 June 2016**.

Karnataka to take up Rupees 600-cr. watershed project with World Bank assistance

- **Karnataka is set to implement a Rupees 600-crore project for brining 10 lakh hectares of parched land in 10 districts under watershed development with World Bank assistance.**
- **The project titled ‘Rejuvenating watershed for agriculture resilience through innovative development’ would be implemented for the next six years.** Under the project, the State government would provide Rupees 180 crore while the World Bank would extend an assistance of Rupees 420 crore, the Minister said.

Karnataka is a state in the south western region of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956, with the passage of the States Reorganisation Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973. The capital and largest city is Bengaluru. Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa is serving as the 19th and current Chief Minister of Karnataka. Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala is currently serving as the Governor of Karnataka.

Kerala tops in care for children

- **Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram are among the top five States for well-being of children,** according to a report brought out by non-governmental organisation **Mobile Creches and launched by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.**
- **The young child outcomes index measures health, nutrition and cognitive growth** with the help of indicators such as infant mortality rate, stunting and net attendance at the primary school level.
- **It identifies eight States that have scores below the country’s average:** they are Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- **The index is part of the ‘State of the Young Child’ in India report** released the 50-year-old NGO, which works in the field of early childhood care and development by ensuring creche services at construction sites and slum settlements across several cities.
- **The index has been constructed for two time periods (2005–2006 and 2015–2016) to enable inter-State comparisons** as well as provide an idea of change over time. The report has also developed another index called the young child environment index to understand the policy and environment enablers that influence a child’s well-being.
- **According to the environment index, Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh secured the top five positions. It uses five policy enablers that influence child well-being outcomes,** including poverty alleviation, strengthening primary healthcare, improving education levels, safe water supply and promotion of gender equity. **According to the environment index, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are the worst performing states.**

Social Justice Ministry launched mental health rehabilitation helpline

- **Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot has launched the 24x7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline “KIRAN”.**
- **The “Kiran” mental health rehabilitation helpline number, 1800-599-0019, will provide callers “support for early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, mental well-being, preventing deviant behaviours, psychological crisis management etc.**

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is responsible for welfare, social justice and empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society, including scheduled castes (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC), the disabled, the elderly, and the victims of drug abuse. The current cabinet minister is Thawar Chand Gehlot, who is assisted by a Minister of State, Rattan Lal Kataria, Krishan Pal Gujjar and Ramdas Athavale.

Andhra Pradesh tops Ease of Doing Business rankings of States and UTs

- **Andhra Pradesh topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings. Uttar Pradesh and Telangana bagged second and third positions respectively.**

- The Commerce and Industry Ministry released the ranking of States and Union Territories (UTs) in terms of ease of doing business in a function attended by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.
- The BRAP ranking aims at triggering competition among states to improve business climate in order to attract domestic and global investors. The parameters include areas such as construction permit, labour regulation, and environmental registration, access to information, land availability and single window system.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) conducts the exercise for all States and Union Territories under the Business Reform Action Plan. In the World Bank's latest 'Doing Business' report, India has jumped 14 places to the 63rd position.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India grew by 13% to a record of \$ 49.97 billion in the 2019-20 financial year, according to official data. Sectors which attracted maximum foreign inflows during 2019-20 include services (\$ 7.85 billion), computer software and hardware (\$ 7.67 billion), telecommunications (\$ 4.44 billion), trading (\$ 4.57 billion), automobile (\$ 2.82 billion), construction (\$ 2 billion), and chemicals (\$ one billion), the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data showed. Singapore emerged as the largest source of FDI in India during the last fiscal with \$ 14.67 billion investments. It was followed by Mauritius (\$ 8.24 billion), the Netherlands (\$ 6.5 billion), the US (\$ 4.22 billion), Caymen Islands (\$ 3.7 billion), Japan (\$ 3.22 billion), and France (\$ 1.89 billion).

11th INDRA NAVY: Bilateral maritime exercise between Indian and Russian Navy

- The 11th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY, a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between Indian and Russian Navy will begin in the Bay of Bengal.
- The primary aim of exercise INDRA NAVY-20 is to further consolidate inter-operability built up by the two Navies over the years and also to enhance understanding and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations.
- The Indian Navy has deployed guided missile destroyer Ranvijay, indigenous frigate Sahyadri and fleet tanker Shakti, along with their integral helicopters for the exercise. The Russian Federation Navy is being represented by destroyer Admiral Vinogradov, destroyer Admiral Tributs and fleet tanker Boris Butoma of the Pacific Fleet, based at Vladivostok.

India and Russia have been engaged in joint naval drills since 2003. "Indra" Navy is a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian and Russian navies and epitomizes the strategic relationship between the two countries. Exercise INDRA-2017, the first ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces was conducted in the Eastern Military District of Russia from 19 to 29 Oct 2017.

Tribal Affairs Ministry signs agreement with IIPA for setting up of National Institute of Tribal Research

- Tribal Affairs Ministry signed an agreement with Indian Institute of Public Administration, IIPA for setting up of National Institute of Tribal Research at the IIPA campus, New Delhi.
- The proposed National Institute will be functional in a few months and will be engaged in quality tribal research in collaboration with reputed government and non-governments NGOs spread over the country. The agreement was signed in the presence of Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda.

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) launched Van Dhan Samajik Doori Jagrookta Abhiyaan, which is aimed at educating Tribals engaged in gathering Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in forest areas, on covid-19 response, key preventive behaviour like social distancing, home quarantine, and hygiene tips. Van Dhan Kendras, established under the scheme initiated by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs are leading the way in helping tribals generate their livelihood in these distressed times.

India is the world's 2nd largest road network

- India has now the second largest road network in the world being fuelled by the tremendous growth in construction of expressways and highways.

- **Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari** informed that **the current rate of road building per day has averaged to 30 Kilometre a day**, with the highest being 40 Kilometre per day of highways.

The road transport and highways ministry has mandated a special identification for Bharat Stage (BS) VI four wheeler vehicles from October 1, 2020. The government has called for providing a green strip on the sticker of registration details on the BS VI four wheelers, such that these vehicles can be identified easily. This will be applicable to petrol, CNG and diesel vehicles. The union government had mandated automobile manufacturers to switch to BS VI emission norms from April 1, 2020.

Record 63 Indian universities join world ranking; IISc retains top position

- **Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** has retained its position as the highest-rated Indian university while the country recorded the highest ever tally of 63 universities in the Times Higher Education University Ranking 2021 released.
- The 63 universities is an increase of 14 from last year. **The University of Oxford retains the top spot in the ranking based on the assessment of over 1,500 universities'** quality of teaching, international outlook, research, and knowledge transfer.
- **Overall, the IISc (301-350) maintains its position as the highest-ranked Indian university** since it first qualified for the rankings in 2015, organisers of the ranking said.
- Among the debutant Indian institutions in this year's rankings, **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi, King George's Medical University (Lucknow), and Mahatma Gandhi University rank highest (601-800 band).**

Fruits & vegetables in J&K covered under 'Operation Green's TOP to TOTAL' scheme

- In Jammu and Kashmir, what could be termed as a shot in arm for farmers of J&K, the Centre has brought majority of fruits and vegetables grown in Jammu under a fresh initiative of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Almost all fruits and vegetables in J&K are covered under the 'Operation Green's TOP to TOTAL' scheme.
- It aims to prevent distress sales, Price stabilization interventions in Jammu and Kashmir under Central Sector Scheme- "Operation Greens" which has been extended from Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) to all notified fruits and vegetables (TOTAL) for a period of six months on pilot basis.

Operation Greens is a project approved by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries with the target to stabilise the supply of tomato, onion and potato crops (TOP crops) in India, as well as to ensure their availability around the country, year-round without price volatility.

States mandated to set up panel on Content Regulation of Government Ads

- As per directions of the Supreme Court, **States are mandated to set up their three member committees on Content Regulation of Government Advertisements.**
- **State-level committees** have already been constituted by **Karnataka, Goa, Mizoram and Nagaland. Chhattisgarh government** has given its consent to the Central Committee to monitor the content of their government advertisements.
- The Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising, CCRGA in its 19th meeting held last week took a serious note of delay in constituting state level Committees by other states. **The CCRGA was of the view that some state governments' delay in setting up the state-level committees** may be construed as contempt of Supreme Court's order.
- **The meeting chaired by former Chief Election Commissioner of India Om Prakash Rawat was attended by two other members, Ramesh Narayan of Asian Federation of Advertising Associations and past President, IAA and Part- Time Member of Prasar Bharti Board Ashok Kumar Tandon.**

In 2016 Supreme Court modified its earlier order and allowed publication of pictures of Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, Governors and State Ministers can now appear in government advertisements with the Supreme Court modifying its earlier order and allowing their publication. The verdict came on pleas by Centre and states

including poll-bound West Bengal and Tamil Nadu which had sought a review of the Supreme Court judgment barring publication of leaders' photos in advertisements **except those of the President, Prime Minister and the Chief Justice of India**, saying it infringed fundamental rights and federal structure.

First World Solar Technology Summit inaugurated

- **The International Solar Alliance's first World Solar Technology Summit was inaugurated.** Representatives of ISA member countries attended the summit through video conference. Union Minister and International Solar Alliance President RK Singh read Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message for the summit.
- In his message, **Prime Minister appealed all countries to be part of the International Solar Alliance and join the campaign to save the earth.** PM said that India's per capita carbon emission are the lowest on the world, still India's commitment to adopt renewable energy helped it in achieving the fourth rank in the world in terms of renewable energy.
- At the summit, an agreement was also signed between **the National Thermal Power Corporation and International Solar Alliance, to implement 47 projects.** Under this agreement, NTPC will start solar power generation projects in 47 member countries of ISA. During the summit, a partnership agreement was also exchanged between Global Green Institute and International Solar Alliance. **The agreement comprises of a target to install 10 lakh solar pumps in member countries of the ISA for irrigation purposes.**

The International Solar Alliance is a common platform for cooperation among sun-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015 by the then, President of France and the Prime Minister of India. In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then, French President François Hollande jointly laid the foundation stone of the International Solar Alliance headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gwalpahari, Gurugram, India.

Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates 22 bamboo clusters in nine states

- **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated 22 bamboo clusters in nine states by virtual mode.** These States are Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka.
- A logo for the National Bamboo Mission was also released. **Lauding the success of the National Bamboo Mission, Mr Tomar said that the country is now gearing up to increase the export of bamboo products.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always strived that local industries should be protected and make progress so that local artisans get a source of livelihood. He said, keeping in consideration the importance of bamboo, **the Indian Forest Act 1927 was amended in the year 2017 to remove bamboo for the category of trees.**

Narendra Singh Tomar is the Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Minister of Rural Development in the Second Modi ministry. He is a member of the 17th Lok Sabha from Morena, Madhya Pradesh.

Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence inaugurated at NIT Trichy

- **The Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence was inaugurated at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Trichy, by its Director Dr Mini Shaji Thomas.**
- **The Centre, with various cutting edge technical facilities, was set up with Rs 1.18 crore funding from the Higher Education Funding Agency - HEFA.** The Centre already has in hand various projects worth Rs 1.27 crores from various central institutes like ISRO, DRDO and the Naval Research Board.

Artificial intelligence (AI), sometimes called machine intelligence, is intelligence demonstrated by machines, unlike the natural intelligence displayed by humans and animals. The field of AI research was born at a workshop at Dartmouth College in 1956 where the term "Artificial Intelligence" was coined by John McCarthy to distinguish the field from cybernetics and escape the influence of the cyberneticist Norbert Wiener.

At 96.2%, Kerala tops India's literacy rate chart again; Andhra Pradesh ranks lowest with 66.4%

- With 96.2 percent literacy, Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country, while Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 percent, showed a report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) survey.
- The report on 'Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of the 75th round of National Sample Survey – from July 2017 to June 2018' provides for state-wise detail of literacy rate among the persons aged seven years and above.
- According to the study, after Kerala, Delhi has the best literacy rate at 88.7 percent, followed by Uttarakhand's 87.6 percent, Himachal Pradesh's 86.6 percent, and Assam's at 85.9 percent.
- On the other hand, Rajasthan is the second-worst performer with a literacy rate at 69.7 percent, followed by Bihar at 70.9 percent, Telangana at 72.8 percent, Uttar Pradesh at 73 percent, and Madhya Pradesh at 73.7 percent.
- The study has pegged the overall literacy rate in the country at about 77.7 percent. In rural areas, the literacy rate is 73.5 percent compared to 87.7 percent in urban areas of the country. At the all-India level, the male literacy rate is higher at 84.7 percent compared to 70.3 percent among women.

Government constitutes EGoM to guide corporatisation process of OFB

- Consequent to the decision of the Government to convert Ordnance Factory Board, OFB, a subordinate office of Ministry of Defence into one or more than one 100 per cent Government owned corporate entities, the Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers, EGoM, under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The EGoM will oversee and guide the entire process, including transition support and redeployment plan of employees while safeguarding their wages and retirement benefits. Other ministers in the EGoM are Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar and Minister for Personnel Dr Jitendra Singh.

Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) consisting of the Indian Ordnance Factories is an Government agency under the control of department of defence production (DDP) Ministry of Defence (MoD), Government of India. It is engaged in research, development, production, testing, marketing and logistics of a comprehensive product range in the areas of air, land and sea systems. It is headquartered in Kolkata.

PM Narendra Modi dedicated to nation three key projects related to Petroleum sector in Bihar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation three key projects related to the Petroleum sector in Bihar through video conferencing. The projects include the Durgapur-Banka section of the Paradip-Haldia-Durgapur Pipeline Augmentation Project and two LPG Bottling Plants.
- They have been commissioned by Indian Oil and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited- HPCL, under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- The 193 kilometer long Durgapur-Banka pipeline section is a part of the Paradip-Haldia-Durgapur Pipeline Augmentation Project, for which the foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister. Durgapur-Banka section is the extension of the existing 679 Kilometer long Paradip-Haldia-Durgapur LPG pipeline to the new LPG bottling plant at Banka in Bihar.

Following COVID-19 lockdown, the Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC) has launched a mobile application and plans to book a slot with the All India Radio for the audio broadcast of study materials for government school students. Recently, the BEPC, a wing of the State Education department, launched a mobile application "Unnayan: Mera Mobile, Mera Vidyalaya" for Class VI to XII of over 70,000 government-run schools.

Bihar is the third-largest state of India by population, according to the census 2011. It is a land-locked state, although the outlet to the sea through the port of Kolkata is not far away. Nalanda University is located in the town of Rajgir, in the northern Indian state of Bihar. It was a Buddhist center of learning from 427 to 1197 CE. It has been called "one of the first great universities in recorded history. Phagu Chauhan is the current Governor of Bihar. Nitish Kumar is the current Chief Minister of Bihar.

Centre launches Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework along with ‘Streets for People Challenge’

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the **Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, CSCAF 2.0**, along with the ‘Streets for People Challenge’ in a virtual event.
- The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments. CSCAF initiative intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India.
- The Streets for People Challenge is the response to the need for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly.

Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs **Hardeep S Puri** launched a mobile app, ‘**mHariyali**’, which is aimed to encourage public engagement in planting trees and other such green drives. The app provides for automatic geo-tagging of plants. The app will also enable nodal officers to periodically monitor the plantation.

PM Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** digitally launched the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**. He also launched **e-Gopala App**, a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.
- The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of **Rs. 20,050 crores** for its implementation during a period of 5 years from **FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25** in all States/Union Territories, as a part of AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package.
- The investment of **Rs. 20,050 crores** under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector. Out of this, an investment of about **Rs 12340 crores** is proposed for beneficiary-oriented activities in Marine, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture and about **Rs 7710 crores** investment for Fisheries Infrastructure.
- PMMSY aims at enhancing fish production by an additional **70 lakh tonne** by **2024-25**, increasing fisheries export earnings to **Rs.1,00,000 crore** by 2024-25, doubling of incomes of fishers and fish farmers, reducing post-harvest losses from 20-25% to about 10% and generation of additional **55 lakhs** direct and indirect gainful employment opportunities in fisheries sector and allied activities.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is a newly formed ministry in India. It was formed in May 2019 by Modi government from the department of same name under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. **Sanjeev Kumar Balyan** is appointed as minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying.

Gujarat: State declares its first heritage tourism policy

- Unveiling the first “heritage tourism policy” Gujarat government allowed opening up of heritage hotels, museums, banquet halls and restaurants inside historic palaces, forts and buildings.
- This policy is applicable to historic structures that existed before **January 1, 1950** and will allow international and domestic tourists to see and experience historic structures from close quarters.
- Under this policy, a new heritage hotel or an existing one will get financial assistance of **Rs 5-10 crore** for renovation or expansion. The basic heritage structure should not be altered during this process. The government will give a **20 per cent subsidy (maximum of Rs 5 crore)** if the investment is up to **Rs 25 crore**. If the investments are over **Rs 25 crore**, then the maximum subsidy would be **Rs 10 crore**.

Gujarat is a state on the western coast of India with a longest coastline of India **1,600 km (990 mi)**. Its capital city is **Gandhinagar**, while its largest city is **Ahmedabad**. **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City** is a business district promoted by the Government of Gujarat through a joint venture company. **GIFT City** is India’s first operational smart city in the Ahmedabad and international financial services centre. **Acharya Devvrat** is Governor of Gujarat and **Vijay Rupani** is the current Chief Minister of Gujarat. Gujarat has become the first state to implement newly-introduced **10 per cent reservations** in government jobs and higher education for the economically weaker sections in the general category and followed by **Jharkhand** and **Uttar Pradesh**.

EAM Jaishankar co-chairs ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting along with his Thailand counterpart Don Pramudwinai. The meeting was held virtually and saw the participation of Foreign Ministers of the ten ASEAN Member States and India.
- It reviewed the status of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership in several areas including maritime cooperation, connectivity, education and capacity building and people-to-people contacts.
- It also reviewed the progress in implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action, 2016-2020. The new ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021-2025) was adopted at the Meeting. The Ministers discussed ways to strengthen cooperation to fight COVID-19 pandemic and exchanged views on important regional and international developments.

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar is the current Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India since 31 May 2019. He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party and is a Member of Indian Parliament in the Rajya Sabha since 5 July 2019, representing Gujarat. He has previously served as the Foreign Secretary from January 2015 to January 2018. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1977.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates 1.75 lakh houses built under PMAY - Gramin in MP

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 1.75 lakh houses built under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin in 12 thousand villages in Madhya Pradesh. The Prime Minister released the 'Griha Pravesham' plaque and inaugurated all the houses simultaneously.

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana (PMGAY), previously Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), is a social welfare programme to provide housing for the rural poor in India. A similar scheme for urban poor was launched in 2015 as Housing for All by 2022. Under the PMGAY scheme, financial assistance worth Rs.120,000 (US\$1,700) in plain areas and Rs.130,000 (US\$1,800) in difficult areas (high land area) is provided for construction of houses.

Damaged British-era Durmi-Gauna Lake in Uttarakhand to be revived after 5 decades

- A British-era lake which was largely covered by debris following a cloudburst and landslide in Chamoli district will now be revived to make it a prominent tourist attraction.
- Durmi-Gauna Lake also known as Birahi taal, 18 km from Nijmula valley in Chamoli was a prominent lake of Garhwal region on the lines of Nainital in Kumaon during the early part of the last century.
- Britishers liked this hill spot owing to its scenic beauty against the background of the Trishul Himalayas and water of four rivulets forming the core water supply of this lake. The vast alpine pastures and panoramic Himalayan view from this lake and adjacent villages provide a breathtaking view to the visitors.
- "Durmi-Gauna Lake is situated in the midst of two villages Durmi and Gauna because of which this lake is known as Durmi-Gauna Lake. It was a major lake during the pre and post-Independence era. Boats used to operate on this lake with a large number of tourists and visitors from neighbouring districts of Garhwal-Kumaon division used to arrive.
- But due to a natural disaster on July 20, 1970 when a cloudburst and heavy rainfall and landslide resulted in burying much of the lake with debris and boulders from the mountain. Now, this lake will be revived and redeveloped with multi development projects to restore its lost status".

Char Dham National Highway is an under construction two-lane express National Highway with a minimum width of 10 metres in the Indian state of Uttarakhand. The proposed highway will complement the under construction Char Dham Railway by connecting the four holy places in Uttarakhand states namely Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. The project includes 900 km national highways which will connect whole of Uttarakhand state

Odisha Government launches "GARIMA" welfare scheme for sanitation workers

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched "GARIMA" a new Scheme to ensure Safety and Dignity of Core Sanitation Workers of the State. Under this scheme, about 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families

covering one lakh population are likely to be benefitted. A dedicated corpus fund initially with Rs 50 crore will also be created, a State Commission for Core Sanitation Workers will also be constituted, the Scheme will be implemented in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha.

Government moves ahead with Orientation and Training Programme of iRAD App

- **Road Transport and Highways Ministry** is in the process of implementing **Integrated Road Accident Database Project (iRAD)** which will be applicable across the country. In the first instance, it has been decided to implement the proposal in six states.
- These are **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**. The basic iRAD app has been developed and will be customized as per the requirements of concerned states. Mobile app of iRAD is available for Android platform and will be available shortly for other platforms like iOS.

Nitin Jairam Gadkari was served as the President of the BJP from 2010-2013. He is the current Minister for Road Transport & Highways of India and Shipping Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the Government of India. Gadkari represents Lok Sabha from Nagpur constituency, Maharashtra.

India joins Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment as Observer

- India has joined the **Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment, DCOC/JA, as Observer**. The move came following the high level meeting of the Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment held virtually on 26th of August.
- **DCOC/JA is a grouping on maritime matters comprising 18 member states** adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, the East Coast of Africa and Island countries in the Indian Ocean Region. India has joined Japan, Norway, the UK and the US as Observers to the DCOC/JA.
- The DCOC, established in January 2009, is aimed at repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. As an observer at the DCOC/JA, India is looking forward to working together with DCOC/JA member states towards coordinating and contributing to enhanced maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.
- A high-level meeting of signatories to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (10 to 12 January 2017) has adopted a revised Code of Conduct, which will be known as the “Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct 2017”.
- The Jeddah Amendment recognizes the important role of the “blue economy” including shipping, seafaring, fisheries and tourism in supporting sustainable economic growth, food security, employment, prosperity and stability.

In May 2019, India has launched Mission Sagar as part of the government’s outreach initiative towards five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) in a statement said, “Indian Naval Ship Kesari has departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide Food Items, COVID related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams embarked.” The Indian government introduced the concept of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) in 2015 as its strategic vision for the Indian Ocean Region.

NDA candidate Harivansh elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

- **NDA candidate Harivansh** has been re-elected as the **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha**. The upper house cleared his name with a voice vote. BJP President JP Nadda had moved the proposal to elect Harivansh as the deputy chairman and his motion was adopted.
- Later, **Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu announced his name**. The Opposition had pitted Manoj Jha of RJD against Harivansh. However, opposition parties did not press for voting and the JDU MP was declared elected with voice vote.
- **Harivansh Narayan Singh** is an Indian journalist and politician, who is the **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**, the upper house of the Indian Parliament. He is a **Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha representing Bihar**. On 8 August 2018, he was elected as **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** and was re-elected as the deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha on 14 September 2020.

The Deputy Chairman, who is elected from amongst the house's members, takes care of the day-to-day matters of the house in the absence of the Chairman. The Rajya Sabha held its first sitting on 13 May 1952. The Vice President of India (currently, Venkaiah Naidu) is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, who presides over its sessions. The Chairman shall, from time to time, nominate from amongst the members of the Council a panel of not more than six Vice-Chairmen, any one of whom may preside over the Council in the absence of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman when so requested by the Chairman, or in his absence, by the Deputy Chairman. The Deputy Chairman or other member competent to preside over a sitting of the Council under the Constitution or these rules shall, when so presiding, have the same power as the Chairman when presiding over the Council and all references to the Chairman in these rules shall in these circumstances be deemed to be, references to any such person so presiding. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan served as the first Vice President of India (1952–1962) and the second President of India (1962–1967). S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao was the first Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

India wins three elections to key UN bodies

- India has scored a hat-trick of election wins at the United Nations ahead of the General Assembly's 75th session, which will be held virtually due to Covid-19 pandemic. India beat China to win a four-year term on the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CWS), a prestigious wing of the world body's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- India also won a seat each, through endorsements, to two other ECOSOC bodies — the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Commission on Population and Development (CPD).
- Terms will begin 2021 when India will also start its two-year stint on the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member. India, Afghanistan and China had contested the elections to the Commission on Status of Women. Even as India and Afghanistan won the ballot among the 54 members, China could not cross the half-way mark.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (also known as the Permanent Five, Big Five, or P5) are China (formerly the Republic of China), Russia (formerly the Soviet Union), France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Antonio Guterres is a Portuguese politician and diplomat who is serving as the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations. Previously, he was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees between 2005 and 2015.

Jammu and Kashmir announces Universal Health Insurance Scheme for all residents of UT

- Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has announced a scheme to provide universal health insurance to all residents of the Union Territory. The scheme will provide health insurance cover free of cost to all residents and shall include the serving and retired employees and their families as well.
- Lt Governor said, the government has approved an important public health benefit proposal which is probably the first of its kind in the entire country. Jammu and Kashmir Health Scheme will provide universal health coverage to nearly 70 lakh residents of the Union Territory who are not covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. The LG invited suggestions from the public for naming the J&K Health Scheme.

Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 re-constituted the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, with effect from 31 October 2019. Girish Chandra Murmu is the first lieutenant governor of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Manoj Sinha is the second and current Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. Ladakh is a region administered by India as a union territory; Radha Krishna Mathur is the first Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

Hindi Diwas being observed across the country

- Hindi Diwas is being celebrated across the country on 14th September. It was on this day in 1949 that the constituent assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari as the official language of the country.

- Hindi is one of the widely spoken languages in the world and the **first language of more than 520 million people**. Government has taken several steps to promote the Rajbhasha and at the international forums, Hindi is being well received.

According to Part XVII of the Constitution of India, Hindi in the Devanagari script is the official language of the Union, along with English as an additional official language. States and union territories can have a different official language of their own other than Hindi or English. The Constitution also places a responsibility on the President of India to support the implementation and progressive use of Hindi, rather than English, as the official language of India, as well gives the power of imposing restrictions on the usage of English for official purposes in India. The President of India is also given a time of fifteen years, from the time of the establishing of the Constitution, to phase out English in favor of Hindi, a right yet to be exercised. The articles 348 and 349 are related to the official language of the Supreme Court of India, the High Courts of India as well as any authoritative legal texts should be English.

Gujarat & Andaman and Nicobar Islands named best performers in State StartUp Rankings

- State of Gujarat and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been named the best performers in the State StartUp Rankings 2019.
- They have been recognized for their **outstanding performance in simplifying commerce, enhancing productivity and leveraging technology**. The State Startup Rankings was released in New Delhi.
- Karnataka and Kerala are the top performing states in the State StartUp Rankings for fostering innovative entrepreneurship to attract business and finance.
- Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh are the **emerging startup ecosystems in the country**.
- Speaking on the occasion, **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** said that **during COVID period, Indian Startups have come up with brilliant ideas and solutions** to the many problems that the country and the world face.

Parliament passes The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020

- Parliament passed two bills aimed at transforming agriculture in the country and raising farmers' incomes. The **Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020** and **The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020** which were passed by Lok Sabha on 17th September 2020, were passed by the Rajya Sabha also.
- The Bills were introduced in Lok Sabha on 14th September 2020 by **Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar**, to replace ordinances promulgated on 5th June 2020.
- The **Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020** will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce. It will also promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations. The farmers will **not be charged any cess or levy for sale of their produce** and will **not have to bear transport costs**. Farmers will be able to engage in direct marketing thereby eliminating intermediaries resulting in full realization of price. The Bill also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically.
- The **Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020** will empower farmers for engaging with processors, wholesalers, aggregators, wholesalers, large retailers, exporters etc., on a level playing field. Price assurance to farmers even before sowing of crops. In case of **higher market price, farmers will be entitled to this price over and above the minimum price**. It will transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor. Due to prior price determination, farmers will be shielded from the rise and fall of market prices.

The agriculture contribution in India's GDP in 2019 is 15.96 percent. According to latest report, agriculture is primary source of livelihood for 58% population in India. The Primary sector of the economy includes any industry involved in the extraction and production of raw materials, such as farming, logging, hunting, fishing, and mining. India is a global agricultural powerhouse. It is the world's largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices, and has the world's largest cattle herd (buffaloes), as well as the largest area under wheat, rice and cotton. It is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, cotton, sugarcane, farmed fish, sheep & goat meat, fruit, vegetables and tea.

Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Poshana schemes

- Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Sampoorna Poshana and YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus schemes aimed at providing nutritious food for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children.
- While YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus is for supplying nutritious food in 77 tribal areas covering eight ITDAs, 52 ICDS projects and 8,320 Anganwadi centres, the remaining urban and rural areas in plain lands will be covered under the YSR Sampoorna Poshana.
- Under YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus, the government will be spending Rs 1,100 every month on every pregnant and lactating woman, Rs 620 on each child aged six and 36 months, and Rs 553 on each child aged between 36 and 72 months, totalling Rs 307.55 crore per annum on 3,80,000 beneficiaries.

Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to be formed under the State reorganisation act in 1956 and first state to be created based on the language in India. On 2 June 2014, the north-western portion of Andhra Pradesh was separated to form the new state of Telangana. The longtime capital of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, was transferred to Telangana as part of the division. Amaravati is the de facto capital city of the Andhra Pradesh. Biswabhusan Harichandan is serving as the current Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to have Five Deputy Chief Ministers one each from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, backward, minority and Kapu communities. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is the current Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Parliament passes 'Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020'

- Parliament has passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020 with Rajya Sabha approving it. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill. The bill seeks to establish an Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda and declare it an Institute of National importance.
- The bill also has the provision to merge three Ayurveda institutes situated in Jamnagar, Gujarat into one. The institutes are, the Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Shree Gulabkunverba Ayurved Mahavidyalaya and the Indian Institute of Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical Sciences. The proposed Institute will be situated in the campus of Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar.

Ayurveda is an alternative medicine system with historical roots in the Indian subcontinent. The theory and practice of Ayurveda is pseudoscientific. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) characterises the practice of modern medicine by Ayurvedic practitioners as quackery. In Sushruta Samhita (Sushruta's Compendium), Sushruta wrote that Dhanvantari, Hindu god of Ayurveda, incarnated himself as a king of Varanasi and taught medicine to a group of physicians, including Sushruta. Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (abbreviated as AYUSH) is purposed with developing education, research and propagation of indigenous alternative medicine systems in India. The Ministry is headed by a Minister of State (Independent Charge), which is currently held by Shripad Yesso Naik.

India will hold joint naval exercise with France, Australia

- India is looking at stepping up relations and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and could embark on a new series of joint military exercises with France and Australia, nations that have deep interests in the southern Indian Ocean.
- This gains significance given the current border tensions and recent aggressive deployments by the PLA Navy in the region, with analysts predicting that the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) will soon see a larger and dangerous Chinese presence. India already conducts the Varuna series of naval exercises with France, with the last edition

featuring French aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle that operates the marine version of the Rafale fighter jets as well as a nuclear submarine.

PM Narendra Modi dedicated Kosi Rail Mahasetu to nation through video-conference

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the historic Kosi Rail Mahasetu (Mega Bridge) to the nation through video-conference. The dedication of the Kosi Rail Mahasetu is a watershed moment in the history of Bihar and the entire region connecting to the North East.**
- **The Kosi Rail Mahasetu is 1.9 KM long and its construction cost is Rs. 516 Crore.** The project was completed during the COVID-pandemic where the migrant labour also participated. The dedication of this project will fulfil the 86 year old dream.
- Apart from this, the Prime Minister also inaugurated 12 rail projects related to passenger facilities for the benefit of the Bihar. **These include a new railway bridge on the Kiul River, two new railway lines, five electrification projects, one electric locomotive shed and 3rd line project between Barh-Bakhtiyarpur.**

The Kosi or Koshi is a trans-boundary river which flows through Tibet, Nepal and India. The Kosi River is known as the “Sorrow of Bihar”. The Kosi River is one of the left bank tributaries of Ganga. The Ganges River is the longest river in India and flows for around 1,569 miles (2,525 km) from the Himalayan Mountains to the Bay of Bengal. The major left-bank tributaries of Ganga include Gomti (Gumti), Ghaghara (Gogra), Gandaki (Gandak), and Kosi (Kusi); major right-bank tributaries include Yamuna (Jumna), Son, Punpun and Damodar.

Karnataka CM launches ‘Arthika Spandana’ loan disbursal scheme

- **Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa launched the “Arthika Spandana” programme of disbursing loans to the tune of Rs. 39,300 crore through various cooperative institutions.**
- **Under this scheme, Rs.15, 300 crore would be disbursed to the agriculture sector while a sum of Rs. 24,000 crore would be earmarked for the non-agricultural sector.** The Chief Minister, who launched the programme by symbolically handing over cheques towards loans to 50 beneficiaries, hailed the cooperative institutions for helping people during the times of COVID-19 and floods.

Karnataka is a state in the south western region of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956, with the passage of the States Reorganisation Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973. The capital and largest city is Bengaluru. Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa is serving as the 19th and current Chief Minister of Karnataka. Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala is currently serving as the Governor of Karnataka.

J&K: Lt Guv e-inaugurates Online Process-Based Standardized & Scalable Career Education platform for students in Srinagar

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha e-inaugurated an Online Process-Based Standardized & Scalable Career Education Platform for Students in Srinagar.** The initiative is a step towards transforming the way in which our Youth looks at building his future in the world of possibilities.
- **The On-line, Process-based, Standardized & Scalable, Globally Certified, Career Education Platform, under Career Education Initiative of J&K Government in partnership with Transform Foundation aims to harness the energy, enthusiasm, and exuberant dreams of the youth of J&K.** The overall intent is to enable curiosity, creative thinking, and awareness in youth along with decision-making skills.

J&K: LG Manoj Sinha launches National Generic Document Registration System

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)** at a ceremony organized at Deputy Commissioner’s office in Srinagar.
- **NGDRS represents a major shift from the existing manual registration system to online registration of all transactions in sale-purchase and transfer of land.** Stamp papers have been replaced by e-stamps which have been incorporated in coordination with Stockholding Corporation of India. **J&K will be the 10th among States and UTs to become part of NGDRS.**

The government notified the Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020. Under the domicile rules, all those persons and their children who have lived for 15 years in Jammu and Kashmir or have studied for seven years and appeared in class 10 or 12 examinations in an educational institution in the UT are eligible for domicile certificates. Besides, all those migrants and their children who are registered with the relief and rehabilitation commissioner will be granted a domicile certificate. Children of central government officials, all India service officers, officials of PSUs and autonomous body of the central government, public sector banks, officials of statutory bodies, central universities and recognised research institutes of the Centre, who have served in Jammu of Kashmir for a total period of 10 years, will also be eligible for domicile status in Jammu & Kashmir.

Hardeep Singh Puri Inaugurates India's First Private Jet Terminal at Delhi Airport

- The national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has entered into an exclusive league of global airports which sports a dedicated terminal for private jets. Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's first General Aviation Terminal at Delhi Airport.

Hardeep Singh Puri is the current Civil Aviation Minister of India and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in India. He is a 1974 batch Indian Foreign Service officer who served as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations from 2009 to 2013. He formerly served as President of the United Nations Security Council and he represents Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh.

Rajya Sabha passes two Bills to reduce salary, allowances of MPs, Ministers by 30%

- The Rajya Sabha unanimously passed the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2020 and the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020.
- The two legislations are related to reduction in the salaries, allowances of the Ministers and Members of Parliament. The bills will replace the two ordinances amending the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 and the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.
- The bills have provision to cut the salaries and other allowances by 30 per cent. These changes have been made for a period of one year effective from 1st of April this year.

In April 2020, the Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance to amend the Salaries, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954. It will cut the salaries of Members of Parliament (MPs) by 30%, effective from 1st April 2020. Apart from this, it has been decided to suspend the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds for two financial years (2020-21 to 2021-22). The saved amount will go to the Consolidated Fund of India to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. It is applicable to all MPs, including the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, for the financial year 2020-2021. The President and Vice-President of India along with all the State Governors have also decided on their own to take a 30% salary cut. However, the amendment will only cut MPs' salaries, not allowances or the pensions of ex-MPs. According to the pay hike in 2018, each MP draws a monthly salary of Rs.1 lakh, Rs.70, 000 as constituency allowance and Rs. 60,000 for running office besides other perks.

India's first Coast Guard academy to come up at Mangaluru

- India's first Coast Guard academy will be established at Mangaluru. Around 158 acres Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) land has been taken over for setting up ICG Academy.

Government sets up Task Force to reconsider legal age of marriage for women

- Union Government has set up a Task Force to reconsider the legal age of marriage for women. The taskforce will be headed by former Samata Party President Jaya Jaitly and will have among members VK Paul, Member, Health, NITI Ayog.
- The government has notified the taskforce which will examine the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with implications on the health of mothers and infants, impact of the age of marriage on infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, total fertility rate, sex ratio at birth and child sex ratio.

- The very first term of reference of the taskforce relates to **revisiting the legal age of marriage for Indian women**, with sources saying a debate is under way for parity between legal marriageable ages for men and women in India. **While the legal age of marriage for women is 18 years, for men it is 21 years.**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had, **during the Budget Speech 2020-21, announced, “Women’s age of marriage was increased from 15 years 18 eighteen years in 1978 by amending erstwhile Sharda Act of 1929.** As India progresses further, opportunities open up for women to pursue higher education and careers. There are imperatives of lowering MMR as well as improvement of nutrition levels.

First-ever annual ‘India Happiness Report’ released; Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands top index

- **The first-ever annual ‘India Happiness Report’, which is India specific and studies happiness in the thirty-six states and union territories of India, has been released.**
- In the happiness rankings of states and union territories, **Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the top three. Among the big states, Punjab, Gujarat, and Telangana are among the top three states** whereas, among smaller states, **Mizoram, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh are the top three states** in happiness rankings. Among union territories, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep are the top three union territories in happiness rankings.
- **The author of the report is Dr Rajesh K Pillania, Professor of Strategy and Area Chairperson-Strategic Management at Gurgaon-based Management Development Institute.**
- **This study uses six components** namely, work and related issues such as earning and growth; relationships including family and friends; health including physical and mental; philanthropy including social concerns; religious or/and spiritual orientation; and the impact of COVID-19 on happiness.

“Traditionally countries measure Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and states within countries also measure GDP. Though GDP has its merits, social scientists have questioned its adequacy for not being a measure of real development and happiness (UN, 2012). It needs to be supported with some other measures such as subjective well-being,” the report says. “The phrase ‘gross national happiness’ was first coined by the 4th King of Bhutan, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck in 1972. Bhutan was the first country in the world to start measuring Gross National Happiness,” it adds.

Activists Environmentalists and business leaders seek to redefine global Sustainable Development Goals in the wake of the pandemic

- **Business leaders, notable personalities across various fields and climate change activists gathered at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit 2020 organised by ET Edge and asked for a “relook” at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being implemented in the country and its impact on business, brands and people in the post-pandemic era.** The dignitaries and speakers deliberated on **the theme “Reimagining our Planet - Building Back Better”,** underlining the importance of inculcating awareness across levels to ensure the future remains green and sustainable.
- It is pertinent to note that **in September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** Building on the principle of **“leaving no one behind”,** the new Agenda emphasized a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all.

Formerly known as the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), the mission of the Brundtland Commission is to unite countries to pursue sustainable development together. The Chairperson of the Commission, Gro Harlem Brundtland, was appointed by then United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in December 1983. At the time, the UN General Assembly realized that there was a heavy deterioration of the human environment and natural resources. In India, at the Central Government level, NITI Aayog has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs in the country.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020

- **The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020** was introduced in Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to streamline the provisions of the FCRA by strengthening the compliance mechanism, **enhancing transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution worth thousands of crores of rupees every year.**
- The proposed amendments seek to **bar public servants from receiving foreign funding.** The amendments seek to **make Aadhar mandatory for all office bearers of NGOs** and other organisations which are seeking foreign contributions. Under the Act, **certain persons are prohibited to accept any foreign contribution.** These include: election candidates, editor or publisher of a newspaper, judges, government servants, members of any legislature, and political parties, among others.
- Under the Act, **foreign contribution cannot be transferred to any other person unless such person is also registered to accept foreign contribution (or has obtained prior permission under the Act to obtain foreign contribution).** The Bill amends this to prohibit the transfer of foreign contribution to any other person. **The term ‘person’ under the Act includes an individual, an association, or a registered company.**
- Under the Act, if a person accepting foreign contribution is found guilty of violating any provisions of the Act or the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, the unutilised or unreceived foreign contribution may be utilised or received, only with the prior approval of the central government.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah introduced the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020. Under the Act, a person who receives foreign contribution must use it only for the purpose for which the contribution is received. **Further, they must not use more than 50% of the contribution for meeting administrative expenses. The Bill reduces this limit to 20%.** Under the Act, every person who has been given a **certificate of registration must renew the certificate within six months of expiration.**

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates world’s longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet in Manali

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Atal Tunnel in Manali.** It is “world’s longest highway” tunnel and is named **Atal Tunnel, Rohtang.** The **9.02 kilometres long engineering marvel connects Manali in Himachal Pradesh to Lahaul-Spiti** throughout the year. Currently, the area remains cut off for about 6 months each year owing to heavy snowfall and inclement weather.
- **Atal Tunnel or the Rohtang tunnel has been built in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas.** The tunnel is located at an altitude of **10,000 Feet from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).** The tunnel is set to **reduce road distance by 46 kilometres between Leh and Manali.** Atal tunnel also reduces the journey time by around 4 to 5 hours. **The decision to construct a strategic tunnel below the Rohtang Pass was taken on June 03, 2000 during the tenure of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.**

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel, also known the Syama Tunnel and formerly known as the Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, is a road tunnel in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir on NH 44 (former name NH 1A before renumbering of all national highways). The work was started in 2011 and was inaugurated on 2 April 2017 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The tunnel is named after Syama Prasad Mookerjee. It is **India’s longest road tunnel with a length of 9.28 km (5.8 mi).** It is the first tunnel in the India with a **fully integrated tunnel control system.** The tunnel reduces the distance between Jammu and Srinagar by 30 km and travel time by two hours.

Indian Army organizes Shikara race in world-famous Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, **Indian Army organized a Shikara race in world-famous Dal Lake in Srinagar to promote tourism in the newly carved Union Territory.** Around 15 Shikaras participated in the competition.
- Commanding Officer, 20 Rashtriya Rifles of the Indian Army, Colonel Praveen Kumar said that **Shikara race is an event which they organize every year and boat race is also being organized for children.**

Dal is a lake in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India. It is an urban lake, which is the second largest in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It is integral to tourism and recreation in Kashmir and is named the “Lake of Flowers”, “Jewel in the crown of Kashmir” or “Srinagar’s Jewel”. Wular Lake (also spelt Wullar) is the largest fresh water lake of India and also one of the largest fresh water lakes in Asia. It is sited in Bandipora district in Jammu and Kashmir.

‘Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana’ started in Madhya Pradesh

- Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana is being started in Madhya Pradesh on the lines of Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- Under this scheme, additional financial assistance of Rs. 4,000 will be given to the eligible beneficiaries of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi. About 80 lakh farmers of Madhya Pradesh will be benefited by the Chief Minister Kisan Kalyan Yojana. Now they will be able to get an annual assistance of Rs. 10,000.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare observed the 1st anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme on 24th February. The PM-KISAN was launched on February 24 in 2019. The PM-KISAN Mobile App developed and designed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has been launched. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare. Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of the all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.

Tamil Nadu becomes first state to unveil ethical AI, blockchain, cybersecurity policies in country

- Tamil Nadu becomes the first state to come out with Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain and Cybersecurity policies in the country.
- The policies were unveiled by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami during the valedictory session of the 19th edition of Connect 2020. The project will be implemented by establishing and leveraging the State Family Data Base (SFDB) and Block-Chain Backbone infrastructure. “This pioneering initiative will take the Government to the Citizens, thus eliminating the need for the citizens to request G2C (government to citizen) services”.

Tamil Nadu lies in the southernmost part of the Indian subcontinent and is bordered by the union territory of Puducherry and the South Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. Its capital and largest city is Chennai. Its official language is Tamil, which is one of the longest-surviving classical languages in the world. Banwarilal Purohit is the current Governor of Tamil Nadu.

PASSEX conducted in Eastern Indian Ocean

- Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in Eastern Indian Ocean Region. During the exercise, air warfare destroyer HMAS Hobart, stealth frigate INS Sahyadri and missile corvette INS Karmuk engaged in the maritime exercises.

PM Modi virtually inaugurates VAIBHAV Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit held on 2nd of October this year. It aims to bring out the comprehensive roadmap to leverage the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researcher for solving emerging challenges.
- VAIBHAV summit is a collaborative initiative by Science and Technology and Academic Organisations of the country to enable deliberations on thought process, practices and Research and development culture with a problem solving approach for well-defined objectives.
- The platform will bring the Indian Overseas and resident academicians and scientists together to evolve a structure of association. The aim of summit is to reflect in-depth on the collaboration and cooperation instruments with academia and scientists in India. The inauguration was followed by month-long deliberation sessions starting from 3rd October to 25th October 2020 among researchers through webinar mode.

Assam launches gold scheme for brides from weaker section

- The Assam government launched a scheme to provide cash value of 'tola' (nearly 10 gm) of gold to newlywed brides from economically backward families.
- As per provisions of the Arundhati Gold Scheme, the state government provides Rs 40,000 to girls from families with an annual income of less than Rs 5 lakh, provided the marriage is registered under Special Marriage Act, 1954.
- Both the bride and groom have to attain legal age of marriage i.e. 18 for girls and 21 for boys and must have passed at least Class 10 to be eligible for the scheme. The bride can avail the benefit only for her first marriage.

Jagdish Mukhi is the current Governor of Assam and Assam is known for Assam tea and Assam silk. Dispur is the capital of the state of Assam. Guwahati is the largest city of Assam and Northeastern India. Sarbananda Sonowal is current the Chief Minister of Assam. In 1874, on the formation of Assam as the Chief Commissioner's Province, it was chosen as the headquarters of the new administration because of its convenient location between the Brahmaputra and Surma valleys and more so because the climate of Shillong was much cooler than tropical India. Shillong remained the capital of undivided Assam until the creation of the new state of Meghalaya on 21 January 1972, when Shillong became the capital of Meghalaya, and Assam moved its capital to Dispur in Guwahati.

Lok Sabha passes the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020

- Lok Sabha passed the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020. The Bill seeks to provide for regulation, operation and planning of major ports in the country and provide greater autonomy to these ports. It seeks to replace the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.
- The legislation provides for the creation of a Board of Major Port Authority for each major port. These Boards will replace the existing Port Trusts. Union Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya while replying after the discussion on the bill said that it will make the major ports in the country more autonomous and provide major thrust in the maritime sector.

India has a coastline spanning 7516.6 kilometres, forming one of the biggest peninsulas in the world. According to the Ministry of Shipping, around 95 per cent of India's trading by volume and 70 per cent by value is done through maritime transport. It is serviced by 13 major ports (13 Government-owned and one private) and 187 notified minor and intermediate ports. Government of India plans to modernise these ports and has approved a project called Sagarmala. In February 2020, Union Cabinet approved the setting up of the country's 13th major port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra at a total cost of Rs 65,544.54 crore.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notify amendments in Central Motor Vehicle Rules

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified amendments in Central Motor Vehicle Rules facilitating implementation of Electronic enforcement, Maintenance of Vehicular Documents through Information Technology portal with effect from 1st of October 2020.
- The Ministry in a statement said, use of IT services and electronic monitoring will result in better enforcement of Traffic Rules in the country and will lead to removing harassment of drivers and would facilitate the citizens. The amendment inter-alia provides for the definition for Challan, Portal ed as a requirement for providing the services through IT and further the enforcement of electronic monitoring and enforcement.
- Details of driving licences disqualified or revoked by the licensing authority shall be recorded chronologically in the portal and such record shall be reflected on a regular basis on the portal has been provided for. Thus, the record shall be maintained electronically and further the driver behavior would be monitored.

President Ram Nath Kovind gives assent to Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020, which was recently passed by the parliament.
- The Act makes Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi, English and Urdu as the official language of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier only Urdu and English were the official language for the Union territory.

- According to the 2011 census, **the present population of Jammu and Kashmir is over one crore 21 lakh**. The number of people speaking Urdu in the Union Territory is very less.

Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 re-constituted the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**, with effect from **31 October 2019**. **Girish Chandra Murmu** is the **first lieutenant governor** of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The current and second governor of Jammu and Kashmir is **Manoj Sinha**. Ladakh is a region administered by India as a **union territory**; **Radha Krishna Mathur** is the **first Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**.

First RRTS train for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor unveiled, will touch 180 km/hour

- The government unveiled the first look of India's first **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** train which can attain a **top speed of 180 kilometres per hour** and whose design is inspired by **Delhi's iconic Lotus Temple**. **Once in operation, it will run on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor** and reduce travel time between the two cities to about an hour.

Uttar Pradesh launches U-Rise portal for employment

- U-Rise portal** has been launched by **Uttar Pradesh government** to help students find jobs. The **U-RISE** or the **Unified Reimagined Innovation For Students Empowerment** portal will be giving career counselling assistance to students.
- It is a **joint initiative of the Department of Technical Education, Department, Training, Employment and the Skill Development Mission** as well as the **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow**.
- The **U-Rise portal** will include content like online exams, digital content, digital assessment, digital examination papers, internship, and information. Updates would be provided to candidates via webinars and recorded video content on employment.

Uttar Pradesh is the **most populous state in India** as well as the **most populous country subdivision in the world**. It was created on **1 April 1937** as the **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh** during **British rule**, and was renamed **Uttar Pradesh** in **1950**, giving the acronym **UP**. The state is **divided into 18 divisions and 75 districts** with the **capital being Lucknow**. On **9 November 2000**, a new state, **Uttarakhand**, was carved out from the state's **Himalayan hill region**. The two major rivers of the state, the **Ganges and Yamuna**, join at **Allahabad** and flow further east as **Ganges**. The state contributes **80 seats to the lower house of the Indian Parliament, Lok Sabha** and **31 seats to the upper house of the Indian Parliament, Rajya Sabha**.

Gujarat CM announces scheme to give interest-free loans to women's groups

- Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** announced **Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY)** — a scheme of **providing interest-free loans to women's groups in the state** and it was launched on **September 17**, birthday of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- An official release said that the **government is planning to provide total lending up to Rs 1,000 crore to these groups to be registered as joint liability and earning group (JLEG)**. The release said that in the post-Covid socio-economic life style of the state, the government is committed to have women play a key role.
- As part of that commitment, the release added, the government is planning to **provide interest-free loans to 10 lakh women across the state under the new scheme**. Under the **MMUY, 50,000 JLEGs** will be formed in **urban areas**. Similarly, **50,000 such groups** will also be formed in **rural areas**.

Khonoma, India's first green village

- Khonoma** is **India's first green village**. Situated near the **Indo-Myanmar border**, in the **Indian state of Nagaland**. The first step that was taken in this regard was the **creation of the Khonoma Nature Conservation and Tragopan Sanctuary (KNCTS) in 1998**. This led to a **ban on hunting in Khonoma** after a **20 sqkm area** was demarcated by the village council as the **KNTCS**.

- For the Angami tribe, which calls this village their home, hunting was their sacred cultural practice. But with the hunting ban, there came a gradual shift in their lifestyle. The village is referred to as Khwuno-ra (named after the Angami term for a local plant, *Glouthera fragrantissima*).

Nagaland is a landlocked state in north-eastern India. Nagaland's capital city is Kohima and its largest city is Dimapur. Neiphiu Rio is the current Chief Minister of Nagaland. Ravindra Narayana Ravi is currently serving as the Governor of Nagaland. Retired IPS 1976 batch.



Career
Launcher

International



Diplomat Mustapha Adib on course to be designated new Lebanon PM

- Lebanon's ambassador to Germany Mustapha Adib is on course to become the country's next prime minister after securing major political backing. Mr. Adib was named by four former Prime Ministers on the eve of binding consultations between the President and parliamentary blocs on their choice for the post.
- The announcement came a day before French President Emmanuel Macron is due to arrive for a two day-visit, during which he is expected to press Lebanese officials to formulate a new political pact to lift the country out of its multiple crises. Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab has resigned from his post in the wake of major blast in Beirut that has triggered public outrage.

Lebanon is a sovereign state in Western Asia. Beirut is the capital and largest city of Lebanon. Lebanese pound is the currency of Lebanon. Michel Naim Aoun is the current President of Lebanon.

Ghani names council for peace deal with Taliban

- Afghanistan's President has appointed a council for national reconciliation, which will have final say on whether the government will sign a peace deal with the Taliban after what are expected to be protracted and uncertain negotiations with the insurgents.
- The negotiations were envisaged under a U.S.-Taliban peace agreement signed in February as intra-Afghan talks to decide the war-torn country's future. However, their start has been hampered by a series of delays that have frustrated Washington. Some had expected the negotiations to begin earlier this month.
- Afghan President Ashraf Ghani issued a decree late establishing the 46-member council, led by his former rival in last year's presidential election, Abdullah Abdullah, who is now in the government.

Afghanistan is a landlocked country located within south-central Asia. Kabul is the capital of Afghanistan and its largest city. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai is the current President of Afghanistan. The afghani is the currency of Afghanistan, issued by the central bank Da Afghanistan Bank. Abdullah Abdullah leads the High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR), which is expected to lead the intra-Afghan peace talks with the Taliban. He served as Chief Executive Officer of the Unity Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan from September 2014 until March 2020.

World's first fossil-free steelmaking starts in northern Sweden

- The unique pilot plant in Luleå is a first step in decarbonizing the steel industry, which counts for 7% of global man-made greenhouse gas emissions.
- The opening of unique pilot plant in Northern Sweden is a first step in decarbonizing the steel industry, which today counts for 7 percent of global human-made greenhouse gas emissions.
- "Today, you are laying the foundations that will enable the Swedish steel industry to be entirely fossil- and carbon dioxide-free in 20 years," said Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, attending the launch of HYBRIT (Hydrogen Breakthrough Ironmaking Technology) plant in Lulea.

- The plant is a jointly owned company formed by the steel manufacturer SSAB, the mining company LKAB and the energy company Vattenfall. All three are based in northern Sweden with the mining, electricity production, and the iron-steel factory.
- “Together we can rebuild Sweden as the world’s first fossil-free welfare nation,” Lovfen added. HYBRIT aims at replacing coking coal, traditionally needed for ore-based steelmaking, with fossil-free electricity and hydrogen. The result will be the world’s first fossil-free steelmaking technology, with virtually no carbon footprint.

Incheon International Airport first in Asia-Pacific to get ACI World health accreditation

- Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific announced that Incheon International Airport in Seoul is the first airport in the Asia-Pacific region to be accredited under the ACI Airport Health Accreditation programme.
- Areas of assessment for accreditation include cleaning and disinfection, physical distancing (where feasible and practical), staff protection, physical layout, passenger communications and passenger facilities.

India, Russia to hold Naval drills in Andaman Sea

- Amid high operational alert by the Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) due to the ongoing standoff with China in Ladakh, India and Russia are scheduled to hold the bilateral naval exercise, **Indra 2020**, in the Andaman Sea, close to the strategic Strait of Malacca. “Three Russian navy ships will take part in the exercise on September 4 and 5 along with an equal number from the Indian Navy, along with some aircraft”.
- The timing of the exercise coincides with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh’s visit to Russia for the Shanghai Cooperation organisation (SCO) defence ministers meet and also comes just after India withdrew from the Kavkaz-2020 multinational exercise in Russia scheduled for later this month. While the stated reason for the withdrawal was the COVID-19 pandemic, defence sources had said that it due to the participation of Chinese troops.

The Andaman Sea (also known as the Burma Sea) is a marginal sea of northeastern Indian Ocean bounded by the coastlines of Myanmar and Thailand along the Gulf of Martaban and west side of the Malay Peninsula, and separated from the Bay of Bengal to its west by the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands. Its southernmost end is defined by Breueh Island, an island just north of Sumatra, and communicates with the Malacca Strait. The fishery and tourist infrastructure was severely damaged by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami.

Indian-origin Pritam Singh formally takes charge as first Leader of the Opposition in Singapore

- Pritam Singh, Singapore’s Indian-origin politician scripted history when Parliament conferred the duties and privileges to him as the city-state’s first Leader of the Opposition.
- Singh’s Workers’ Party won 10 parliamentary seats out of the 93 it contested in the July 10 General Election, making it the biggest opposition presence in Singapore’s parliamentary history. Singh is the Secretary-General of Workers’ Party.

Singapore is a sovereign city-state and island country in Southeast Asia. Singapore dollar is the official currency of Singapore. Lee Hsien Loong is the current Prime Minister of Singapore. Halimah binti Yacob is the current President of Singapore. She is the first female president in the country’s history.

Tunisian Prime Minister wins confidence vote amid crisis

- Tunisian lawmakers approved Hichem Mechichi as the country’s new Prime Minister after pressing him for 11 hours over how he will bring the country out of an economic and social crisis that has driven a rise in migration to Europe and been worsened by the virus pandemic. Mr. Mechichi and his proposed government won a confidence vote with 134 votes in favour and 67 against.

Tunisia is a country in the Maghreb region of North Africa, Tunisia is bordered by Algeria to the west and southwest, Libya to the southeast, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north and east. Tunisia's population was 11.7 million in 2019. Tunisia's name is derived from its capital city Tunis. The dinar is the currency of Tunisia.

Germany joins Indo-Pacific club aimed at securing trade routes from aggressive China

- **Germany has joined the Indo-Pacific club.** The move is aimed at securing the trade routes from aggressive China. Germany has drafted 40-page guidelines as it formally adopts a strategy for the Indo-Pacific region.
- **The move makes it the second European nation after France to formally adopt a strategy for the Indo-Pacific region.** The strategy is designed to allow Germany to make an active contribution to shaping the international order in the Indo-Pacific. **The move by Germany augurs well for the Quad which is constituted by the United States, Japan, Australia, and India.**

The Indo-Pacific, sometimes known as the Indo - West Pacific or Indo-Pacific Asia, is a biogeographic region of Earth's seas, comprising the tropical waters of the Indian Ocean, the western and central Pacific Ocean, and the seas connecting the two in the general area of Indonesia. Since 2011, the term 'Indo-Pacific' is being used increasingly in geopolitical discourse. The concept is not new to the geopolitical discourse. The German geopolitician Karl Haushofer first used it in the 1920s in his academic work called "Indopazifischen Raum". The term's profile was raised when it found mention in the joint statement issued by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States President Donald Trump after the former's state visit to the White House on 26 June 2017.

UNEP launches "Green Nudges" programme for universities

- **The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) launched a new publication, "The Little Book of Green Nudges",** which aims to inspire up to 200 million students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
- **The book is UNEP's first on behavioural science and nudge theory,** which focuses on human actions and how to change them, and was drafted with The Behavioural Insights Team and GRID-Arendal. **It contains 40 ready-made nudges simple measures** that make it easier to make green choices which university campuses can deploy to encourage students and staff to embrace more sustainable behaviours.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is an agency of United Nations and coordinates its environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices. It was founded by Maurice Strong, its first director, as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) in June 1972. UNEP headquarters was established in Nairobi, Kenya, on 5 June 1972.

Bangladesh to host FAO Asia-Pacific regional conference for the first time

- **Bangladesh will host the 36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** for the first time since it joined the organisation in 1973.
- **FAO is a specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.** **The first regional conference was held in Bangalore, India, in 1953.** Bangladesh joined FAO in 1973 and has since been a fully active member but never hosted the APRC.

Bangladesh is a country in South Asia. It shares land borders with India and Myanmar (Burma). Nepal, Bhutan and China are located near Bangladesh but do not share a border with it. Dhaka is its capital and largest city, followed by Chittagong, which has the country's largest port. Bangladeshi taka is the currency of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Mohammad Abdul Hamid is the 16th and current President of Bangladesh, in office since April 2013. Sheikh Hasina is the current Prime Minister of the Bangladesh.

In a first, US census to count Sikhs as ‘distinct ethnic group’

- **Sikhs will be counted as a distinct ethnic group for the first time in US history, by the Census Bureau.** This is a significant step towards **establishing a separate identity away from the composite “Asian Indian” category for people from India** who are broadly known as Indian-Americans.
- According to several experts, the step potentially gives ammunition to **Sikh separatists who promote the idea of Khalistan from the comfort of their homes in the US, Canada and other western countries.**
- Others, meanwhile, stress there is no cause of anxiety and counting will help Sikhs become less “invisible” in the context of US government policies. **Also, the community will go under the broader category of “Asian” and not under “Asian Indian” as was the case in the 2010 count when “Sikh” was seen as a “religious” response.**
- Meanwhile, the Census Bureau is currently engaged in a decennial count by mail, phone and online, and the process is expected to end September 30. The Census Bureau’s decision is seen as a **huge victory by Sikhs who were one of the first immigrants from India to arrive on American shores more than 120 years ago.**

United States of America (USA) is a federal republic composed of 50 states and capital is Washington, D.C., **Donald John Trump** is the 45th and current President of the United States. He became the oldest and wealthiest person ever to assume the presidency, the first without prior military or government service, and the fifth to have won the election while losing the popular vote.

Third annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum to be held in Hanoi

- **The third annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum is slated to be held in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi on October 28 and 29. The United States government, in partnership with the Government of Vietnam, the US Chamber of Commerce, the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the US-ASEAN Business Council, will be sponsoring the forum.**
- The forum advances a vision for the Indo-Pacific as a free and open region composed of nations that are independent, strong and prosperous. **Government and business leaders from the US, Vietnam and across the Indo-Pacific will discuss energy and infrastructure, the digital economy, market connectivity, health and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and US-Indo-Pacific partnerships and commercial opportunities.**

Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising ten countries in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia. **ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok** by the five original member countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. **The current member countries are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.** It is headquartered in Jakarta (Indonesia).

World’s first graduate-level AI University

- **Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI)** is the world’s first graduate-level AI University. Named after His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Armed Forces, the AI University will introduce a new model of academia and research to the field of Artificial Intelligence.
- The establishment promises to provide students and faculty members with access to some of the world’s most advanced AI systems in existence. **The global business value derived from Artificial Intelligence (AI) is projected to reach over \$3,9 trillion by 2022, according to industry analyst firm Gartner.**

First India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue held virtually

- **The first India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue** was held virtually. The meeting was **co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Secretary-General, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs François Delattre, and Secretary, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Frances Adamson.**

- The focus of the dialogue was on **enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region**. The outcome oriented meeting was held with the objective of building on the strong bilateral relations that the three countries share with each other. The three sides agreed to hold the dialogue on an annual basis.

India to host CHG meeting of SCO on 29-30 November in New Delhi

- **India is scheduled to host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on 29-30 November 2020 in New Delhi.**
- This will be the **first Prime Minister level meeting to be hosted by India since its elevation as a full-member of SCO**. In the run-up to the CHG Meeting, India has taken lot of initiatives in a wide range of areas.

The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the **creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan**; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. **India and Pakistan have become latest full members in SCO in 2017.** The Secretariat of the SCO is the primary executive body of the organisation. It is headquartered in Beijing.

World's first hydrogen-powered passenger train hits the rails in Austria

- **Train passengers in Austria will get a chance to travel on the first passenger train in the world to run on a hydrogen fuel cell, the Coradia iLint built by Alstom.** Following successful tests in Germany that finished earlier this year, the train will conduct the public trial.
- **Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) will test the Coradia iLint on regional railway lines** in the country's south, where they could replace diesel trains. **It can reach speeds of 140 kph and produce zero emissions.** 41 of the hydrogen-powered trains have been sold in Germany, with the UK, the Netherlands, France and Italy interested in the technology.

Austria is a landlocked East Alpine country in the southern part of Central Europe. **Vienna is the national capital and largest city of Austria.** **Sebastian Kurz** has been **chancellor of Austria since January 2020.** **Alexander Van der Bellen** is the **current President** of Austria. Euro is the currency of it.

Bahrain becomes latest Arab nation to agree to normalise ties with Israel

- **Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation to agree to normalise ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump and his administration to fully integrate the Jewish State into the Middle East.**
- **U.S. President Donald Trump hosted a signing ceremony at the White House for the normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab states of the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.**
- **The so-called Abraham Accords, brokered by the U.S. and signed by the U.S., Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, normalizes relations between the nations and further isolates Tehran.** The Israel-UAE deal was initially reached on August 13 between Israel and UAE, with Bahrain announcing that it will also formally recognize the Jewish state.

Bahrain is a sovereign state in the Persian Gulf. **Manama** is the **capital and largest city** of Bahrain. **Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa** is the **heir apparent and first deputy Prime Minister** of the Kingdom of Bahrain. **Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa** is the **longest-serving current Prime Minister** of any government in the world. The **dinar** is the **currency** of Bahrain. The kingdom shares maritime borders with **Iran, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.**

Denmark just got a whole museum devoted to the pursuit of happiness

- **Denmark has consistently ranked among the happiest countries in the world.** While it might seem to be jolly because of no solid reason, the truth is that Denmark takes a lot of effort to ensure the mental well-being of its nationals.

- A shining example of this is “The Happiness Museum” that the country has opened in its capital Copenhagen. A one-of-a-kind establishment, The Happiness Museum is a brainchild of ‘The Happiness Research Institute.’ The institute is meant to head research into mental well-being and quality of life in the country. The museum will now replicate its ideals.

Denmark is a Nordic state in Northern Europe and the North Atlantic. Copenhagen is the capital and most populous city of Denmark. Mette Frederiksen has been Prime Minister of Denmark since June 2019. Margrethe II is the Queen of Denmark. The krone is the official currency of Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands.

Israel becomes first country in world to impose second national lockdown

- Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced a second national coronavirus lockdown in the country. The Three-week lockdown will make Israel the first country to reimpose such stringent restrictions on a national scale.

Israel is a country in Western Asia, located on the southeastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and the northern shore of the Red Sea. It has land borders with Lebanon to the north, Syria to the northeast, Jordan on the east, the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the east and west respectively, and Egypt to the southwest. The two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict envisages an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, west of the Jordan River. The boundary between the two states is still subject to dispute and negotiation, with Palestinian and Arab leadership insisting on the “1967 borders”, which is not accepted by Israel. The territory of the former Mandate Palestine (including Jerusalem) which did not form part of the Palestinian State would continue to be part of Israel.

Japan’s ruling party elects Yoshihide Suga as its new leader to succeed PM Shinzo Abe

- In Japan, Yoshihide Suga was elected as the new head of Japan’s ruling, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
- Suga received 377 votes in the Party election to pick a successor to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who announced last month that he would resign due to health problems.

Yoshihide Suga sworn in as Japan’s new Prime Minister

- Yoshihide Suga has been sworn in as new Prime minister of Japan. Emperor of Japan Naruhito ceremonially endorsed Suga at the Imperial Palace in line with constitutional requirements. The 71-year-old veteran politician succeeded Shinzo Abe, who resigned due to health issues. Of the Cabinet’s 20 members, 15 had ministerial portfolios in the previous administration.

Naruhito is the Emperor of Japan. He acceded to the Chrysanthemum Throne on 1 May 2019, beginning the Reiwa era, following the abdication of his father, Emperor Akihito, on 30 April 2019. He is the 126th monarch according to Japan’s traditional order of succession. Shinzo Abe is serving as Prime Minister of Japan and Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) since 2012. Tokyo is the capital city of Japan and yen is the official currency of Japan and it is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the United States dollar and the euro.

China launches 9 satellites into space from ocean platform

- China launched a Long March 11 rocket from an ocean platform in the Yellow Sea successfully sending nine satellites into orbit.
- The mission is China’s second ocean-based launch, following a first Long March 11 Sea launch in June 2019. It is the first time however that China has used new seaport facilities at Haiyang in eastern China. China is only the third country to perform a sea launch, following the U.S. and Russia.

10th virtual meeting of BRICS NSAs held

- 10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security chaired by Russia was held via video link. The National Security Advisors of the BRICS nations have deliberated upon the issues related to strengthening political security and cooperation among the five countries.

- The **2020 BRICS summit** was originally **scheduled to take place in Saint Petersburg, Russia** from July 21 to 23, 2020, but was postponed indefinitely due to the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**. Originally the first four were grouped as “**BRIC**” (China, Brazil, Russia and India), before the induction of South Africa in 2010. In 2009, the first BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

Historic \$890 million Sustainable Development Goals Bond issued by Mexico

- Mexico has become the **first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bond**, an important step forward in the country’s commitment to the achievement of the SDGs, and a major advance for development finance.
- Mexico issued the groundbreaking seven-year **SDG Bond for a total value of USD 890 million**, resources that will be transferred from private funds to finance SDG-oriented programs. This innovative bond was **issued under its new “SDG Sovereign Bond Framework”** developed with investment bank Natixis, and released in February.

Nepal begins its first broad-gauge railway service trials

- Trial for Nepal’s first broad-gauge railway service in Janakpur has begun with the arrival of two sets of rail to revive operation in the Janakpur-Jaynagar section.
- Remained halted for past six years for upgrade, the previous narrow-gauge- now a broad gauge is expected to come into operation after Dashain-Tihar. With its operation, the **first trans-border railway connection** between two neighbours would again be established.

UN, Britain to co-host a global climate summit on Dec 12

- United Nations and Britain will co-host a global climate summit on December 12, the fifth anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will co-host the event to rally much greater climate action and ambition.
- National governments will be invited to present more ambitious and high-quality climate plans at the summit, which would involve government leaders, as well as the private sector and civil society. The summit is intended to increase momentum ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) to be held in Glasgow in November 2021.

At COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. The Paris Agreement builds upon the Convention and – for the first time – brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so. The Paris Agreement’s central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. The Paris Agreement opened for signature on 22 April 2016 – Earth Day – at UN Headquarters in New York. It entered into force on 4 November 2016, 30 days after the so-called “double threshold” (ratification by 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global emissions) had been met.

Singapore Convention on Mediation comes into force

- The Singapore Convention on Mediation came into force on 12th September 2020 and will provide a more effective way for enforcing mediated settlements of corporate disputes involving businesses in India and other countries that are signatories to the Convention.
- Also known as the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation, this is also the **first UN treaty to be named after Singapore**. Singapore had worked with the UN Commission on International Trade Law, other UN member states and non-governmental organisations for the Convention.

- As on September 1, the Convention has 53 signatories, including India, China and the U.S. According to the statement, the Convention, which entered into force on Saturday, would boost India's 'ease of doing business' credentials by enabling swift mediated settlements of corporate disputes.

Tel Aviv-Jaffa aims to be world's first city with network of recharging roads

- The Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality announced that it is on track to become the first city in the world to roll out smart roads that can charge electric vehicles as they drive along, with a pilot project set to trial an electric public transportation system.
- Tel Aviv's pilot, will see a 600 meter (just under 2,000 foot) recharging stretch built under the two-kilometer (1.25 mile) bus route between the Tel Aviv University Railway Station and the Klatzkin Terminal in Ramat Aviv.

Pakistan participating in multinational military exercise in Russia

- Pakistan Armed Forces contingent participated in opening ceremony of multinational military exercise, named Kavkaz-2020, held at Astrakhan region, Russia.
- The exercises took place close to Russia's southern city of Astrakhan. Besides Pakistan and Russia, the participating countries also include Belarus, Azerbaijan and China.

Pakistan is a country in South Asia. It is the fifth-most populous country. Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan. Pakistani rupee is the currency of Pakistan. Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi is the 22nd and current Prime Minister of Pakistan and the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Before entering politics, Khan was an international cricketer and captain of the Pakistan national cricket team, which he led to victory in the 1992 Cricket World Cup. Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi is 13th and current President of Pakistan

First ever direct cargo ferry service between India & Maldives jointly e- launched

- Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation of Maldives, Ms Aishath Nahula jointly e- launched a direct cargo ferry service between India and Maldives. During its maiden voyage, a vessel with a capacity of 200 TEU and 3000 MT of break bulk cargo will sail from Tuticorin to Kochi.

Maldives is a South Asian country, located in the Indian Ocean, situated in the Arabian Sea. Male is the capital and most populated city, traditionally called the "King's Island" for its central location. Maldivian rufiyaa is the currency of the Maldives. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is the current President of the Maldives.

Somalia names new prime minister

- Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed appointed a political newcomer to become Prime Minister, nearly two months after the country's parliament voted out former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire.
- Mohamed Hussein Roble's appointment came hours after the President and five regional leaders reached agreement on a revised election model in Mogadishu and international pressure.

Somalia is a sovereign country in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Ethiopia to the west, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Guardafui Channel and Somali Sea to the east, and Kenya to the southwest. Mogadishu is the capital and most populous city of Somalia. Somali shilling is the official currency of Somalia.

Norway funds world's first full-scale carbon capture and storage project

- Norway announced that it will finance 16.8 billion kroner (US\$1.8 billion) out of an estimated total investment of 25.1 billion kroner for the world's first full-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) project. The project is named Longship after the Viking ships.
- A carbon capture project at a cement factory in southern Norway, which is operated by Germany's Heidelberg Cement. A project at a waste incineration plant in Oslo that is operated by Finland's state-owned energy company Fortum (if Fortum can find external financial support, and Norway wants help from the EU for it). Fortum states on its website that the project "can annually remove as much pollution from the atmosphere as that of 60,000 cars."

Norway is a Nordic country in Northern Europe whose mainland territory comprises the western and northernmost portion of the Scandinavian Peninsula. Oslo is the capital, most populous, and primate city of Norway. Erna Solberg is currently serving as Prime Minister of Norway. The krone is the currency of Norway. Nordic countries are a group of countries in Northern Europe. These countries include Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, and the territories of the Åland Islands and the Faroe Islands. India has already established a high-altitude research station in the Himalayas, called HIMANSHI, at Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. Himadri Station is India's first Arctic research station located at Spitsbergen, Svalbard, Norway.

Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim plans new government

- Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim has secured a majority in Parliament to form a new government that is “strong, stable and formidable.”
- Anwar has been granted an audience with the king but it was postponed because the king was in a hospital for treatment. He said he will not reveal details until after he has met the king.

Iraqi Prime Minister changes central bank governor

- Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has appointed a new central bank governor after apparently dismissing his predecessor, as part of a major shake-up of the country's economic policy-makers after its economy was badly hit by Tishreen Revolution. Mustafa al-Kadhimi appointed Mustafa Ghaleb as governor of the Central Bank of Iraq.
- The 2019 Iraqi protests have been named Tishreen Revolution or October Revolution or Iraqi Intifada. It was started in October 2019 in the social media by civil activists. It then spread to northern and southern provinces of the country. The protests were against the 16 years of corruption in the country. It also aimed to stop the Iranian intervention in Iraq.

Iraq is a country in Western Asia, capital, and largest city, is Baghdad. The “Cradle of Civilization” is thus a common term for the area comprising modern Iraq as it was home to the earliest known civilisation, the Sumerian civilisation, which arose in the fertile Tigris-Euphrates river valley of southern Iraq in the Chalcolithic (Ubaid period). Dinar is the currency of Iraq.

India, Pakistan Foreign Ministers to attend SAARC virtual meet on September 24

- Days after India-Pakistan tensions spilled over into a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi are expected to meet via a video conference at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meeting on September 24.
- “All member countries have confirmed participation in the meeting, to be chaired by Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal. The respective Foreign Ministers will take part,” sources familiar with preparations for the meeting told The Hindu, referring to the eight members of SAARC, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- In normal practice, the SAARC Foreign Ministers' meeting also prepares for the SAARC leaders' summit that last took place in 2014. Since then, India has refused to participate in the summit as it is due to be hosted in Pakistan. Sources said there was no clarity yet on whether there would be any move to host the summit virtually. At a special SAARC summit on COVID-19 hosted virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 15, Pakistan PM Imran Khan had sent his Special Advisor on Health instead.

Amid Growing Pollution, UN Calls for ‘Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet’

- A virtual India-UK Water Partnership Forum will be held to discuss ways to collaborate on issues pertaining to water conservation and infrastructure development.

- According to an official note, the inaugural address will be given by Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Gaitri Issar Kumar. **Besides, a memorandum of understanding will be inked between Ganga and British Water.**
- The event will highlight the **strategic partnership approaches between the two countries to develop 21st-Century water infrastructure in India.** India's water conservation programme and other policies like Namami Gange programme, Jal Jeewan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission, will also be discussed.

Hydrogen plane takes flight over Bedfordshire in 'world first' for commercial aircraft

- A passenger plane powered by a hydrogen fuel cell has **successfully completed a test flight in Bedfordshire**, in a zero emission journey **hailed as a "world first" by green aviation specialist ZeroAvia.**
- The **six-seat plane**, which has been **retrofitted to run on the hydrogen fuel cell rather than conventional jet fuel**, took off from UK developer's research and development facility at Cranfield Airport, completing a full 20-minute circuit before landing again.

Nagorno-Karabakh announces martial law

- Nagorno-Karabakh also known as Artsakh is a landlocked region in the South Caucasus, within the mountainous range of Karabakh, lying between Lower Karabakh and Zangezur, and covering the southeastern range of the Lesser Caucasus mountains. The region is mostly mountainous and forested.
- Nagorno-Karabakh is a disputed territory, internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, but mostly governed by the Republic of Artsakh a de facto independent state with an Armenian ethnic majority established on the basis of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic.

Azerbaijan is a country in the Caucasus region of Eurasia. Baku is the capital and largest city of Azerbaijan, as well as the largest city on the Caspian Sea and of the Caucasus region. The city is renowned for its harsh winds, which is reflected in its nickname, the "City of Winds". The manat is the currency of Azerbaijan. **Ilham Aliyev is the fourth president of Azerbaijan, in office since 2003. Ali Hidayat oğlu Asadov is currently serving as the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan following his appointment to the post on 8 October 2019 by President Ilham Aliyev.**

Armenia is a country in the South Caucasus region of Eurasia. The dram is the monetary unit of Armenia. Yerevan is the capital and largest city of Armenia as well as one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Nikol Pashinyan is currently serving as Prime Minister of Armenia.

ECONOMY AND FINANCE



Economy News

India ranks in top 50 countries for 1st time in Global Innovation Index

- **India ranked in the top 50 countries for the first time in the Global Innovation Index, which was released. India jumped four positions to rank at 48th since 2019. Moving up four positions since last year, India became the third most innovative lower middle economy in the world.**
- **According to the Global Innovation Index (GII) list, 2020 released jointly by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School presented the latest global trends and annual innovation ranking for 131 countries. The rankings show stability at the top but a gradual “eastward shift in the locus of innovation” as Asian economies like China, India, the Philippines and Vietnam have advanced considerably in the innovation ranking over the years.**
- **Switzerland, Sweden, the US, the UK and the Netherlands lead the innovation ranking, and the top 10 positions are dominated by high-income countries, WIPO said in a statement.**
- **According to the report jump can be attributed to newly available indicators and improvements in various areas of the GI. India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering and R&D-intensive global companies.**

The Global Innovation Index (GII) is an annual ranking of countries by their capacity for, and success in, innovation. It is published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization, in partnership with other organisations and institutions, and is based on both subjective and objective data derived from several sources, including the International Telecommunication Union, the World Bank and the World Economic Forum. The index was started in 2007.

New E-market Platform “Agriota” launched to Bridge Gap between Indian Farmers & UAE food industry

- **The UAE has launched Agriota, a new technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing e-market platform that will bridge the gap between millions of rural farmers in India and the Gulf nation’s food industry.**
- **Under the initiative, launched earlier this week by the Dubai’s free-zone Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) and the government of Dubai’s authority on commodities trade and enterprise, millions of Indian farmers will get an opportunity to connect directly with the entire food industry in the UAE, including food processing companies, traders and wholesalers through the Agriota-E Marketplace platform.**

- In 2019, India exported more than USD 38 billion of agricultural and processed food products, with one of their largest markets being the Middle East. Initially, the platform will offer cereals, pulses, oil seeds, fruits, vegetables, spices and condiments.

Abu Dhabi is the capital and the second most populous city of the United Arab Emirates (the most populous being Dubai), and also capital of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the largest of the UAE's seven emirates. United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federal sovereign absolute monarchy in Western Asia. Khalifa Al Nahyan is the current President of the United Arab Emirates. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai. United Arab Emirates Dirham is the currency of the United Arab Emirates.

Koppala to get India's first toy manufacturing cluster

- In line with Vocal for Local campaign and boosting toy manufacturing, Koppala in Karnataka will have India's first toy manufacturing cluster.
- Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa announced the proposed toy cluster in Koppala about 351 km from Bengaluru, which will attract over Rs 5,000 crore in investments. Karnataka is the third-largest market for toys in India with around USD 159 million, or 9.1 percent of the national market according to government estimates.

Indian power market goes green with launch of pan-India GTAM in electricity

- Indian power market has gone green with the launch of pan-India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity. New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh said the introduction of GTAM platform would lessen the burden on Renewable Energy-rich States.
- GTAM platform will lead to an increase in the number of participants in the renewable energy sector. It will benefit buyers of renewable energy through competitive prices and transparent and flexible procurement. It will also benefit renewable energy sellers by providing access to the pan-India market. GTAM contracts will allow additional avenues to the renewable energy generators for sale of energy.
- Government's target of 175 Gigawatt renewable energy capacity by 2022 is driving accelerated renewable penetration pan-India.

IRDAI sets up panel on index-linked life products

- Insurance regulator IRDAI has constituted a six-member working group on index-linked products following requests for permission from life insurers to introduce such products.
- The working group, to be led by Dinesh Pant, appointed actuary of LIC of India, will examine the need for such products in India and how they will better serve needs and interests of customers relative to traditional savings product.
- It will also examine the products earlier available in the market in terms of product structure, ease of customer understanding and administrative processes and any other matter of relevance.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is an autonomous, statutory body tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India. It was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, an Act of Parliament passed by the Government of India. The agency's headquarters are in Hyderabad, Telangana, where it moved from Delhi in 2001. IRDAI is a 10-member body including the chairman, five full-time and four part-time members appointed by the government of India. Subhash Chandra Khuntia is the current Chairman of IRDAI.

Rajasthan government, SIDBI to ink MoU for cluster-based development of MSMEs

- The Rajasthan government and the Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will soon ink an agreement to create newer avenues and growth opportunities for MSME units in the State.

- For upcoming and existing MSME units in the State, **SIDBI will identify clusters and create a plan to reach out to small entrepreneurs and provide consultation**, business solutions and guidance for availing benefits under current schemes.
- A **project management unit (PMU) will be set up by SIDBI in Rajasthan to provide assistance to certain sectors** which are cluster-based such as textiles in Bhilwara and handicrafts in Jodhpur. The initiative is **aimed at creating a bridge between MSMEs and the Central/State government for understanding ground-level challenges that MSMEs are facing and creating an ideal ecosystem for ease of doing business.**

Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand lead in Broadband Readiness Index

- The **Broadband Readiness Index (BRI)** being prepared by the **Department of Telecommunications** has **thrown up a surprise with Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand** faring better on the criteria set by the Central government.
- The **BRI** was **launched in association with economic policy think-tank Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)** last year to further expand the broadband network across the country and analyses the state's readiness to adopt the fixed line network.
- The **Index** also becomes significant in the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on August 15 that **6 lakh villages across the country will be connected by optical fibre within a thousand days.**

CSMIA becomes India's first airport to achieve ACI Health Accreditation

- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA)** has **become the first Indian airport to be accredited under the Airport Council International's (ACI) Airport Health Accreditation (AHA) programme.**
- **Launched by ACI in July 2020**, in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) recommendations, **the AHA programme assesses the new health measures and procedures adopted by airports as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic** and include procedures like cleaning and disinfection, physical distancing, staff protection, physical layout, passenger communications and passenger facilities.

CIPET to establish 2 new Centres for Skilling and Technical Support at Bhagalpur & Varanasi

- **Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET)** under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will be shortly **establishing two new Centres for Skilling and Technical Support- CSTS at Bhagalpur (Bihar) and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).**
- Secretary, Chemicals and Petrochemicals **Shri R.K Chaturvedi** said that **every year 1000 youths will be trained in each centre through Diploma & Skill Development programmes** for gainful employment in petrochemicals & allied industries. **Presently CIPET has 43 operational centres and 9 more centres are in the process of establishment across the country** catering to the needs of Polymer and allied industries.

TradeIndia to host India's first of kind Virtual Packaging Expo India 2020

- After the immense success of the pioneering COVID-19 Essentials Expo India, TradeIndia has come up with another noble and enterprising initiative. **The Packaging Expo India organized by TradeIndia is a virtual trade fair that will prove instrumental in enabling the packaging industry gain a veritable platform** to connect with global buyers digitally.
- The **packaging industry, that chiefly constitutes of manufacturers, suppliers and exporters, will receive a great upward push through this virtual trade event.** It will help the various players of the packaging industry showcase their products and services before visitors, forge lasting business partnerships, achieve qualified leads and assign distributors.

Seven Indian-Americans in Forbes' list of richest people in US

- **Seven Indian- Americans have figured in Forbes' list of richest Americans, topped by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos for the third year in a row.** **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Cofounder Bill Gates** is ranked second on

the list with a net worth of USD 111 billion. The richest people in the US saw their wealth swell despite the coronavirus pandemic's devastated impact on the economy.

- The list has seven Indian-Americans - cybersecurity firm ZScaler CEO Jay Chaudhry, Founder and Chairman of Symphony Technology Group Romesh Wadhvani, cofounder and CEO of online home goods retailer Wayfair Niraj Shah, Silicon Valley venture capital firm Khosla Ventures founder Vinod Khosla, Managing Partner of Sherpal Ventures Kavitar Ram Shriram, Airline veteran Rakesh Gangwal and Workday CEO and Cofounder Aneel Bhusri.

Bengaluru gets India's first On-Airport public bonded warehouse

- The Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) which operates the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) announced the opening of the On-Airport Public-bonded warehouse, claiming to be India's first airport to do so.
- "In order to simplify processes and meet customer demands with the help of key stakeholders, including the Bengaluru Customs, BIAL has taken this step to set up India's first on-campus Public Bonded Warehouse".
- The facility — covering an area of 10,000 square feet — is expected to help re-export of goods, in long-term storage of bonded cargo, to assist in partial clearances, and to allow labeling, packing, and repacking services.

Government forms committee for assessment of relief to bank borrower

- Government has constituted a three member expert committee to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers. The committee chaired by former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi will measure the impact on the national economy and financial stability of waiving of interest and COVID-19 related moratorium.
- It will also give suggestions to mitigate financial constraints of various sections of society in this respect and measures to be adopted in this regard. The panel will submit its report within one week. The move came as various concerns have been raised during the ongoing hearing in the Supreme Court in the matter regarding relief sought in terms of waiver of interest and waiver of interest on interest and other related issues.

India slips 26 spots on economic freedom index: Economic Freedom of the World 2020 report

- India has fallen 26 spots to the 105th position on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020. The country was at the 79th spot in last year's rankings. The Economic Freedom of the World: 2020 Annual Report by Canada's Fraser Institute has been released in India in conjunction with New Delhi-based think tank Centre For Civil Society.
- India reported marginal decrease in size of government (from 8.22 to 7.16), legal system and property rights (from 5.17 to 5.06), freedom to trade internationally (6.08 to 5.71) and regulation of credit, labour and business (6.63 to 6.53). A score closer to 10 indicates a higher level of economic freedom.

Reliance Industries becomes first Indian company to have a market capitalisation of \$200 billion

- Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to have a market capitalisation of more than \$200 billion after its shares touched a record high of Rs 2,344.95, up over 8%.

Madhya Pradesh: Central discom first to adopt e-office in India

- Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company (central discom) has become the first power distribution company in the country to adopt e-office system. It is effectively being run in corporate office, offices of regional chief general manager and circles. It has been e-filing and doing correspondence through NIC e-office system.

Government permits up to 74% FDI under automatic route in defence sector

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) issued a press note permitting foreign direct investment (FDI) in defence production above 74 per cent on the automatic route.
- As per the current FDI policy, 100 per cent overseas investments are permitted in the defence industry -- 49 per cent under the automatic route, while beyond that government approval was required. According to the Press Note 4 (2020 series): "FDI up to 74 per cent under automatic route shall be permitted for companies seeking new industrial licences".

- However, foreign investments in the defence sector would be subject to scrutiny on the grounds of national security and the government reserves the right to review any foreign investment in the sector that affects or may affect national security, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment in a business by an investor from another country for which the foreign investor has control over the company purchased. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) are those institutional investors which invest in the assets belonging to a different country other than that where these organizations are based. FDI is an investment that a parent company makes in a foreign country. On the contrary, FII is an investment made by an investor in the markets of a foreign nation. The FDI flows into the primary market, while the FII flows into secondary market. While FIIs are short-term investments, the FDI's are long term investment. FII can enter the stock market easily and also withdraw from it easily. But FDI cannot enter and exit that easily. The Foreign Direct Investment is considered to be more stable than Foreign Institutional Investor.

India ranks 116 in World Bank's human capital index

- India has been ranked at the 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries. However, India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank.
- The 2020 Human Capital Index update includes health and education data for 174 countries — covering 98 per cent of the world's population — up to March 2020, providing a pre-pandemic baseline on the health and education of children, with the biggest strides made in low-income countries.
- Human Capital consists of the knowledge, skills, and health that people accumulate over their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society. The pandemic puts at risk the decade's progress in building human capital, including the improvements in health, survival rates, school enrollment, and reduced stunting.

FM introduces Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation & Amendment of Certain Provisions) Bill, 2020 in Lok Sabha

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment of Certain Provisions) Bill, 2020 in the Lok Sabha for consideration.
- The bill will replace the ordinance which was promulgated in March this year to provide relaxations related to compliance by extending the time limit and waiving penalty in relation to certain specified laws.
- These laws include the Income Tax Act, 1961 (IT Act), some Finance Acts, the Central Excise Act, 1944, the Customs Act, 1962, and the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988.
- The ordinance which was brought earlier also extended the deadline for filing declaration and due amount under the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme.
- The bill provides these relaxations in view of spread of the coronavirus pandemic in India. The bill proposes amendment in the IT Act to provide that donations made by a person to the PM CARES Fund will be eligible for 100 per cent deduction in the taxable income.

The vivad se vishwas scheme was announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her budget speech on February 1, 2020. The scheme aims to settle the huge number of pending direct tax cases. The amnesty scheme, at present, covers disputes pending at the level of commissioner (appeals), Income Tax Appellate Tribunals (ITAT), high courts, the Supreme Court and those in international arbitration. It offers a complete waiver on interest and penalty to the taxpayers who pay their pending taxes by March 31, 2020. If a taxpayer is not able to pay direct taxes by March 31st, 2020 then, he will get further time till June 30th, 2020. However, in that case, he would have to pay 10 percent more on the tax.

Uttar Pradesh jumps 10 places to occupy 2nd spot in ease of doing business

- **Uttar Pradesh jumped 10 places to occupy the second spot in the country in ease of doing business** according to the recently released annual ranking.
- Additional Chief Secretary, Infrastructure and Industrial Development Alok Kumar said that **Nivesh Mitra, a dedicated Single Window System for investors** played an important role in the improvement of ranking and in coming days the portal will provide more than 200 facilities to the investors. **Nivesh Mitra portal** has been instrumental in improving ranking and it is considered one of the best digital platforms in the country.

Government prepares draft of Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020

- **Power Ministry has drafted rules providing for Rights of Electricity Consumers for the First Time.** Electricity Consumers are the most important stakeholders in the power sector. To provide consumer satisfaction, it is imperative to identify the key services, prescribe minimum service levels and standards with respect to these services and recognize them as rights of consumers.
- With this objective, a draft of Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 has been prepared for the first time by the government. **According to the draft, State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) will fix average number and duration of outages per consumer per year for DISCOMs.**
- **Only two documents will be required for connection up to load of 10 KW and no estimation of demand charges will be required for loads up to 150 KW** to expedite giving connection.
- There will be a time period of not more than seven days in metro cities, 15 days in other municipal areas and 30 days in rural areas, to provide new connection and modify existing connection. There will be option to pay bills in cash, cheque, debit cards and net banking but bills of Rs. 1,000 or more have to be paid online.

Italian airport gets world's first five-star anti-coronavirus award

- Skytrax, an international airport industry rating body awarded Rome's Fiumicino Airport "the COVID-19 5-Star Airport Rating". Skytrax, known for its annual rankings of the world's best airports came up with the designation for airport hygiene in light of the COVID-19 crisis.
- According to the Skytrax, the rating was based on "a combination of procedural efficiency checks, visual observation analysis and ATP sampling tests." Fiumicino Airport (FCO), also known as Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport, opened a 7,000-square-foot coronavirus testing centre, which is co-managed with the Italian Red Cross on September 1. It is the busiest airport in Italy.

Rajasthan government signs pact with Sidbi to develop MSME ecosystem

- **Rajasthan's Department of Industries and Sidbi will work together to provide financial, technical, marketing and export support to MSMEs in the state.**
- **The Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Rajasthan government to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state.**
- **MSME Act was amended to promote industries and exempt such businesses from all kinds of permissions and inspections for three years.** Now, the establishment of large industries will also become easy with the coming of a single window one-stop shop.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) set up on 2nd April 1990 under an Act of Indian Parliament, acts as the Principal Financial Institution for Promotion, Financing and Development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector as well as for co-ordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities. It is headquartered in Lucknow.

Singapore tops smart city ranking for second year running

- **Singapore has topped the Institute for Management Development (IMD) Smart City Index for the second consecutive year,** followed by the Finnish capital Helsinki and Swiss city of Zurich.

- The ranking, launched last year, is **based on citizens' perception of the impact that technology has on their quality of lives as well as economic and technological data.**
- **Auckland in New Zealand occupies fourth position**, while the Norwegian capital of Oslo is ranked fifth. Copenhagen (6), Geneva (7), Taipei City (8), Amsterdam (9) and New York (10) make up the rest of the leading 10 cities.
- **Brisbane (14) is the highest ranked Australian city**, ahead of Sydney (18) and Melbourne (20). **After New York, Washington DC (12) is the highest placed US city** with Los Angeles (26) and San Francisco (27) next.
- **This year, the IMD, in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD), has included key findings on how technology is playing a role in the Covid-19 era.** The index shows that those cities with better technology are handling the pandemic better.

Parliament passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020

- **Parliament passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020**, with Lok Sabha passing it with a voice vote. Earlier, Rajya Sabha had passed the bill. **The bill amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 which provides a time bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and also among individuals.**
- **The legislation seeks to temporarily suspend initiation of the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) under the Code. It replaces the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 promulgated in June this year.**
- **The Bill provides that for defaults arising during the six months from 25th of March this year, CIRP can never be initiated by either the company or its creditors.** The central government may extend this period to one year through notification. **Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.**
- **The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2019 has increased the mandatory upper Time limit of 330 days including time spent in legal process to complete resolution process. The Code proposes two separate tribunals to oversee the process of insolvency resolution, for individuals and companies: (i) the National Company Law Tribunal for Companies and Limited Liability Partnership firms; and (ii) the Debt Recovery Tribunal for individuals and partnerships.**

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India was set up on 1st October 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code). It is a unique regulator: regulates a profession as well as processes. It has regulatory oversight over the Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies and Information Utilities. It writes and enforces rules for transactions, namely, corporate insolvency resolution, corporate liquidation, individual insolvency resolution and individual bankruptcy under the Code. Dr. M. S. Sahoo is currently serves as Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

Parliament passes three labour code Bills for welfare of workers

- **Parliament has passed the three labour code Bills for the welfare and protection of workers.** Rajya Sabha gave its nod to these bills while the Lok Sabha had already passed it.
- **The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020, seeks to amend the laws regulating the occupational safety, health and working conditions of the persons employed in an establishment.**
- **The second bill, The Industrial Relations Code 2020, aims at amending the laws relating to Trade Unions, conditions of employment in industrial establishment or undertaking, investigation and settlement of industrial disputes. The third bill, The Code on Social Security, 2020 seeks to amend the laws relating to social security of the employees in the country.**
- **Under the new labour code, all the workers who come from one state to another state with a salary less than Rs 18000 will come under the definition of migrant labour and will get the benefit of welfare schemes of the government.** These amendments in labour laws are the spirit of the International Labour Organization's 'Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017'.

Labour falls in the Concurrent List of the Indian constitution and there are many laws enacted by the Centre and the states. **Article 23 of the Indian Constitution prohibits “forced labour”**. The Supreme Court, in case **PUDR v. Union of India (1982)**, held that **“the word ‘force’ would mean any condition arising from the compulsion of economic circumstances which leaves no choice of alternatives to a worker.**

Government gives one-year extension to Company Law Committee

- The ministry of corporate affairs has **extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year to September 2021**. The committee, constituted in September 2019, is now chaired by corporate affairs secretary Rajesh Verma.
- It was set up to **suggest measures to de-clog and improve functioning of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** and make recommendations on various issues pertaining to implementation of the Companies Act as well as the Limited Liability Partnership Act.
- **The tenure of the “Company Law Committee is hereby extended up to two years** from the date of that order i.e. up to 17.09.2021”, according to an order issued by the ministry.

Sebi constitutes technical committee on social stock exchange

- **Sebi has set-up a technical committee on the social stock exchange**, which will **develop a framework for onboarding profit and non-profit organisations** on such bourses and prescribe disclosure requirements relating to financials and governance. The committee will also **prescribe disclosure requirements relating to performance and dwell upon aspects related to social impact** and social audit, Sebi said in a statement on September 22.
- The technical group would be chaired by **Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, former chairman of NABARD**. Social enterprise can be defined as a **non-loss; non-dividend paying company** created and designed to address a social problem.
- The idea of the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) as a platform for listing social enterprise, voluntary and welfare organisations so that they can raise capital was mooted in the Union Budget 2019-20.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. SEBI has its headquarters at the business district of **Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai**. **Shri Ajay Tyagi is the current chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India**. All the credit rating agencies in India are regulated by SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. There are a total of six credit agencies in India viz, **CRISIL, CARE, ICRA, SMREA, Brickwork Rating, and India Rating and Research Pvt. Ltd.**

Vaccine tycoon overtakes Jack Ma as China’s wealthiest person

- A **bottled-water and vaccine tycoon has become China’s wealthiest person** in a day also marked by massive losses among the world’s tech elite. **Zhong Shanshan’s net worth reached \$58.7 billion, \$2 billion more than Jack Ma’s**, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. **Zhong is now Asia’s second-richest person, behind India’s Mukesh Ambani**, and is the 17th wealthiest in the world, ahead of Charles Koch and Phil Knight.
- Nicknamed **“Lone Wolf” for his eschewing of politics and clubby business groups**, Zhong’s fortune has jumped \$51.9 billion in 2020, more than anyone else in the world except Amazon.com Inc.’s Jeff Bezos and Tesla Inc.’s Elon Musk. Both suffered heavy declines as tech stocks stumbled and Tesla plunged after its “Battery Day” event fell short of expectations. Musk’s fortune dropped by almost \$10 billion. **Zhong now leads a wealth ranking in China** which is typically dominated by people who have made their fortunes through tech companies.

7,000 projects have been identified across various sectors as part of the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) project

- **PM Narendra Modi said that 7,000 projects have been identified across various sectors as part of the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) project** which would be executed at an investment of Rs 110 lakh crore.
- **To achieve the GDP of \$5 trillion by 2024-25, India needs to spend about \$1.4 trillion or Rs 100 lakh crore over these years on infrastructure**, as per government estimates. **In the decade between FY 2008-17, India**

invested about \$1.1 trillion on infrastructure. The challenge is to step-up annual infrastructure investment so that lack of infrastructure does not become a binding constraint on the growth of the Indian economy.

- To achieve this objective, a Task Force was constituted to draw up the NIP for each of the years from FY 2019-20 to FY 2024-25 with the approval of the Finance Minister. The Task Force is chaired by Secretary, DEA with CEO (NITI Aayog), Secretary (Expenditure), Secretary of the Administrative Ministries, and Additional Secretary (Investments), DEA as members and Joint Secretary (IPF), DEA as Member Secretary.
- It has outlined plans to invest more than ₹102 lakh crore on infrastructure projects by 2024-25, with the Centre, States and the private sector to share the capital expenditure in a 39:39:22 formula.

India's first' solar power-run auto unveiled in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu-based M Auto Group has come up with 13 kinds of solar-powered eco-friendly electric auto rickshaws, which can double up as ambulances, besides passenger and garbage-lifting vehicles that can negotiate narrow roads easily.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palanisamy and his deputy O Panneerselvam unveiled the solar-powered electric autorickshaw, which the company claims to be India's first, at the state secretariat on September 21.

Forex reserves at all-time high

- India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves surged by \$3.883 billion to touch a lifetime high of \$541.431 billion in the week ended August 28, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed on September 4. India's forex reserves had crossed \$500 billion for the first time ever in the week ended June 5, 2020, hitting what was then the all-time high of \$501.7 billion.
- The current situation stands in stark contrast to the one in 1991, when India had to pledge its gold reserves to stave off a major financial crisis. In March 1991, India had forex reserves of a mere \$5.8 billion; today, the country can depend on its soaring foreign exchange reserves to tackle any crisis on the economic front. It is all due to economic liberalisation in 1991.
- While the overall situation on the economic front is gloomy, with India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth having contracted 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter, and manufacturing activity and trade at standstill, the stock of forex reserves is one data point that India can cheer about amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

Foreign exchange reserves of India are India's holdings of cash, bank deposits, bonds, and other financial assets denominated in currencies other than India's national currency, the Indian rupee. The reserves are managed by the Reserve Bank of India for the Indian government.

Banks in News

Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Khullar appointed Executive Director, World Bank

- Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Khullar has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank, Washington.
- Khullar, a 1988-batch IAS officer, is currently serving in his cadre state Haryana. He is the principal secretary to Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. He will have tenure of three years or till the date of his superannuation, i.e. August 31, 2023.
- In April 2020, World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a fast-track \$1 billion India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project to help India prevent, detect, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen its public health preparedness. This is the largest ever health sector support from the Bank to India.
- This new support will cover all states and Union Territories across India and address the needs of infected people, at-risk populations, medical and emergency personnel and service providers, medical and testing facilities, and national and animal health agencies.

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. It was established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C. David Robert Malpass is an American economic analyst and former government official serving as President of the World Bank Group since 2019. Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries. IDA focuses on the world's poorest countries, while IBRD assists middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries.

Canara Bank introduces i-Lead 2.0 to boost customer services

- To provide its services to customers irrespective of where they reside, public sector lender Canara Bank has launched lead management system (LMS) - i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0).
- Through LMS, customers can enquire and get services rendered through simple modes such as internet banking, mobile banking, call centre, SMS and missed call. A unique reference number will be generated, which is communicated to the customers at the time of lead generation from above sources.
- Along with that, SMS/notifications are triggered to the customer at every stage of the lead cycle (from lead generation to lead closure). The current LMS is available both in desktop and mobile versions.

Canara Bank is one of the largest public sector banks owned by the Government of India. It is headquartered in Bengaluru. It was established at Mangalore in 1906 by Ammembal Subba Rao Pai. As per the announcement made by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 30 August 2019, Manipal based Syndicate Bank merged from 1 April 2020, making it the fourth largest bank in the country.

RBI issues guidelines for appointment of CCO in banks

- Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for appointment of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) in banks to ensure uniform approach with regard to compliance and risk management culture across the banking industry.
- Accordingly, RBI has said that the CCO must be appointed for a minimum fixed period of three years. The person should be a senior executive of the bank, preferably in the rank of a general manager or an equivalent position or he could also be recruited from outside.
- Further, there shall not be any responsibility which brings elements of conflict of interest, especially the role relating to business. He must not be a member of any committee which brings his/her role in conflict with responsibility as member of the committee, including any committee dealing with purchases/sanctions.
- As per the circular, no vigilance case or adverse observation from the RBI should be pending against the candidate identified for appointment as the CCO. Selection of the candidate for the post of the CCO should be

done on the basis of a well-defined selection process and recommendations made by the senior executive-level selection committee constituted by the board for the purpose.

The Reserve Bank of India was founded on 1 April 1935 to respond to economic troubles after the First World War. RBI was conceptualised as per the guidelines, working style and outlook presented by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in his book titled “The Problem of the Rupee – Its origin and its solution” and presented to the Hilton Young Commission. The bank was set up based on the recommendations of the 1926 Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, also known as the Hilton–Young Commission. In 1969, the Indira Gandhi-headed government nationalised 14 major commercial banks. Upon Indira Gandhi’s return to power in 1980, a further six banks were nationalised. The first Governor of the RBI was British banker Osborn Smith and C.D. Deshmukh was the first Indian Governor of RBI. Shashikant Das is the current Governor of RBI.

RBI mandates automated recognition of NPAs, provisioning by June 2021

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandated the automation of bad-loan recognition by banks by June 30, 2021. The processes of provisioning calculation and income recognition will also have to be automated and banks will be required to upgrade their systems accordingly.
- In its circular, the central bank said banks had earlier been advised to have appropriate information technology (IT) systems in place for identification of non-performing assets (NPA) and generation of related data/returns, both for regulatory reporting and banks’ own management information system (MIS) requirements.
- All borrowal accounts, including temporary overdrafts, irrespective of size, sector or types of limits shall be covered in the automated IT- based system for asset classification, upgradation and provisioning processes. Banks’ investments shall also be covered under the system. Asset classification rules shall be configured in the system, in compliance with regulatory stipulations.

A non-performing asset (NPA) is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days. Banks are required to classify NPAs further into Substandard, Doubtful and Loss assets. 1. **Substandard assets:** Assets which has remained NPA for a period less than or equal to 12 months. 2. **Doubtful assets:** An asset would be classified as doubtful if it has remained in the substandard category for a period of 12 months. 3. **Loss assets:** As per RBI, “Loss asset is considered uncollectible and of such little value that its continuance as a bankable asset is not warranted, although there may be some salvage or recovery value”.

Titan Company with SBI Launches India’s First Contactless Payment Watches

- The fifth largest watch brand in the world, Titan Company Limited has partnered with country’s largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) to introduce Titan Pay powered by YONO SBI. Through this partnership, Titan and SBI are launching a range of stylish new watches with contactless payment functionality for the first time in India.
- With this launch, SBI account holders can tap their Titan Pay watch on contactless payment POS machine without the need of swiping or inserting their SBI bank card. Payments of up to Rs 2000 can be made without entering a PIN. A secure certified Near-Field Communication (NFC) chip embedded in the watch strap by Tappy Technologies enables all the functionalities of a standard contactless SBI debit card.

RBI revises PSL guidelines; Bank loans to start-ups to get priority sector tag

- Reserve Bank of India has revised Priority Sector Lending guidelines. RBI said the move is aimed at addressing regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit.
- In the revised guidelines, higher weightage have been assigned to incremental priority sector credit in identified districts where priority sector credit flow is comparatively low.
- Bank finance to start-ups up to 50 crore rupees, loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid connected agriculture pumps and loans for setting up Compressed Bio Gas plants have been included as fresh categories eligible for finance under priority sector.

- Priority sector loans refer to loans that banks need to mandatorily lend to economically weaker sections of the society. Renewable energy sector has also been added to priority sector lending in the year 2015.

Priority Sector Lending is an important role given by the (RBI) to the banks for providing a specified portion of the bank lending to few specific sectors like agriculture and allied activities, micro and small enterprises, poor people for housing, students for education and other low income groups and weaker sections.. This is essentially meant for an all-round development of the economy as opposed to focusing only on the financial sector. **40% of the total net bank credit should go to a priority sector advances.**

RBI revises guidelines for opening Current Accounts

- The RBI has reviewed and issued revised guidelines for opening of Current Accounts by banks to ensure discipline among borrowers.
- As per this banks have been instructed not to open current accounts for customers who have availed credit facilities in the form of cash credit (CC)/ overdraft (OD) from the banking system and all transactions shall be routed through the CC/OD account. The new rules will be applicable to existing current, CC/OD accounts with various banks.
- “Where a bank’s exposure to a borrower is less than 10% of the exposure of the banking system to that borrower, while credits are freely permitted, debits to the CC/OD account can only be for credit to the CC/OD account of that borrower with a bank that has 10% or more of the exposure of the banking system to that borrower,” RBI said in a circular.

RBL Bank launches cardless cash withdrawal facility through ATMs

- RBL Bank has launched cardless cash withdrawal facility from ATMs, leveraging the Instant Money Transfer (IMT) system. The private sector lender said it has tied-up with Empays Payment Systems, a global financial technology provider, to offer this service.
- RBL Bank customers can withdraw cash without their debit cards from 389 IMT-enabled automated teller machines (ATMs) of the bank or more than 40,000 other bank ATMs across the country, it said in a release.
- To avail the service a customer has to log into RBL Bank’s MoBank app to locate an ATM that supports the IMT function and initiate cash withdrawal by either using his or her mobile number linked to the account or by following a few easy steps on the app.

RBL Bank, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank, is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai and founded in 1943. It offers services across six verticals: corporate and institutional banking, commercial banking, branch and business banking, retail assets, development banking and financial inclusion, treasury and financial market operations. In July 2010, Vishwavir Ahuja became managing director and CEO of the bank. In August 2014 the name of the bank was changed to RBL Bank Limited.

RBI constituted KV Kamath committee names 26 sectors for restructuring

- The KV Kamath committee has selected 26 sectors which will require restructuring based on its analyses of financial parameters hit due to the economic crash caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In its report the five member committee said power, construction, iron and steel, roads, real estate, wholesale trading, textiles, consumer durables, aviation, logistics, hotels, restaurants and tourism, mining are among the sectors that will need restructuring. The committee selected five financial parameter related to leverage, liquidity, debt serviceability etc.
- The financial parameters included total outside liability to adjusted tangible net worth, debt to EBIDTA, current ratio, debt service coverage ratio (DSCR) and average debt service coverage ratio (ADSCR) “Time is of essence at the present juncture.

K. V. Kamath was the former chief of the New Development Bank of BRICS countries; previously he has also served as the Chairman of Infosys Limited, the second-largest Indian IT services company.

Bank of India launches ‘Signature Visa Debit Card’ for HNIs

- **Bank of India (BoI)** launched “Signature Visa Debit Card” for the affluent/high net worth individuals maintaining an average quarterly balance of rupees 10 lakhs and above.
- The public sector bank, said this international contactless debit card will be **available in metal and plastic variants**. “This card will have a spending limit of up to Rs. 5 lakhs on POS & e-commerce and Rs. 1 lakh on ATM.

Bank of India is a commercial bank with headquarters in **Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai** and Founded in 1906, it has been **government-owned** since nationalisation in 1969.

Public Sector Banks’ doorstep banking services launched by FM Nirmala Sitharaman

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated **Doorstep Banking Services** by **Public Sector Banks** and participated in the awards ceremony to felicitate best performing banks on EASE Banking Reforms Index.
- As part of the EASE Reforms, **Doorstep Banking Services** is envisaged to provide convenience of banking services to the customers at their doorstep through the universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App. The services shall be rendered by the **Doorstep Banking Agents** deployed by the selected Service Providers at **100 centres** across the country.
- **At present only non-financial services** like pick up of negotiable instruments, new cheque book requisition slip, 15G / 15H forms, IT / GST challan, issue request for standing instructions, request for account statement are available to customers. Financial services shall be made available from next month.

SBI starts women self-reliance programme in Assam

- To accelerate SHG finance in the Bank in a mission mode, **State Bank of India (SBI)** started a programme by the name “**Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani**” (Women Self-Reliance programme).
- **SBI** stated that women SHGs are very active and credit worthy in rural areas of Assam as it relies on social collateral rather than on financial collateral. It also empowers the women by encouraging them to create their micro enterprises for self-reliance and to maintain a sustainable economic condition.
- The Banks Board Bureau recommended **Dinesh Kumar Khara** for the post of chairman of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. The board further said that **Challa Sreenivasulu Setty** will be in the reserve list for vacancy. **Dinesh Kumar Khara** and **Challa Sreenivasulu Setty** are both managing directors of SBI. The present SBI chairman incumbent **Rajnish Kumar** will demit office on **October 7**. Kumar was appointed for a period of three years from October 2017.

On **April 1, 2017**, the **State Bank of India**, which was **India’s largest bank**, merged with five of its associate banks (State Bank of **Bikaner & Jaipur**, State Bank of **Hyderabad**, State Bank of **Mysore**, State Bank of **Patiala** and State Bank of **Travancore**), and with the **Bharatiya Mahila Bank**. **Rajnish Kumar** is the current chairman of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. **Imperial Bank of India** was the oldest and the largest commercial bank of the Indian subcontinent, and was subsequently transformed into **State Bank of India** in 1955.

Co-operative Banks now under RBI’s ambit, Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed in Lok Sabha

- In a bid to protect the interest of depositors, **Lok Sabha** passed an amendment to the **Banking Regulation Act** to bring cooperative banks under the supervision of the **RBI**. The **Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020** replaces an ordinance that was promulgated on June 26.
- The bill, which comes in the backdrop of the **PMC Bank scam**, seeks to strengthen cooperative banks by increasing their professionalism, enabling access to capital, improving governance and ensuring sound banking through the **RBI**.

- Last year in September, the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank scam surfaced, putting the lives and savings of nearly 9 lakh depositors at stake.

A Co-operative bank is a financial entity which belongs to its members, who are at the same time the owners and the customers of their bank. Co-operative banks in India are registered under the States Cooperative Societies Act. The Co-operative banks are also regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and governed by the Banking Regulations Act 1949, Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955. India has different types of co-operative banks -- urban co-operative banks (UCBs) and rural co-operative banks (RCBs). RCBs are classified into state co-operative banks (StCBs) and district central co-operative banks (DCCBs). According to the RBI, as on March 31, 2019, there were 1,544 UCBs, 34 StCBs and 352 DCCBs. Total amount of deposits of all UCBs as on March 31, 2019 was Rs 484,315.85 crore and RCBs was Rs 505,859.16 crore.

IDFC First Bank launched contactless debit card payment facility next week

- IDFC First Bank has launched contactless debit card-based payment facility, 'SafePay', allowing transactions up to Rs 20,000 per day.
- IDFC First Bank is set to launch the digital facility that will allow payments by simply waving one's smartphone against a near field communication (NFC)-enabled PoS terminal, the bank said in a release.
- Users can simply wave, pay and go, making the payment process not only touch-free but also faster, simpler and safer. The bank also claimed it is the first such facility to be made available in an integrated mobile banking app. The feature has been tested successfully and certified by Visa and it will be available to users on the bank's mobile app in the next one week, said the private sector lender.

IDFC First Bank is an Indian banking company with headquarters in Mumbai that forms part of IDFC, an integrated infrastructure finance company. The bank started operations on 1 October 2015. In December 2018, IDFC merged with Capital First Ltd., an NBFC, and renamed itself as IDFC First Bank. Capital First shareholders to get 139 IDFC Bank shares for every 10 shares held.

Vakrangee Ltd gets go-ahead from RBI to set up Bharat Bill Payment unit

- Vakrangee Ltd announced that it has received the final nod from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) for handling payment services related to bills.
- Vakrangee (VL) has received in-principle authorisation for setting-up and operate BBPOU under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The company provides services pertaining to banking, insurance, money transfer services, e-commerce, e-governance and other digital services on behalf of its partner banks, insurers, government agencies, e-commerce players among others through its branches mostly located in rural and semi-urban areas.

Vakrangee Limited is a technology company based in Mumbai, India that provides banking, insurance, e-governance, e-commerce, and logistics services. The company is one of the main providers of the software and equipment for voter id cards and Aadhaar cards. As per Forbes, the company is the largest single systems integrator for all key government projects in India. Vakrangee limited was founded in Marol Naka, Mumbai 1990 by Dinesh Nandwana, a Chartered Accountant (CA).

Three-member panel to run Lakshmi Vilas Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the formation of a three-member committee of directors to temporarily run the struggling Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd after shareholders voted out seven directors, including managing director and chief executive S Sundar.
- The plan will exercise the discretionary powers of the chief executive and will be headed by existing independent director Meeta Makhan, the bank said in a statement. The other two members of the panel are Shakti Sinha and Satish Kumar Kalra, who are also independent directors on the bank's board.

RBI sets new rules for Cheque payments from 1st January 2020

- In order to keep a check on the banking fraud, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to introduce from January 1, 2021, the 'positive pay system' for cheque payments.
- The issuer of the cheque, under the positive pay system, will now need to submit minimum details of that cheque like date, name of the beneficiary, payee, and amount to the drawee bank, electronically through SMS, mobile app, internet banking or ATM.
- Redressal measures would be taken in case any discrepancy is flagged by cheque truncation system (CTS) to the drawee and presenting banks.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) will develop the facility of positive pay in CTS and make it available to participant banks. Banks will in turn enable it for all account holders issuing cheques for amounts of Rs 50,000 and above.
- It added that only those cheques that are compliant with positive pay system instructions will be accepted under the dispute resolution mechanism at CTS grids.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. Founded in 2008, the NPCI is a not-for-profit organisation registered under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, established by Reserve Bank of India & IBA. It is headquartered in Mumbai.

The Reserve Bank of India was founded on 1 April 1935 to respond to economic troubles after the First World War. RBI was conceptualised as per the guidelines, working style and outlook presented by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in his book titled "The Problem of the Rupee – Its origin and its solution" and presented to the Hilton Young Commission. The bank was set up based on the recommendations of the 1926 Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, also known as the Hilton–Young Commission. In 1969, the Indira Gandhi-headed government nationalised 14 major commercial banks. Upon Indira Gandhi's return to power in 1980, a further six banks were nationalised. The first Governor of the RBI was British banker Osborn Smith and C.D. Deshmukh was the first Indian Governor of RBI. Shashikant Das is the current Governor of RBI.

Firms in News

RIL to buy Future Group's retail, related units for Rs. 24,713 crore

- **Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. (RRVL)**, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd., has **announced the acquisition of the retail and wholesale, and logistics and warehousing businesses of the Future Group**, on a slump sale basis, for a lump sum of Rs. 24,713 crore.
- **The acquisition is being done as part of the scheme in which Future Group is merging certain companies carrying on the above businesses into Future Enterprises Ltd. (FEL).**
- **The retail and wholesale undertaking of Future Group is being transferred to Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Ltd. (RRFLL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of RRVL, while the **logistics and warehousing undertaking is being transferred to RRVL.**

Future Group is an Indian conglomerate company founded by Kishore Biyani, headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The company is known for having a significant prominence in Indian retail and fashion sectors, with popular supermarket chains like Big Bazaar and Food Bazaar, lifestyle stores like Brand Factory, Central, etc.

Vedanta ties up with SBI for long-term syndicated loan of Rs 10,000 cr

- **Vedanta tied up with State Bank of India for a long-term syndicated loan facility worth Rs 10,000 crore.** A syndicated loan is offered by a group of lenders who work together to provide credit to a large borrower.
- **Vedanta Ltd has tied up a long-term syndicated loan facility for Rs 10,000 crore with State Bank of India as facility agent and SBICAP Trustee Company Ltd as the security trustee with door to door tenor of seven years. The facility end use stipulates refinancing of near-term debt maturities of Vedanta and for capital expenditure of the metals and mining giant, it said.**

Vedanta Limited is a mining company based in India, with its main operations in iron ore, gold and aluminium mines in Goa, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Odisha. In 2007, Vedanta Resources Plc, a diversified metals and mining group founded by Anil Agarwal, acquired 51% controlling stake in Sesa Goa Ltd.

Vodafone Idea embarks on new journey, unveil brand identity Vi

- **Vodafone and Idea, the two brands of Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) have together been rebranded as “Vi” (read as “We”)** and with this new brand identity, the **two distinct brands will now fade away.**
- **“The integration of two brands is a culmination of the largest telecom integration in the world,” VIL said in a filing with the stock exchanges. “VIL is now leaner and agile, and the deployment of many principles of 5G architecture has helped us transform into a future-fit, digital network for the changing customer needs.”**

Vodafone Group is a British multinational telecommunications conglomerate, with headquarters in London. Idea Cellular is an Indian mobile network operator based at Mumbai, Maharashtra. On 20 March 2017, Idea and Vodafone India announced that their respective boards had approved a merger of the two companies. The merger is completed in 2019, and the newly merged entity will be named Vodafone Idea Ltd. Kumar Mangalam Birla heads the merged company as the Chairman. Ex-CEO of Vodafone Romania is the current CEO of the company.

Banque Saudi Fransi and Mastercard launch world's first priceless card

- **Banque Saudi Fransi (BSF) and Mastercard have announced the launch of the world's first Priceless Mastercard Credit Card.** The exclusive card was launched earlier this year during a private BSF customer event hosted at Al Ula, a celebrated UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **The card builds on Mastercard's 20-year legacy of delivering and enabling Priceless experiences by offering cardholders exclusive access to events and experiences in line with their passions.**

- **The Priceless card, the most elite in Mastercard's portfolio**, will give cardholders the opportunity to experience the world's most prestigious music, sporting and entertainment events, meet celebrities, and enjoy a host of unparalleled travel and lifestyle privileges.

Mastercard Incorporated (MasterCard) is an American multinational financial services corporation headquartered in the Mastercard International Global Headquarters in Purchase, New York, United States. Its principal business is to process payments between the banks of merchants and the card-issuing banks or credit unions of the purchasers who use the "Mastercard" brand debit, credit and prepaid cards to make purchases.

Five PSUs under Petroleum Ministry to join International Solar Alliance Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that **five Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry will be joining International Solar Alliance (ISA) Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (ISACSCA) as Corporate Partners.**
- **First World Solar Technology Summit organized by ISA**, Mr Pradhan said that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and GAIL (India) Limited will be contributing to ISA's Corpus Fund.
- **Lauding the role of the ISA for making rapid strides since its launch at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris on 30 November 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the then French President**, Pradhan said that as the latest inter-governmental international organization with its headquarters in India, ISA is not only a testament to India's unwavering faith in multilateralism but also a commitment to a better, sustainable and greener future.

A state-owned enterprise in India is called a public sector undertaking (PSU) or a public sector enterprise. Those companies are owned by the union government of India or one of the many state or territorial governments or both. The company stock needs to be majority-owned by the government to be a PSU. In 1951 there were just five enterprises in the public sector in India, but in March 2019 this had increased to 348.

IFSCA inks MoU with India Gold Policy Centre of IIMA

- **International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) and India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) - IIMA** signed agreement to provide expertise to facilitate the establishment of International Bullion Exchange (IBE) in India.
- Under the memorandum of understanding (MoU), **IGPC-IIMA will take a top-down approach by setting the broader vision**, developing success strategies and creating the operating guidelines for the seamless functioning of the bullion exchange.

Vistara becomes first Indian airline to offer in-air wifi services

- **Vistara has started offering in-flight Wi-Fi internet on Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners.** The offer is effective from today i.e September 18 on flights between Indira Gandhi International Airport (Del) in Delhi and London Heathrow (LHR). **With this, Vistara has become the first Indian airline to offer the service.**
- **As part of Vistara's introductory offer the service will be available free of cost to all flyers** for a limited period. Vistara is also planning to introduce the in-flight Wi-Fi internet service on its Airbus A321neo aircraft as well. **Vistara customers can now stay seamlessly connected at 35,000 feet above the ground**, send an email, access information, use social media, and more.

Tata SIA Airlines Limited, operating as **Vistara**, is an Indian full-service airline, based in Gurgaon, with its hub at Indira Gandhi International Airport. **The carrier, a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, commenced operations on 9 January 2015** with its inaugural flight between Delhi and Mumbai.

Microsoft's proposal to partner TikTok in US rejected, Oracle wins bid

- **Satya Nadella-led Microsoft lost a bid to acquire TikTok in the US after the Chinese owner of the video-sharing platform chose Oracle to be its technology partner for its American operations, ahead of the September 20 deadline set by President Donald Trump that the popular app will be banned in the US if it isn't sold to an American company.**

Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology company with headquarters in Redmond, Washington. Microsoft was founded by Paul Allen and Bill Gates on April 4, 1975, to develop and sell BASIC interpreters for the Altair 8800. Satya Narayana Nadella is an Indian American business executive. He is the chief executive officer of Microsoft, succeeding Steve Ballmer in 2014.

Apple's first online store opened in India

- **Apple launched its first online store in India. Apple is a small player in India, where sales of its smartphones lag those of South Korean rival Samsung.**
- **The company currently sells through third-party retailers in India including Amazon, and the country is seen as a huge potential market for the firm due to its giant 1.3-billion population and relatively low number of smartphone owners.**

Apple Inc. is an American multinational technology company headquartered in California, that designs, develops, and sells consumer electronics, computer software, and online services. It was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne in April 1976 to develop and sell Wozniak's Apple I personal computer. It was incorporated as Apple Computer, Inc. in January 1977. Tim Cook is the Chief Executive Officer.

Citigroup's Jane Fraser to be first woman CEO of Wall Street bank

- **Citigroup Inc named consumer banking head Jane Fraser as its next chief executive making her the first woman to lead a major Wall Street bank. Ms. Fraser has been a rising star in the financial industry, with a career that spans investment banking, wealth management, troubled mortgage workouts and strategy in Latin America a key geography for Citigroup.**

Citigroup Inc. or Citi is an American multinational investment bank and financial services corporation headquartered in New York City. Citigroup is the third largest banking institution in the United States; alongside JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo, it is one of the Big Four banking institutions of the United States.

Amul: The milk cooperative becomes the first Indian dairy brand to make it to the Rabobank's Global Top 20 list

- **In a first, Amul has become the only Indian dairy brand to make it into the global top 20 list of Rabobank.**
- **The list released by the Dutch multinational banking company has placed Amul, also known as the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), in the 16th position with an annual turnover of \$5.5 billion (Rs. 38,500 crores).**
- **Besides, the list also featured Nestle at the top with an annual turnover of \$22.1 billion. Moreover, Dairy Farmers of America jumped 3 positions in the list to secure the 3rd rank with an annual turnover of \$20.1 billion.**

Amul is an Indian dairy cooperative society, based at Anand in the state of Gujarat. Formed in 1946, it is a cooperative brand managed by a cooperative body, the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF), which today is jointly owned by 3.6 million milk producers in Gujarat. Amul spurred India's White Revolution, which made the country the world's largest producer of milk and milk products.

IATA, UNOCT to Cooperate On Countering Terrorist Travel

- The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel Programme).
- The CT Travel Programme, a flagship global initiative of UNOCT, assists member states in building their capabilities to detect and counter terrorists and serious criminals by using advance passenger information (API), passenger name record (PNR) and other passenger data.

Jio launches India's first in-flight mobile services

- Mukesh Ambani's telecom behemoth Jio, is now taking it to the skies — literally — as it announces India's first in-flight telecom services. After massively disrupting the Indian telecom sector with dirt cheap data rates, Jio has announced yet another innovation in the industry.
- It is becoming the first Indian telecommunication company to provide in-flight mobile services, by forming a partnership with Aeromobile. "Jio and Panasonic Avionics Corporation subsidiary, AeroMobile, have partnered to launch India's first in-flight services for JioPostpaid Plus users. Jio's in-flight service will allow every Indian traveller travelling abroad, to stay connected with voice and data services on a flight, at affordable rates".

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Jio) is an **Indian telecommunications company** and subsidiary of Reliance Industries, headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. It operates a national LTE network with coverage across all 22 telecom circles. It does not offer 2G or 3G service, and instead uses only voice over LTE to provide voice service on its 4G network. Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani is founder of Reliance Jio.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



IIT Guwahati collaborates with university in Czech Republic for data protection project

- A team of researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, in collaboration with scientists from the University of Pardubice, Czech Republic, is working towards developing indigenous algorithms that can protect the Nation's digital data from cyber-attacks by advanced computers.
- The team has also designed encryption architectures that can be used to protect sensitive health data that is transmitted through the internet. The recent advances in computer science, such as the development of the quantum computer, are all set to overthrow Moore's law that has ruled the roost for the past half a century. The phenomenal computational power of quantum computers not only embodies possibilities of astronomical progress, but also enormous threats.

UNICEF to lead global procurement, supply of COVID vaccines

- In what could possibly be the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind, the UNICEF will be leading the procurement and supply of coronavirus vaccines to ensure that all countries have safe, fast and equitable access to initial doses when they are available.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is the world's largest single vaccine buyer, procuring more than 2 billion doses of various vaccines annually for routine immunisation and outbreak response on behalf of nearly 100 countries.
- With several vaccine candidates showing promise, the UNICEF, in collaboration with the Revolving Fund of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), will lead efforts to procure and supply doses of COVID-19 vaccines on behalf of the COVAX Global Vaccines Facility for 92 low and lower middle-income countries, whose vaccine purchases will be supported by the mechanism.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations (UN) agency headquartered in New York City that provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries. It was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1946, to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries that had been devastated by World War II. Henrietta Holsman Fore is an American government official who serves as the Executive Director of UNICEF.

NIMHANS develops new Indian Brain Templates, brain atlas

- Neurologists, neurosurgeons and psychiatrists in India can map the brain structure of their patients and make an accurate assessment using Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas developed by a team of neuroscientists from NIMHANS.
- The neuroscientists studied over 500 brain scans of Indian patients to develop five sets of Indian brain templates and a brain atlas for five age groups covering late childhood to late adulthood (six to 60 years).

- **“The Montreal Neurological Index (MNI) template** that we currently use is based on Caucasian brains. The MNI template was made by averaging 152 healthy brain scans from just a small slice of the city’s population in North America.
- **But Caucasian brains are different from Asian brains.** While some countries have their own scale to measure the brain, we are still dependent on the Caucasian brain template. What we have developed now is a scale that will measure an Indian brain.

The **human brain** is the central organ of the human nervous system, and with the spinal cord makes up the central nervous system. **The brain consists of the cerebrum, the brainstem and the cerebellum. The cerebrum is the largest part of the human brain. The brain is contained in, and protected by, the skull bones of the head. The adult human brain weighs on average about 1.2–1.4 kg (2.6–3.1 lb) which is about 2% of the total body weight. The cerebrum controls voluntary movement, intelligence and memory. Precision, coordination and timing, posture are all controlled by the cerebellum.**

India successfully flight tests indigenous Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle

- In a historic mission, **India successfully flight tested Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV).** This is a giant leap in indigenous defence technologies and a significant milestone towards a Sashakt Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **The HSTDV took off from the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam launch complex at Wheeler Island off the Odisha coast.** The vehicle reaches a certain altitude, then cruises and also **reaches very high temperatures, up to 1,000-2,000 degrees Celsius, during re-entry.** “After the Anti-Satellite Test, this is the biggest achievement recently,” the source pointed out.
- **DRDO with this mission has demonstrated capabilities for highly complex technology** that will serve as the building block for Next Gen Hypersonic vehicles in partnership with industry.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Republic of India, **charged with the military’s research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India. It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation. Dr G. Satheesh Reddy is the current Chairman of DRDO.**

CSIR-CMERI and NISE to bolster the Solar Energy Sector

- **CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur and National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gurugram** joined hands by **signing an online Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** as a ‘Strategic Association’ to **bolster the Solar Energy sector across the nation.**

US Spacecraft named After NASA Astronaut Kalpana Chawla, the first India-born woman to enter space

- **An American commercial cargo spacecraft bound for the International Space Station has been named after fallen NASA astronaut Kalpana Chawla, the first India-born woman to enter space, for her key contributions to human spaceflight.**
- **Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defence technology company, announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named the “S.S. Kalpana Chawla”, in memory of the mission specialist who died with her six crewmates aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003.**

Rajya Sabha passes Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- **Rajya Sabha passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to include protections for healthcare service personnel combating epidemic diseases and expands the powers of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases.**
- **The Bill repeals the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance that was promulgated in April this year. The Act provides for the prevention of the spread of dangerous epidemic diseases. The Ordinance amends the**

Act to include protections for healthcare personnel combatting epidemic diseases and expands the powers of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases.

- **The bill specifies that the central government may regulate: (i) the inspection of any ship or vessel leaving or arriving at any port, and (ii) the detention of any person intending to travel from the port, during an outbreak.** The Ordinance expands the powers of the central government to regulate the inspection of any bus, train, goods vehicle, ship, vessel, or aircraft leaving or arriving at any land port, port or aerodrome. Further, the central government may regulate the detention of any person intending to travel by these means.
- The bill specifies that no person can: (i) commit or abet the commission of an act of violence against a healthcare service personnel, or (ii) abet or cause damage or loss to any property during an epidemic. **Contravention of this provision is punishable with imprisonment between three months and five years, and a fine between Rs 50,000 and two lakh rupees.** This offence may be compounded by the victim with the permission of the Court. **If an act of violence against a healthcare service personnel causes grievous harm, the person committing the offence will be punishable with imprisonment between six months and seven years, and a fine between one lakh rupees and five lakh rupees. These offences are cognizable and non-bailable.**

Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 is a law which was first enacted to tackle bubonic plague in Mumbai (formerly Bombay) in former British India. The law is meant for containment of epidemics by providing **special powers that are required for the implementation of containment measures to control the spread of the disease.** The Act has been routinely used to contain various diseases in India such as swine flu, cholera, malaria and dengue. In 2018, the Act was enforced as cholera began to spread in a region of Gujarat. In 2015, it was used to deal with dengue and malaria in Chandigarh and in 2009 it was invoked in Pune to combat swine flu. Starting in March 2020, the act is being enforced across India in order to limit the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 during the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

UAE to send Arab world's first mission to the moon in 2024

- **The UAE will send the Arab world's first mission to the moon in 2024.** The announcement comes a couple of months after the country successfully launched the Hope probe to Mars - the Arab world's first interplanetary mission. The Emirates Moon Exploration Project will see "national competencies" employed for the mission.
- The latest gamble in the stars by the oil-rich nation that could see it becomes **only the fourth nation on Earth to accomplish that goal. If successful in 2024, the UAE could become the fourth nation on Earth to land a spacecraft on the moon, after the US, the Soviet Union and China.**
- **The announcement by Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who also serves as the vice president and prime minister of the hereditarily ruled UAE, shows the rapid expansion of the space program that bears his name.**

The Moon is an **astronomical body orbiting Earth and is the planet's only natural satellite.** It is the **fifth-largest satellite in the Solar System, and by far the largest among planetary satellites relative to the size of the planet that it orbits.** The Moon is, after Jupiter's satellite Io, the **second-densest satellite in the Solar System among those whose densities are known.** The Moon is thought to have formed about **4.51 billion years ago, not long after Earth.** The Moon is in synchronous rotation with Earth, and thus always shows the same side to Earth, the near side. **After the Sun, the Moon is the second-brightest celestial object regularly visible in Earth's sky.**

Tata Group to unveil India's first CRISPR test

- **The Tata Group has announced that the Tata CRISPR test, developed by CSIR-IGIB 'Feluda' (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology) had received regulatory approvals from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for commercial roll-out in accordance with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) guidelines.**
- The test has met **high benchmarks, with 96% sensitivity and 98% specificity for detecting the novel coronavirus.** It uses **indigenously developed CRISPR technology for the detection of the genomic sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.**

National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 passed in parliament

- **Parliament has passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020** with the Rajya Sabha clearing it. The Lok Sabha has already approved the Bill.
- **The Bill is to establish the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar and the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, New Delhi, as a National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat. The Bill declares the University to be an institution of national importance.**
- **The proposed university would facilitate and promote studies and research and help achieve excellence in the field of forensic science** in conjunction with applied behavioural science studies, law, criminology and other allied areas. The university will grant degrees and other academic distinctions and will be open to all persons irrespective of gender, race, caste, creed, disability, domicile, ethnicity, social or economic background.

Parliament passes Homoeopathy and Indian System of Medicine bills

- **Parliament has passed the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2020 and the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2020** with the Lok Sabha approving them. The bills **aim at ensuring availability of high quality medical professionals both for homeopathic treatment** as well as for the Indian System of Medicine.
- **The National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2020 seeks to repeal the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973** and to set up a National Commission for Homoeopathy.
- **The Commission for Homoeopathy will consist of 20 members** which will include a Chairperson, the President of the Homoeopathy Education Board, the Director General of National Institute of Homoeopathy, the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board for Homoeopathy in addition to other members.

DRDO conducts successful flight test of ABHYAS

- **The successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target** was conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation from the Interim Test Range, Balasore in Odisha. During the trials, two demonstrator vehicles were successfully test flown. The vehicle can be used as target for evaluation of various missile systems. **Abhyas is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment of DRDO.**
- The air vehicle is launched using twin underslung booster. It is **powered by a small gas turbine engine and has MEMS based Inertial Navigation System for navigation** along with the Flight Control Computer for guidance and control. The vehicle is programmed for fully autonomous flight. The checkout of air vehicle is done using laptop based Ground Control Station.

First Tesla Research Centre in India soon

- **American electric car maker brand Tesla will soon have its research centre in Bengaluru.** If all goes well, India will be the **second country to have a Tesla research centre**, next after the United States.

Indigenously developed Prithvi-II missile testfired

- **India conducted a successful test fire of its indigenously developed nuclear capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile** as part of a user trial by the Army from a base in Odisha.
- **The state-of-the-art missile was testfired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur** in darkness and the trial was successful in meeting all the parameters. **The trial of the missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the ITR.**

Prithvi is a tactical surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) developed by DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP). It is deployed by India's Strategic Forces Command. Prithvi-I has a 150 km range and a 1,000 kg payload. Prithvi-II has a 250 km range and a 500-750 kg payload. Prithvi-III, which has a 350 km range and a 1,000 kg payload.

Inventions/ Discoveries

Hubble Telescope captures spellbinding image of supernova blast

- NASA has released stunning pictures of a small section of a supernova captured by the Hubble telescope. The spellbinding picture looks right out of a science fiction movie as it appears as a “light veil draped across the sky” to NASA.
- The Cygnus supernova blast wave has been located around 2,400 light-years away from our planet. The supernova has a peculiar position in the northern constellation of “Cygnus (the Swan) where it covers an area 36 times larger than the full Moon”.
- The supernova explosion took place between 10,000 to 20,000 years ago caused by a dying star breaking apart which is 20 times larger than our Sun. Since then the supernova remnant — a structure resulting from the explosion of a star in a supernova — has expanded 60 light-years from its centre. The shockwave which is marked by the outer structure is expanding at a speed of 354 kilometre per second.

Hubble Space Telescope (often referred to as HST or Hubble) is a space telescope that was launched into low Earth orbit in 1990 and remains in operation. It was not the first space telescope, but it is one of the largest and most versatile, well known both as a vital research tool and as a public relations boon for astronomy. The Hubble telescope is named after astronomer Edwin Hubble and is one of NASA's Great Observatories, along with the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory, the Chandra X-ray Observatory, and the Spitzer Space Telescope.

Indian astronomers discover one of the farthest Star galaxies in universe

- Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe in a landmark achievement. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said it is a matter of pride that India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory ‘AstroSat’ has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- The galaxy called AUDFs01 was discovered by a team of Astronomers led by Dr Kanak Saha from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

Astrosat is India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space telescope. It was launched on a PSLV-XL on 28 September 2015. With the success of this satellite, ISRO has proposed launching AstroSat-2 as a successor for Astrosat.

Solar Cycle 25

- NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have claimed that a new Solar cycle has begun that may bring transforming changes in human lives on earth and the way technology is perceived in its usage. It is also said to affect the lives of astronauts in space.
- This is the 25th Solar Cycle that has commenced after the Sun reached its Solar minimum, which many believe can lead to bleak and cold weather on the Earth. Space agencies analyse various peculiar activities on the surface of the Sun which includes monitoring black spots, explosions, solar flares, etc.
- Scientists claim that the new Solar Cycle began in December 2019, but it took several months to decipher due to the complexity posed by the Sun. ‘Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel’ said that the trend of the Solar Cycle over the course of time is weakening.

The solar cycle is the cycle that the Sun's magnetic field goes through approximately every 11 years. Our Sun is a huge ball of electrically-charged hot gas. This charged gas moves, generating a powerful magnetic field. The Sun's magnetic field goes through a cycle, called the solar cycle.

Indian scientists develop machine learning-based practical approach for automatic interpretation of 3D seismic data

- **Scientists struggling with the manual interpretation of growing seismic data to explore causes of earthquakes**, particularly when the area is geologically complex, are now armed with a machine learning-based solution that can help in automatic interpretation of this data.
- **Scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)**, an autonomous Institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, have **developed a neural-based (machine learning-based) practical approach for automatic interpretation of 3D seismic data**. This first of its kind approach has been developed by computing a new attribute called meta-attribute.
- **The tabular sheet intrusions between older layers of sedimentary rock or beds of volcanic lava (sill complexes)** significantly contribute to the transport and storage of hot magma, and leading to overburden. This acts as plausible structural traps for hydrocarbon accumulations in sedimentary basins.
- **The petroliferous (petroleum containing) Canterbury basin of New Zealand is a classic example**, where saucer-shaped magmatic sills are embedded within the **Cretaceous to Eocene (geological period that lasted from about 145 to 33.9 million years ago) succession** resulting into forced folds and hydrothermal vents above the sill terminations.

Astronomers Discover First Giant Exoplanet Orbiting Dead Star

- **Astronomers have discovered a planet the size of Jupiter closely orbiting the smouldering remains of a dead star**, the first time that an intact exoplanet has been discovered travelling around a white dwarf.
- Researchers said the fate of **this giant planet, called WD 1586 b**, offers a potential vision of our own Solar System when the Sun eventually ages into a white dwarf in around five billion years.
- **When it has burned through its stores of hydrogen**, a star like the Sun enters its death-throes, first swelling enormously into an incandescent red giant that scorches and engulfs nearby planets.
- **Then it collapses, reducing it to its burnt-out core**. This is the white dwarf, an extremely dense stellar ember glowing faintly with leftover thermal energy and slowly fading over billions of years. It was **detected sweeping previous the white dwarf each 1.4 days** utilizing NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS).
- **Siyi Xu, an assistant astronomer on the US National Science Foundation's Gemini Observatory**, mentioned that as a result of there was **no discernible particles from the planet across the star**, researchers concluded it was intact.

Rajnath Singh congratulates DRDO for successful test firing of laser-guided anti-tank missile

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has congratulated Defence Research and Development Organization for **successfully conducting test firing of Laser Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile from MBT Arjun at K K Ranges in Ahmednagar**.
- **An indigenously developed laser-guided anti-tank guided missile was successfully test fired in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar**. It was the **second such successful test firing of the missile, having a range of upto 5 km**, in the last 10 days, they said. **The Arjun is a third generation main battle tank developed by the DRDO**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Republic of India, **charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India**. It was **formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production** with the Defence Science Organisation. **Dr G. Satheesh Reddy is the current Chairman of DRDO**.

Israeli Defence Forces successfully test sea-to-sea missile system

- **The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF)** has **conducted a successful test of a new sea-to-sea missile system**. The announcement comes a month after its rival Iran revealed its Abu-Mahdi long-range cruise missiles for its navy. The new Israeli missile system has **precision capabilities with a longer range and expanded offensive options**. A series of tests included firing a missile at a dummy target vessel.

Australian University develops world's first bionic eye to fully restore vision in blind people

- **Scientists around the world** have been conducting research to find a cure for individuals suffering from blindness. Various bionic solutions found so far has not yet been able to help blind individuals on a larger scale. The team at Monash University claims that they have built a system through which blind people would be able to see again.
- **According to them, this is the world's first bionic eye.** The bionic eye dubbed 'Gennaris bionic vision system' has been under development for nearly a decade now. It works by bypassing damaged optic nerves to allow signals to be transmitted from the retina to the vision centre of the brain. The user would have to wear a custom-designed headgear that has the camera and a wireless transmitter installed. A set of 9 mm tiles are implanted in the brain that receives the signals from the aforementioned receiver.

Scientists use Indian Ocean earthquake data to tell how fast it is warming

- **Scientists have developed a novel method to determine how fast the Indian Ocean is warming by analysing** the sound from seabed earthquakes, an advance that may lead to a relatively low-cost technique to monitor water temperatures in all of the oceans.
- **According to the researchers, including those from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in the U.S., as much as 95% of the extra heat trapped on the Earth by greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide is held** in the world's oceans, making it important to monitor the temperature of ocean waters.
- **The scientists used existing seismic monitoring equipment,** as well as historic data on earthquakes, **to determine how much the temperature of the ocean has altered,** and continues changing, even at depths that are normally out of the reach of conventional tools.



Health/ Disease

IndiGo flies Plasma from Bengaluru for COVID-19 Patient in Srinagar for first time by air

- Two bags of convalescent plasma were transported by IndiGo on its connecting flights from Bengaluru to Srinagar, via Delhi, for a COVID-19 patient. “The plasma was first flown from Bengaluru to Delhi on 6E 363 followed by the connecting flight from Delhi to Srinagar 6E 2486”.
- The plasma sustained a transit period of over eight hours and was delivered successfully at the government hospital in Srinagar the low-cost carrier noted. It was kept in the on-board cargo areas of the two flights.

Blood plasma is a ‘yellowish liquid’ component of blood that holds the blood cells of whole blood in suspension. It is the liquid part of the blood that carries cells and proteins throughout the body. It makes up about 55% of the body’s total blood volume. It is mostly water (up to 95% by volume), and contains important dissolved proteins (6–8%) (e.g., serum albumins, globulins, and fibrinogen), glucose, clotting factors, electrolytes (Na⁺, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, HCO₃[–], Cl[–], etc.), hormones, carbon dioxide (plasma being the main medium for excretory product transportation), and oxygen.

IIT Delhi incubated startup launches “Chakr DeCoV” to decontaminate N95 masks

- IIT Delhi incubated startup Chakr Innovation has launched ‘Chakr DeCoV’ to decontaminate N95 masks. Designed in the shape of a cabinet, Chakr DeCoV is built with an innovative decontamination mechanism, which utilises the high penetrability of Ozone gas for cleaning the pores of the N95 mask, ensuring complete decontamination of its intricate layers.
- Ozone is a strong oxidizing agent that destroys viruses by diffusing through the protein coat, resulting in damage to the viral RNA.
- Proper dosage and exposure of Ozone can result in inactivation of SARS CoV-2 and a 99.9999 per cent reduction in bacterial load, after which an N95 mask can be reused for up to 10 times without any impact on the filtration efficiency.

IGI to get India’s first on-site Covid test lab, results in 6 hours

- To test incoming international passengers, India’s first on-site Covid testing facility is coming up at the capital’s Indira Gandhi International Airport and will provide RT-PCR test results within six hours.
- The facility, to be set up by a private laboratory empanelled by the Delhi government for Covid testing, is expected to be operational by mid-September.

IIT Guwahati researchers design engineered surfaces to detect, prevent coronavirus

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati have developed methods to detect and prevent the novel coronavirus using bio-interface interactions between the virus and the surface spike protein.
- According to the team of researchers, the novel coronavirus (SARS CoV-2) is composed of inner nucleic acid which is covered with surface spike glycoprotein and the engineered surfaces can be potentially applied for the detection as well as prevention of COVID-19 – the disease caused by the virus.

IIT Guwahati in collaboration with Workspace Metal Solutions develops first-of-its-kind self-check Kiosk

- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati in collaboration with Workspace Metal Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Udaipur, has developed a first-of-its-kind self-check kiosk.
- The small structure helps by streamlining the flow of people through the kiosk. The Kiosk only takes about 30 seconds to check whether the person safe to enter the premises or not.

- The self-check kiosk has been developed by Dr. Senthilmurugan Subbiah, Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati, and Puneet Talesara, Founder, Workspace Group, and alumnus of IIT Guwahati.
- The cost of a self-check kiosk varies from 3.5 lakh to 7.5 lakh depending on the specification and features. The product has already been commercialised.

India's child mortality rate declined between 1990 and 2019: UN

- India's child mortality rate has declined substantially between 1990 and 2019 but the country, along with Nigeria, still accounted for almost a third of all under-five deaths last year, according to a new UN report which warned that COVID-19 pandemic threatens to undo decades of progress in eliminating preventable child deaths globally.
- The 'Levels & Trends in Child Mortality' Report 2020 said that the number of global under-five deaths dropped to its lowest point on record in 2019 — down to 5.2 million from 12.5 million in 1990.

IIM, Kozhikode based incubatee start-up launches wearable gadget for implementing social distancing norms

- Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode based incubatee start-up has come up with a unique user friendly wearable device that alarms proximity for helping implement social distancing norms.
- Known as the Veli Band, this wearable device has been developed by Qual5 India Pvt. Ltd, a startup co-founded by woman entrepreneur Kiranmayee. The startup was mentored and funded by IIMK's business incubator and entrepreneurship development center.
- Veli Band helps implement social distancing and location and contact tracing which can help organizations comply with social distancing norms during the current pandemic situation.

'Swasner' developed by students IIIT Bhubaneswar can be a game-changer in fight against COVID-19

- A group of IIIT, Bhubaneswar students has developed a helmet-like ventilation device that will make a difference in treating patients with breathing problems.
- According to the students-turned-developers, the device has been named as 'Swasner'. It functions on the principle of hyperbaric oxygen therapy.
- Wearing this device, a patient can inhale pure oxygen to speed up body's healing process. Apart from COVID-19 patients, those who are suffering from respiratory diseases can also get benefits from this device.

MoU signed between AYUSH Ministry and WCD Ministry for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister for WCD addressing the gathering said that the collaboration of efforts of both the ministries will go a long way in tackling the problem of malnutrition in mothers and children in the country. She said that Nutri-gardens and medicinal gardens will be established in every Anganwadi in near future.

POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched by the government on March 8, 2018. The Abhiyaan targets to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively. The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022. POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to ensure service delivery and interventions by use of technology, behavioural change through convergence and lays-down specific targets to be achieved across different monitoring parameters.

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT



Sea ice extent in Arctic lowest in July since 1979; in Antarctic, it surpassed average level in Sept.

- **The extent of sea ice in the Arctic region plunged to record lows in July 2020.** The extent of ice in the Arctic recorded in August was the third lowest for any August in more than four decades.
- On the other end, **the extent of sea ice in the Antarctic recorded higher than average levels in September 2020.** The average monthly extent of sea ice for August has consistently fallen in the last 41 years. In 2020, it was 5.08 million sq. km., the third-lowest since 1979.

Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC) expedition is a one-year-long expedition into the Central Arctic, planned to take place from 2019 to 2020. For the first time a modern research icebreaker will operate in the direct vicinity of the North Pole year round, including the nearly half year long polar night during winter. MOSAIC represents the largest Arctic expedition in history. The aim of the expedition will be to parameterise the atmospheric, geophysical, oceanographic and all other possible variables in the Arctic, and use it to more accurately forecast the changes in our weather systems.

New climber species found in Western Ghats

- **Scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Palode, have identified a new and rare species of climber of the genus Pothos (family Araceae) from the Western Ghats in Idukki district.**
- The species has been christened **Pothos boyceanus** after **Peter C. Boyce**, an expert on Araceae of southeast Asia. The discovery by G. Rajkumar, Nazarudeen Ahammed, T. Shaju, and R. Prakashkumar (Director, JNTBGRI) has been published in Taiwan, an international journal of biodiversity.

The Western Ghats, also known as Sahyadri (Benevolent Mountains), is a mountain range that covers an area of 140,000 square kilometres (54,000 sq mi) in a stretch of 1,600 kilometres (990 mi) parallel to the western coast of the Indian peninsula, traversing the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the eight hot-spots of biological diversity in the world. It is sometimes called the Great Escarpment of India.

New freshwater fish identified in the Ganga

- **Researchers from Kerala and West Bengal have identified a new species of freshwater fish from the Ganga in West Bengal.** The fish, which is edible, has been christened **Systemus gracilus** for its thin and compressed body. ‘Gracilus’ means slim in Latin. This fish can be cultured in inland waterbodies.
- The fish, which has a light reddish-white body and fins, was **discovered from Naihati, West Bengal.** **Systemus is a genus in the family Cyprinidae.** Systemus gracilus can be distinguished from other species of the genus by its high and strongly compressed body, tiny barbels, and anal fin with six branched rays. The collected specimens were of 11 to 12 cm in length.

Rare species of orchid found for first time in western Himalayas

- After nearly 124 years, a small and very rare species of orchid *Liparis pygmaea* has been found again in India, in alpine meadows of Uttarakhand Himalayas, said orchid specialist Jeewan Singh Jalal from Botanical Survey of India, Pune.
- The specialist from Botanical Survey identified the species after it was found by two officials of Uttarakhand forest department's research wing during their Suptkund trek in Chamoli district at an altitude of 3800 metres in June this year. Around 1250 species of orchids are found in India, of which nearly 250 Orchid species are found in Uttarakhand alpine zone between 3100 to 3900 metres elevation.

Two new species of cockroach wasps found

- In a significant development, researchers at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kozhikode have discovered two new species of cockroach wasps in the Western Ghats. These wasps species were discovered from Coonoor in Tamil Nadu and Peppara Wild Life Sanctuary in Kerala. They belonged to the family Ampulicidae and hunted cockroaches to feed their larvae, thereby helping to control the natural population of cockroaches.

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), founded on 1 July 1916 by Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, as premier Indian organisation in zoological research and studies to promote the survey, exploration and research of the fauna in the country.

Eight Indian beaches recommended for coveted Blue Flag international eco-label

- Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that eight beaches of the country have been recommended for the coveted 'Blue Flag' international eco-label.
- He said, clean beaches are a testimony to good environment in coastal areas and India's many beaches are among the best in the world. Mr Javadekar said, for the first time, eight beaches of India have been recommended for the Blue Flag certification.
- Blue Flag certification is a globally recognised eco-label accorded by an international agency 'Foundation for Environment Education, Denmark' based on 33 stringent criteria in four major heads—environmental education and information, bathing water quality, environment management and conservation and safety and services in the beaches.

World's largest rooftop greenhouse opens in Montreal

- The world's largest rooftop greenhouse has opened in Montreal, Canada. The greenhouse than spans 15,000 sq m was set up by Lufa Farms, on the top of a warehouse.
- The greenhouse was opened to meet the growing demand for locally sourced foods. This greenhouse, almost the size of three football fields, can grow enough food to feed 10,000 families.

Ludhiana: Veterinary Institute comes up with first blood bank for dogs in north India

- In a first in North India, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana has established a special blood bank for dogs.
- The facility has been set up after getting approval from the Department of Biotechnology and will cater to the needs of sick and blood deficient dogs.

Emissions to add 15 inches to global sea level rise by 2100: NASA-led study

- Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets could together contribute more than 38 centimetres to global sea level rise by 2100, if greenhouse gas emissions continue, according to a study led by NASA.
- The findings are in line with projections in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 2019 Special Report on Oceans and the Cryosphere or portions of Earth's surface where water is in solid form, NASA said. Melt water from ice sheets contribute about a third of the total global of the total global sea level rise, it said.
- The IPCC report projected that Greenland would contribute 8 to 27 cm to global sea level rise between 2000-2100 and Antarctica could contribute 3 to 28 cm, according to the US space agency. The findings, published in

the journal The Cryosphere, come from the Ice Sheet Model Intercomparison Project (ISMIP6) led by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

World's largest rooftop greenhouse opens in Montreal

- **The world's largest rooftop greenhouse has opened in Montreal, Canada.** The greenhouse than spans 15,000 sq m was set up by Lufa Farms, on the top of a warehouse. **The greenhouse** was opened to meet the growing demand for locally sourced foods. **This greenhouse, almost the size of three football fields, can grow enough food to feed 10,000 families**

A greenhouse gas (sometimes abbreviated GHG) is a gas that absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range. Greenhouse gases cause the greenhouse effect on planets. The primary greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere are **water vapor (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and ozone (O₃).**

Over 70 hot springs identified in Uttarakhand and HP for power generation

- **Over 70 hot springs in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh with potential to generate electricity,** have been identified by the scientists of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) Dehradun, said the institute.
- **There are around 600 geothermal springs with varying temperature and chemical conditions** in the Himalayas, according to the department of science and technology (DST). **“Geo-thermal points in the Himalayan region are scattered along the geological fault line of Main Central Thrust** (the geological fault line where the Indian plate has pushed the Eurasian plate along the Himalaya), and hot springs are found along this fault line. This geo-thermal energy can be used for producing electricity for the next 20 years”.
- **“There will be almost zero carbon dioxide emission into the atmosphere as once the vapour** is used for electricity generation, it will be condensed and transferred back into the earth, maintaining the water level and stopping carbon emission.”

Increased warming closing in on limit agreed upon, says UN report

- **The world is getting closer to passing a temperature limit set by global leaders five years ago** and may exceed it in the next decade or so, according to a new United Nations report.
- In the next five years, **the world has nearly a 1-in-4 chance of experiencing a year that's hot enough to put the global temperature at 2.7 degrees (1.5 degrees Celsius) above pre-industrial times,** according to a new science update released by the U.N., World Meteorological Organization and other global science groups.
- **That 1.5 degrees Celsius is the more stringent of two limits set in 2015 by world leaders in the Paris climate change agreement.** A 2018 U.N. science report said a world hotter than that still survives, but chances of dangerous problems increase tremendously.

The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016. The Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal is to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C (3.6 °F) above pre-industrial levels; and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C (2.7 °F), recognizing that this would substantially reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.

SPORTS



Sports Personalities in News

Tour de France 2020: Alexander Kristoff wins stage one

- **Alexander Kristoff** timed his sprint finish to perfection to win the opening stage of the **Tour de France** in Nice. After a large group crashed inside the final 3 km, Norwegian Kristoff, 33, surged home in a sprint also involving Ireland's Sam Bennett, who was fourth.
- **Alexander Kristoff** of Norway became the first yellow jersey wearer in this year's **Tour de France** after a chaotic opening stage in Nice was partially neutralised when almost every rider in the peloton was involved in a crash at one point or another.

Lewis Hamilton wins Belgian Grand Prix, now 2 behind Schumacher's record

- **Lewis Hamilton** led from start to finish at the **Belgian Grand Prix** to clinch his 89th career win and move two behind **Michael Schumacher's** Formula One record.
- The world champion was untroubled from pole position, beating his Mercedes teammate **Valtteri Bottas** by eight seconds and finishing 15 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen. Renault's Daniel Ricciardo was fourth and grabbed an extra point for the fastest lap.

Sumit Nagal storms into second round of US Open

- **Sumit Nagal** stormed into the second round of the ongoing **US Open Tennis**. Nagal defeated **Bradley Klahn** of USA in the first round of the US Open to progress further into the tournament.
- With this result, the 23-year-old Nagal has become the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last seven years.

Indian Grandmaster P Iniyan clinches victory at prestigious World Open online chess

- **Indian Grandmaster P Iniyan** clinches victory at prestigious **World Open online chess** tournament. Indian Grandmaster P Iniyan won the prestigious Annual World Open online chess tournament held recently.
- The Tamil Nadu player scored seven and half points out of a possible nine with six victories and three draws to finish on top, ahead of many higher rated Grandmasters. **Grandmaster P Iniyan** became the first Indian to win the annual World Open chess tournament.

De Bruyne named English football's player of the year

- **De Bruyne** became the first City player to capture the Professional Footballers' Association award. Manchester City midfielder **Kevin De Bruyne** was voted English football's player of the year, denying Liverpool a third straight winner of the prestigious award.

- De Bruyne became the first City player to capture the Professional Footballers' Association award after scoring 13 goals and making a record-tying 20 assists last season.

IPL 2020: Ali Khan becomes first American cricketer to join IPL, to play for KKR

- For the first time in history, the IPL will see participation by an American cricketer after Kolkata Knight Riders signed Ali Khan, a 29-year-old fast bowler from the USA. Khan was selected in a USA squad for the first time for the 2016 Auty Cup and ICC WCL Division Four in Los Angeles.

Zvonareva, Siegemund win US Open women's doubles title

- Vera Zvonareva and Laura Siegemund stood awkwardly facing each other, rackets and arms in the air in confusion. The rules of tennis during the coronavirus pandemic were the only thing Zvonareva and Siegemund couldn't figure out in their first tournament together. The duo won the US Open women's doubles title beating the third-seeded team of Xu Yifan and Nicole Melichar.

Lewis Hamilton Wins Dramatic Tuscan Grand Prix, Albon Secures First Career Podium

- Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the dramatic Tuscan Grand Prix at Mugello that was twice stopped and re-started. With this win, Hamilton takes the 90th F1 pole position of his career, only one short of equalling Michael Schumacher's all-time record.
- Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas and Red Bull's Alex Albon finished second and third respectively. Albon claimed the maiden podium of his Formula 1 career.

Paytm First Games ropes in Sachin Tendulkar as brand ambassador

- Paytm First Games, a subsidiary of the digital financial service platform Paytm, has signed cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar as the brand ambassador for the platform, ahead of the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Paytm First Games (PFG) has also set aside Rs 300 crore to spend on marketing and promotions during the remaining six months of the current financial year, to grow its market share in the space currently dominated by Dream11.

Trinbago Knight Riders win Caribbean Premier League 2020

- Trinbago Knight Riders defeated St Lucia Zouks by 8 wickets to win the 2020 edition of the Caribbean Premier League. This was a season to remember for the Kieron Pollard-led side as they did not lose even a single match this season.

Dominic Thiem beats Alexander Zverev to win US Open

- Dominic Thiem produced a historic comeback to beat Alexander Zverev in a nervy five-setter and win the US Open for his first Grand Slam title. The second seeded Austrian beat the fifth seed inside a near-empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.
- It marked the first time in the US Open's Open era history that a player had recovered from losing the opening two sets to win the title. It was also the first time the final had been settled by a tie-break.

MS Dhoni Becomes First Wicketkeeper to 250 Dismissals in T20 Cricket

- The 39-year old former India captain became the first keeper in the world to 250 dismissals in T20 cricket. Dhoni is followed by Pakistan's Kamran Akmal. MS Dhoni – who announced his international retirement last month – reached another milestone in his glittering cricket career during the IPL opener in Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi.

Novak Djokovic wins Men's Singles event in Italian Open

- In tennis, world number one Novak Djokovic won a record 36th Masters Title by beating Diego Schwartzman in the Italian Open at Rome.
- The Serb, playing in his first tournament since being disqualified from this month's US Open, won 7-5, 6-3 in the final to ensure he goes into next week's French Open on a high.

Tour de France - Lopez wins

- Colombia's Miguel Angel Lopez won stage 17 of the Tour de France to climb third in the overall standings as race leader Primoz Roglic extended his advantage.
- The race ascended to 2,304m altitude atop the Col de la Loze where Slovenian rookie Tadej Pogacar lost a handful of seconds to his compatriot Roglic in the race for the yellow jersey on a day the defending champion Egan Bernal withdrew.

Italian Open: Simona Halep lifts Women's Singles title

- In Italian open tennis, top-seeded Simona Halep of Romania lifted the title as Czech player Karolína Pliskova retired half way following injury in the finals played this evening at Rome.

KL Rahul breaks Sachin Tendulkar's massive record, becomes fastest Indian batsman to 2000 runs in Indian Premier League

- Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul became the fastest Indian batsman to reach 2000 IPL runs. Rahul achieved the feat in IPL 2020 match No.6 against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Dubai.
- Rahul, in the process, overtook Sachin Tendulkar, who held the record for being the fastest to 2000 IPL runs. Tendulkar, who played all six seasons of IPL for Mumbai Indians, had reached the milestone in 63 innings. Rahul did it in 60 innings.



Sport Events

World Cup host Qatar set to play in Gold Cup next year in US

- **World Cup host Qatar is set to play in the Gold Cup next year in the United States** after accepting an invitation from soccer's governing body for North and Central America and the Caribbean.
- **The Asian Cup champion will participate in the 2021 and 2023 Gold Cup tournaments** as a guest under a memorandum of understanding signed in Bahrain in 2017.

Planning to host BRICS Games during Khelo India Games 2021

- Union Minister of Youth and Sports Kiren Rijiju has said that **India is planning to host BRICS Games 2021**, which will be aligned with the Khelo India Games scheduled for next year.
- **"BRICS Games 2021 will be held during the same time and at same venues as of Khelo India Games 2021** so that our players from various parts of the country, who will gather for Khelo India Games, will have the benefit and great opportunity of witnessing BRICS Games from close quarters.
- This will be a great morale booster and motivational moment for them," Rijiju said in a video conference between the Sports Ministers of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).

India's First Football Training App Launched by Bhaichung Bhutia Football Schools

- **Bhaichung Bhutia Football Schools (BBFS) have launched their app enJogo** – the first-ever football-based training app. The 'enJogo app' has a library of workouts with in-built videos of drills with audio instructions that accompany a user while they workout. The app's name is the shortened form of 'enjoy football'. 'Jogo' comes from 'Jogo Bonito' which is the portuguese phrase of the 'beautiful game'.

Sports Ministry to upgrade eight Khelo India State Centres of Excellence to groom future Olympic champions

- **Sports Ministry is set to upgrade eight Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE) at an estimated cost of Rs. 95.19 crore** with an aim to identify and groom future Olympic champions. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said, this is yet another step towards building a robust sports ecosystem and India's pursuit of excellence in Olympics.
- Centres will ensure that athletes proficient in a certain sports are given the highest level of training. The Minister said, it will help to further **India's effort of becoming one of the top 10 countries in the Olympics in 2028.**

CFI All Set To Host First-Ever Cycling Summit In 2021

- **The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) is all set to host the first-ever Cycling Summit in 2021**, with an aim to promote the culture of cycling in the country.
- **The CFI has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a marketing exploration firm, Contartica,** for the summit.
- **The Cycling Summit 2021 will be hosted in Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore** and is expected to be a unique confluence of cycling enthusiasts, renowned athletes, and businesses from all over the country.

India storm into Chess Olympiad final for first time

- **Koneru Humpy held her nerve in an Armageddon game to pull off a 2-1 victory for India** in the Chess Olympiad semifinal against Poland.
- **India, whose previous best finish at the Olympiad was a bronze medal in 2014, are now assured of a first ever gold or silver.** They will meet the winners of the Russia vs USA semifinal.

AWARDS



Ratan Tata Anand Mahindra and Narayana Murthy bestowed lifetime achievement awards by WDA first edition

- In a first-of-its-kind virtual summit, World Digital Awards announced its first edition awardees in India, ratified by the premier accrediting agency in the world, IAA.
- Ratan Tata Anand Mahindra, Mukesh Ambani and NR Narayana Murthy were conferred the Lifetime Achievement Awards, whereas Special Recognition Awards were conferred for immense contribution in their fields Eminent Psychologist Dr Jawahar Suriseti for social good through education; Debjani Ghosh (President Nasscom) for Tech; Michelin Star Chef Vikas Khanna for Humanitarian aid; Actor Sonu Sood for excellent social service during pandemic; Vijay Shekhar Sharma of PayTM for promoting entrepreneurship; Ritesh Agrawal of OYO for entrepreneurial excellence and Ashok Kataria for excellence in Infrastructure domain.
- On 1st September, the World Digital Awards first edition in India announced from 11 am onwards on all social media platforms with one awardee being announced every 10 minutes. The ratification of these awards were done after a rigorous process. There were Lifetime Awards, Special Recognition and then category specific awards for Education, Healthcare and Startups. The rigorous process took a period of 45 days after which the list of 38 awardees was finalised.

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Wins CII National Awards of “National Energy Leader” & “Excellent Energy Efficient unit”

- GMR led Hyderabad International Airport has won the prestigious awards of CII “National Energy Leader” and “Excellent Energy Efficient Unit” at the 21st National Awards for ‘Excellence in Energy Management’ organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC) during the 19th edition.
- GHIAL has been recognized with “Excellent Energy Efficient Unit” and “National Energy Leader” accolades for the 4th and 2nd year in a row, respectively. GHIAL digitally received the awards on 28th August amidst the presence of industry dignitaries and participants on the last day of the event.

GMR Group is an infrastructural company headquartered in New Delhi. The company was founded in 1978 by Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao. Employing the Public Private Partnership model, the Group has implemented several infrastructure projects in India. GMR Group chairman Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao, a first-generation entrepreneur hailing from Rajam in Srikakulam District in Andhra Pradesh. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is an international airport that serves Hyderabad, the capital of the Indian state of Telangana. It is named after Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India. It is the only airport in India ranking in AirHelp’s list of top 10 airports in the world.

Noted broadcaster Sir David Attenborough presented with Indira Gandhi peace prize

- Noted broadcaster and natural historian David Attenborough has been presented the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- Attenborough has been given the prize for “revealing the wonders of the natural world, educating and entertaining generations of people through his films and books for tirelessly working to awaken humankind to the need to preserve and protect the biodiversity on our planet, and advocating the necessity to live a sustainable and harmonious way of life, working with rather than against nature,” the citation read.
- He was named the recipient of the award in November last year. His name was selected by an international jury chaired by former President Pranab Mukherjee, who died last week. The virtual award ceremony attended by Congress president and Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust chairperson Sonia Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Rahul Gandhi.
- Sir David’s current series with the BBC Natural History Unit—Seven Worlds, One Planet—is broadcast on BBC One on Sunday nights.
- Last year, Sonia Gandhi had presented the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2018 to Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a New Delhi-based environment think-tank, for its work in environmental education and protection.

The Indira Gandhi Prize or the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize or the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development is the prestigious award accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust to individuals or organisations in recognition of creative efforts toward promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order; ensuring that scientific discoveries are used for the larger good of humanity, and enlarging the scope of freedom. The prize carries a cash award of 2.5 million Indian rupees and a citation. A written work, in order to be eligible for consideration, should have been published. The panel constituted by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust consists of prominent national and international personalities including previous recipients. It was established and first awarded in 1986 to a non-profit, non-partisan international network of committed legislators Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA).

French star Juliette Binoche to be honoured with Golden Icon Award at Zurich Film Festival

- The 16th edition of annual film gala will be held from September 24 to October 4 this year. The 56-year-old Academy Award winner will be the first French artiste to receive the award.
- She will be presented the honour on September 30 at a presentation ahead of a screening of her most recent film, the French-language comedy “How to Be a Good Wife”.

Chaitanya Tamhane-directorial ‘The Disciple’ bags prestigious FIPRESCI award at Venice Film Festival

- Chaitanya Tamhane’s ‘The Disciple’ has bagged the prestigious FIPRESCI award at the 2020 Venice Film Festival. The film, which looks at the world of classical musicians on the fringes of success, had its premiere at the Biennale last week, receiving glowing reviews from the critics.
- The award, presented by the The International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI, short for Federation Internationale de la Presse Cinematographique), aims to promote and develop film culture as well as safeguard professional interests.

The Handmaid’s Tale’ writer Margaret Atwood honoured with Dayton Literary Peace Prize

- Margaret Atwood, whose sweeping body of work includes “The Handmaid’s Tale,” a depiction of a nightmarish totalitarian future for the United States, is this year’s winner of a lifetime achievement award that celebrates literature’s power to foster peace, social justice and global understanding.
- The Canadian writer and teacher has earned the Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award, officials of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize officials announced. The award is named for the late U.S. diplomat who brokered the 1995 Bosnian peace accords reached in the Ohio city.

Trump awards Kuwaiti emir with prestigious award; first since 1991

- The US President Donald Trump awarded one of the most prestigious awards — the US Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander — to Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
- The announcement was made by the White House, which also stated that this is the **first time the honour has been awarded to anyone since 1991**.

Michelin-star chef Vikas Khanna honoured for feeding millions in India amid Covid

- Michelin-star chef Vikas Khanna will be **honoured with the prestigious 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for feeding millions across India amid the COVID-19 pandemic** through a massive food distribution drive that he coordinated from thousands of miles away in his Manhattan home.
- The Asia Game Changer Awards, launched by the Asia Society — a US-based non-profit organisation — in 2014, identify and honour true leaders who make a positive contribution to the future of Asia. **Khanna is the only Indian among the six honourees named by the leading organisation.**

Mira Nair honoured with TIFF Tribute Award

- Mira Nair received the Jeff Skoll Award for Impact Media at a remotely conducted TIFF Tribute Awards ceremony. The presentation of the award to Nair was **initiated by Tabu, star of “A Suitable Boy” as well as the director’s critically acclaimed 2006 drama “The Namesake”.**

Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presents first ever AICTE Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Awards 2020

- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presented the first ever AICTE Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Awards 2020 to 12 faculty members of AICTE approved institutes **on the occasion of Engineers Day**. The event was organised in virtual mode and the faculty members were felicitated by the Minister through online interaction.
- **Sir M Visvesvaraya was a pioneer of Engineering in India.** Visvesvaraya was one of the most eminent Engineers and Statesmen of India, whose contribution to the advancement of the country is unforgettable. He was **awarded the highest civilian award ‘Bharat Ratna’ in 1955** for his indispensable contribution to nation-building. The Minister said that the Awards has been introduced for the first time to identify extraordinary teachers and recognize their excellence, best practice and innovativeness in the field of higher technical education at national level for Degree and Diploma institutions.

Indian-origin writer Avni Doshi’s novel shortlisted for 2020 Booker Prize for fiction

- **Burnt Sugar, Indian-origin writer Avni Doshi’s debut novel about love between mother and daughter, is among six books shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for Fiction.**

Man Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize and commonly known simply as the Booker Prize) is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the UK. The prize was originally known as the Booker–McConnell Prize, after the company Booker, McConnell Ltd began sponsoring the event in 1968; it became commonly known as the “Booker Prize” or simply “the Booker”. In 1970, Bernice Rubens became the first woman to win the Booker Prize, for *The Elected Member*.

Narendra Modi Second Indian Prime Minister to Win Ig Nobel Prize 2020

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize for 2020 for ‘Medical Education’. The award is shared by heads of Brazil, the UK, Mexico, Belarus, the US, Turkey, Russia, and Turkmenistan.
- The Ig Nobel Prize is a satirical or parody awards given out every year by a magazine named ‘Annals of Improbable Research’. The magazine is dedicated to scientific humour, in the form of a satirical take on the standard academic journal.
- It is wordplay on ‘ignoble’, an antonym of noble. It is being given since 1991 and it aims to “honour achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think.” Narendra Modi became the second

Prime Minister to win the award. Earlier, Atal Bihari Vajpayee won the 1998 Peace award for “aggressively peaceful explosions of atomic bombs.”

Chaitanya Tamhane-directorial ‘The Disciple’ wins Amplify Voices Award at TIFF

- Indian director Chaitanya Tamhane’s “The Disciple” won the Amplify Voices Award at the 45th Toronto International Film Festival sharing the prize with Ivorian director Phillipe Lacote’s “Night of the Kings”.
- American-Chinese director Chloe Zhao’s “Nomadland”, the Venice Golden Lion winner, took home TIFF’s coveted People’s Choice Award, which is regarded as a prognosticator for the Oscar Awards.

Olivia Colman to be honoured with lifetime achievement award at Zurich Film Festival

- Oscar winner Olivia Colman will be feted with Zurich Film Festival’s Golden Eye, the lifetime achievement award, the festival organisers announced. The movie gala, slated to run from September 24 to October 4, will also showcase Colman’s latest film, “The Father”, which will have its festival debut.
- According to The Hollywood Reporter, Colman is known for her stirring performance in the third season of the Netflix drama series ‘The Crown’, globally acclaimed dark comedy ‘Fleabag’ and comedy series ‘Peep Show’.
- She was also awarded the Best Actress Oscar in 2019 for her role as a naive Queen Anne in Yorgos Lanthimos’ 2018 film, ‘The Favourite’. She is also expected to be seen in the 4th season of ‘The Crown’, in her role as Queen Elizabeth II.

Kerala wins UN award for ‘outstanding contribution’ towards prevention, control of non-communicable diseases

- Kerala won a United Nations award for its “outstanding contribution” towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals. Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja said that the award was recognition of the tireless service of Kerala in the health sector.
- The UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) award this year on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases was announced by World Health Organisation (WHO) director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.



PERSONS IN NEWS

Ambani twins, Adar Poonawalla, Byju's founder named in Fortune's 40 Under 40 list

- Reliance Jio Board Directors Isha Ambani and Akash Ambani, Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla and Byju Raveendran, co-founder of India's leading education technology company Byju's, are among the "emerging leaders" from across the world named by Fortune in its annual list of influential people under the age of 40.
- The 2020 Fortune 40 under 40 list highlights 40 influential people each in five categories of finance, technology, healthcare, government and politics, and media and entertainment from around the world. Featured in the list are 28-year-old Ambani twins, children of Reliance Chairman Billionaire Mukesh Ambani and Nita Ambani.

For first time, a woman to head Canada's Space Agency

- For the first time in its 31-year history, the Canadian Space Agency will have a female president. The government announced that longtime public servant Lisa Campbell will take over as head of the agency. Ms. Campbell replaces Sylvain Laporte, who has been president since 2015.

Australia appoints cricket icon Matthew Hayden as trade envoy to India

- The Australian government has appointed former cricketer Matthew Hayden and Indian-origin politician Lisa Singh as trade envoys for advancing business ties with India. Three new appointments to the board of the Australia-India Council were announced.
- Foreign Affairs Minister Marise Payne said, "Ashok Jacob has been reappointed as chair, and will be joined by three new board members." Lisa Singh, former Labor Party Senator from Tasmania, would be the Deputy Chair. Former Victoria Premier Ted Baillieu and former cricketer Hayden are the other new members.

Ariana Grande becomes first woman with 200 mn followers on Instagram

- Pop star Ariana Grande has become the first woman to have 200 million followers of photo-video sharing platform Instagram.
- The 27-year-old musician is followed by reality TV star-entrepreneur Kylie Jenner and singer-actor Selena Gomez with 193 and 190 million followers, respectively.

Tamil Nadu's M Veeralakshmi Becomes India's First Woman Ambulance Driver

- In a first, a woman was appointed to drive an ambulance in Tamil Nadu, as Chief Minister K Palaniswami flagged off 118 as part of an initiative to strengthen emergency services in the state. Beginning a new journey, M Veeralakshmi was appointed driver of one of the newly launched '108' ambulances and it is a 'first' in the country.

IPS Charu Sinha to become first woman head of CRPF's Srinagar sector

- For the first time, a female IPS officer has been appointed as Inspector General (IG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Srinagar sector, one of the terrorist-affected areas in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Charu Sinha, IPS officer of the 1996-batch Telangana cadre, will now be heading the Srinagar sector for CRPF as the Inspector General. This is not the first time when she has been assigned such a tough task, earlier also; she had worked as IG, the Bihar sector in CRPF and has dealt with Naxals.
- Under her leadership, various anti-Naxals operations were carried out. Later, she was transferred to IG Jammu in CRPF where she spent a long and successful tenure.

Ayushmann Khurrana becomes UNICEF's celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign

- UNICEF India announced Ayushmann Khurrana as its celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign – 'For Every Child'. Khurrana will support UNICEF towards ending violence against children.
- He will work towards this initiative in India and joins the likes of former football star David Beckham, who works on this campaign globally, a press release issued on behalf of the actor said.
- Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF representative in India said they are delighted to have Khurrana as a UNICEF celebrity advocate as they believe that his support will help in creating awareness about the issue.

Former health secretary Preeti Sudan appointed WHO panellist

- The World Health Organisation's independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response appointed former health secretary Preeti Sudan as one of its 11 panellists from across the world.
- The decision by the panel's two heads, former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clarke and former Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, received a rather muted response in India.
- Helen Clarke is believed to have conveyed that Sudan's experience as the head of the government ministry that led India's response to the pandemic makes her much more suited for the job. Member states such as India were invited to nominate their candidates but the chairs had the freedom to pick their own candidate as they did with Sudan.

Paresh Rawal named chairperson of NSD

- President Ram Nath Kovind named former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP and actor Paresh Rawal as the chairperson of the National School of Drama (NSD).
- The post of the NSD chairperson has been vacant since 2017, with vice-chairperson Dr. Arjun Deo, a Rajasthani poet, critic, playwright, theatre director and translator, acting as the head. "Rawal will be the chairperson for the next four years."

World's Top 50 Thinkers of COVID-19 Age: Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja ranks first on list, beats New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern

- Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja fondly known as Shailaja Teacher has ranked first on the World's Top 50 Thinkers of COVID-19 Age list by UK's Prospect Magazine.
- The Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern has ranked second the list, which was prepared through a public ballot.
- Lauding the Kerala Health Minister for her efforts in the fight against COVID-19, the magazine wrote, "So deft was her handling of a 2018 outbreak of the deadly Nipah disease that it was commemorated in a film, Virus. In 2020, she was the right woman in the right place."

Deputy NSA gets one year extension

- The Central Government extended the tenure of Deputy National Security Adviser Pankaj Saran for one year. Mr. Saran is a 1982 batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service and was appointed Deputy NSA in May 2018. He was then serving as India's envoy to Russia.
- Former chief of the Intelligence Bureau, Ajit Doval, is the National Security Adviser since 2014 after the NDA government headed by Narendra Modi came to power.

EX MP Kavitha becomes first woman politician in South India to get 1M Twitter followers

- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's daughter and former MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha became the first woman politician in South India to clock a million followers on microblogging site Twitter.
- Kavitha became popular on Twitter for her quick response and social work. She is famous for swiftly addressing SOS calls of many Telangana residents living abroad.

Amitabha Ghosh, who served as RBI governor for 21 days, passes away at 90

- Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Governor for 21 days, Amitabha Ghosh, passed away at the age of 90. Ghosh had the shortest stint as RBI governor, from January 15, 1985 to February 4, 1985, which was a stop-gap arrangement while Ghosh was serving as a deputy governor and waiting to hand over charge to the 17th RBI Governor R N Malhotra.
- After handing over the charge, Ghosh returned to his position as deputy governor. Ghosh was the deputy governor between January 21, 1982 to January 20, 1987, and again got an extension till January 20, 1992. Prior to joining the RBI, Ghosh was the chairman of Allahabad Bank.

Colonel Dr Girija Mungali named in Asian Football Confederation task-force

- Retired Colonel Dr Girija Shanker Mungali has been appointed as one of the seven members of the Asian Football Confederation's task force for regulating football clubs in Asia and Australia.
- Mungali, who is also currently serving as the Chairman of the Club Licensing Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), is the only Indian to be appointed on this committee.
- According to a statement issued here, the retired Army officer plans to use this platform to promote and create opportunities for young and upcoming footballers especially from the rural areas of the country.

Indian Teen Chosen for UN Sustainable Development Goals Programme

- Udit Singhal, has been named by the United Nations to the 2020 cohort of young leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals, the highest profile recognition opportunity at the world body for youngsters who are leading efforts to combat the world's most pressing issues.
- Mr Singhal has been named to the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He is the founder of Glass2Sand, a zero-waste ecosystem that addresses the growing menace of glass waste in Delhi.
- Through the initiative, empty glass bottles are prevented from being dumped into landfills, where they won't decompose for a million years, and are crushed into commercially valuable sand.

Ayushmann Khurrana joins PM Modi, Shaheen Bagh 'dadi' Bilkis in TIME's 100 Most Influential People Of 2020 list

- Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is the only Indian film star to feature in TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People Of 2020 list. The 'Andhadhun' actor features alongside international stars like Oscar-winner Bong Joon Ho, 'Fleabag' icon Phoebe Waller-Bridge, and The Weeknd among others in the artists category.
- Others Indians on the list include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Google CEO Sundar Pichai, London-based Indian-origin doctor Ravindra Gupta, and Bilkis - a grandmother from Shaheen Bagh, a Delhi neighbourhood that became the epicentre of the anti-CAA protests. US Vice Presidential nominee Kamala Harris also features in the Leaders category alongside Modi.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, second woman on Supreme Court, dies

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whose 27-year tenure as the second female justice on the US Supreme Court culminated a legal career dedicated to advancing the rights of women, has died. She was 87, and her death comes less than two months before the election gives President Donald Trump a chance to try to shift the already conservative court further to the right.

Anil Dhasmana appointed as new chief of NTRO

- Former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Anil Dhasmana has been appointed as the chief of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), India's technical body that is responsible for geospatial intelligence and satellite imagery.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, cleared the appointment and the decision was formally conveyed to the retired Indian Police Service officer.

In a first, 2 women officers to operate helicopters from Indian Navy warships

- In a first, two women officers have been selected to join as ‘Observers’ (Airborne Tacticians) in the Indian Navy’s helicopter stream that would ultimately pave the way for women being posted in frontline warships.
- Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Kumudini Tyagi and SLt Riti Singh would, in effect, be the first set of women airborne tacticians in India who would operate from the deck of warships.

Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh will be first woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale

- Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh will be the first woman pilot to fly Rafale, India’s most modern multi-role fighter aircraft. It has been known for a while that the IAF is training a woman fighter pilot to fly the Rafale, which was inducted into the force at the Ambala base earlier this month, but her name has come to light only now.



Career
Launcher

MISCELLANEOUS

APICD Board constituted for implementing Vizag-Chennai industrial corridor project

- In a significant step towards the operationalisation of AP Industrial Corridor Development Act, 2017 (APICDA), the Andhra Pradesh government has constituted the AP Industrial Corridor Development Authority, APICD Board and an executive committee with effect from August 28 in pursuance of the proposals submitted by the director of Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor Development Project.
- The APICD Board has the Chief Minister as Chairman and Minister for Industries and Commerce as the vice-chairman and Minister for Finance, Chief Secretary, Special Chief Secretary/Principal Secretaries-finance, revenue, municipal administration, water resources, energy and Panchayat Raj (PR) and APIIC vice-chairman as members.

Punjab Govt launches 'I Rakhwali' App to make citizens 'Greenery Saviours'

- To strengthen its drive to preserve and maintain the environment in Punjab and make people stakeholders in the process, the State Forest Department launched 'I Rakhwali' application to help netizens to become 'Greenery Saviours'.
- Launching the application, Punjab Forest Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot said that the application has been developed to ensure greenery and to protect the environment in Punjab, and its main aim is to inspire people to plant more trees. With this new initiative, the Punjab government aims to safeguard the state forest area by making people a stakeholder in this process.

Jammu & Kashmir government set to conserve heritage value of 6 Mughal gardens of Kashmir

- The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) administration is all set to conserve the six Mughal gardens in a bid to empanel them as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) mandated world heritage sites.
- At present, the six Mughal gardens --- Nishat, Shalimar, Cheshmashahi, Pari Mahal, Achabal and Veerinag -- are under UNESCO's tentative list of heritage sites.

Piyush Goyal addresses US-India Strategic Partnership Forum through virtual conference

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has invited the US business and industry to work with their Indian counterparts to take the bilateral trade to greater heights.
- Addressing the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum through a virtual conference, Mr Goyal said the two democracies share deep commitment with each other, at the Government, Business and people to people levels.

Cabinet appointments panel approves restructuring of Railway Board, names first CEO

- The appointments committee of the cabinet (ACC) formally approved the restructuring of the Railway Board and approved the appointment of VK Yadav, the current chairman of the Railway Board as its first CEO.
- In December 2019, the Union Cabinet in a major move to reform the 150-year-old railway board of the Indian Railways approved the restructuring of the apex body of the Indian Railways by trimming its strength to half, and unifying its eight railways services into a central service called the Indian Railway Management Service.
- Pradeep Kumar has been appointed Member, Infrastructure, PC Sharma has been appointed Member, Traction and Rolling Stock, PS Mishra has been made Member, Operations and Business Development. Manjula Rangarajan has been appointed Member, Finance.

Government to appoint secretary-rank officer to head National Recruitment Agency

- The Centre will appoint a secretary-rank officer as the chairman of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA), which will conduct online Common Eligibility Test to shortlist candidates for majority of Central government jobs, a Personnel Ministry Order said.
- Besides the chairman, the NRA will have eight members a secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) or his representatives, representatives of the Ministry of Railways and the Department of Financial Services, chairmen of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), and two experts from the field of academics, it said.
- It will also have a Secretary and Controller of Examinations and the post will be held by an officer at the level of joint secretary to the government of India. The officer will be appointed on deputation basis, the Order said.

Festival of Onam being celebrated across country

- Amid Covid 19 pandemic, Keralites across the globe is celebrating Thiruvonam on 31 August 2020, the biggest cultural festival of the State.
- Thiruvonam is the most auspicious day of Onam festival. This annual harvest festival of the State celebrates the visit of mythical and righteous King Mahabali.
- Onam is being celebrated by all Keralites irrespective of religion symbolising secularism and harmony. Onam marks the season of plenty, but this time the Covid pandemic had taken the sheen out of the festivities.

Famous art of 'Etikoppaka' dolls of Visakhapatnam district finds a place in "Mann ki Baat"

- The famous art of 'Etikoppaka' dolls of Visakhapatnam district finds a place in the "Mann ki Baat" programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- In the Mann Ki Baat speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a special mention of the famous Etikoppaka dolls saying that the toys would be useful to unleash the creativity in children in the current Pandemic situation.

Prakash Javadekar chairs a webinar on first ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

- Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar chaired a webinar on the first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. Mr Javadekar also reviews the progress of activities under the National Clean Air programme (NCAP) during the course of the webinar.
- The webinar was joined by Principal Secretaries of the Urban Development Departments and Environment Departments of 28 states and 8 Union Territories. Commissioners of 122 cities as identified in the NCAP programme also participated.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address from the Red Fort on this year's Independence Day, had highlighted the need of holistic improvement in air quality in 100 cities.
- The General Assembly of the United Nations on 19th December last year had adopted a resolution to observe the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on 7th September every year starting from this year.

Poshan Maah: Second Webinar organized on topic 'Nutrient Requirement for Children & Mothers during first 1000 days'

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organizing a series of webinars during the third Poshan Maah being celebrated this month. The first webinar on Best Practices and Success Stories from POSHAN Abhiyaan was organized.

- The second webinar was held on the **topic of Nutrient Requirement for Children and Mothers during the first 1000 days**. The webinars were **presided over by Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani**. Mrs Irani appreciated the efforts of the coordinating Ministries and appealed to all to **promote Jan Bhagidari in making all-out efforts to make the POSHAN Abhiyaan a success**.

Food Processing Industries Minister inaugurates Organic Food Processing Unit in Barabanki

- **Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Organic Food Processing Unit in Barabanki**, Uttar Pradesh through video conference.
- The Minister added that the **diverse basket of agricultural raw material base and agro-climatic attributes of Uttar Pradesh** provide the requisite platform for the state to develop a vibrant food processing industry.

Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani launches welfare scheme for farmers

- **Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani launched a welfare scheme for farmers with seven components designed for their overall development**. Rupani launched the scheme vis video conferencing from Gandhinagar. The scheme covers seven welfare components such as cow-based organic farming, economic upliftment of farmers, adoption of new crop varieties and distribution of agri equipment to small and marginalised farmers, the release said.
- **Under the crop storage scheme, farmers will get an assistance of Rs 30,000 to construct godowns to store their produce**, it said.
- **In case of the transportation scheme, farmers will get a financial assistance upto Rs 75,000 to buy small vehicles to transport their produce**, the release said. On the launch day, the state government disbursed financial assistance of Rs 400 crore to around 1.16 lakh farmers, it was stated.

First Indira Gandhi Chair for environmental sciences set up

- **The Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust set up the first Indira Gandhi Chair in Environmental Sciences in collaboration with Bengaluru-based National Institute of Advanced Studies** to commemorate two of the former prime minister's passions — ecology and science.

G20 environment ministers promote a more sustainable future for all

- **The G20 environment ministers met to strengthen policy cooperation toward the reduction of land degradation and habitat loss**, and the conservation of coral reefs to safeguard the planet's ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Stressing the importance of preserving the environment and building a more sustainable future, **the G20 members discussed issues related to the conservation of the earth's environment including land, oceans, and natural resources**. They addressed protecting marine and terrestrial environments and working towards reducing marine pollution, especially marine plastic littering.

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh launches Smart Ration Card Scheme

- **Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh launched the Smart Ration Card Scheme to cover 1.41 crore beneficiaries across the state**.
- Rolling out the scheme virtually, with connection to 100 places across the state, **the Chief Minister said, 37.5 lakh cards will be distributed to the eligible beneficiaries this month**. Besides, he also announced a separate state-funded scheme to provide subsidized rations to the nine lakh beneficiaries not covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Home Minister Amit Shah e-launches development projects worth Rs 221 crore in Ahmedabad

- **Home Minister Amit Shah e-dedicated and e-launched development projects worth Rs 221 crore in Ahmedabad district**. The works e-dedicated by Union Home Minister include Rs 130.91 crore pipeline network to carry water from Vaishnavdevi Circle to Shantipura and Sarkhej along Ring Road, Rs 15 crore new water distribution station near APMC Yard in south-west zone, Rs 24.99 crore water distribution station near Makarba Police Lines in Sarkhej ward and Rs 5.26 crore Chharodi village lake.

World's first CNG terminal to come up in Gujarat's Bhavnagar

- The Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said **Bhavnagar will become the first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal in the world**, as the government has given its **sanction to the Rs 1,900 crore brownfield project**. The terminal will have a capacity of 15 lakh tons annually.

India's First Airport Coronavirus Testing Facility Launched In Delhi

- **India's first coronavirus airport testing facility was launched at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.**
- **The facility at the Terminal-3 of the airport, which offers a walk-in option**, "ensures a safe journey of all passengers entering the city or scheduled for domestic connecting flights", airport operator DIAL (Delhi International Airport Limited) said.

Madhya Pradesh celebrated 'Anna utsav' on eve of PM Modi's birthday

- **Madhya Pradesh celebrated an 'Anna Utsav' (food grains festival) on September 16, the eve of PM Narendra Modi's birthday, during which 37 lakh new below poverty line (BPL) beneficiaries** will be covered under the government's scheme to provide food grains to them on highly subsidised rates, as per a decision taken by state government.
- Under the scheme, the beneficiaries will **get rice, wheat and salt at Re 1 per kg. Every beneficiary will get 5 kg of food grains per month**, according to the food and civil supplies department.

Rajnath Singh launches 'Aero India 2021' website in Delhi

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched website of 'Aero India 2021'** which is scheduled for 3-7 February 2021. The event took place in Delhi on September 11.

Formed 16-member committee to study ancient Indian culture

- **Formed 16-member committee to study ancient Indian culture Committee to include K.N. Dikshit, Chairman**, Indian Archaeological Society, New Delhi and former Joint Director General, Archaeological Survey of India
- The government has formed an expert **committee for conducting a study on the origin and evolution of Indian culture dating back to around 12,000 years ago**, Union Minister Prahlaad Patel informed Parliament.

AAI to establish Greenfield Airport in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Airports Authority of India (AAI) is all set to establish a Greenfield Airport in Hollongi, Arunachal Pradesh.** The project is expected to be **completed by 2022** and will be able to accommodate narrow-body jets like the Airbus A321 in the first phase.

Parliament passes Rashtriya Raksha University Bill 2020

- **Parliament has passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill 2020.** The Rajya Sabha cleared this Bill, while the Lok Sabha had already passed it earlier. **The Bill establishes the Raksha Shakti University, Gujarat as a University called the Rashtriya Raksha University in Gujarat. The Bill declares the University as an institution of national importance.**

Launch of FICCI-SAM knowledge report on 'India-Japan: Time to Seize New Opportunities

- Getting the economy back on the track is going to be a massive challenge. Comparable only to the pandemic. With the discouraging statistics to do with economy and growth, making it to headlines in the past few weeks, the **FICCI-SAM knowledge report comes as a renewed ray of hope. The report is titled India—Japan: Time to Seize New Opportunities.**
- The report was an effort to further supplement the **endeavour of Indian government to making India an integral part of the global manufacturing value chain in partnership with Japan.**

J&K LG Manoj Sinha formally launches home delivery of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pooja Prasad

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha formally launched home delivery of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pooja Prasad for devotees who may not be able to visit the Hindu pilgrimage, during the Board meeting at the Raj Bhavan, Jammu. Prasad delivered home packed in sanitized boxes; a devotee can book the Pooja Prasad through website of SMVDSB.

PM releases 'Age -Appropriate Fitness Protocols' on first anniversary of Fit India Movement

- On occasion of nation-wide online Fit India Dialogue, the Prime Minister launched Fit India Age-Appropriate Fitness Protocols. Mr Modi held interactions with cricketer Virat Kohli, actor Milind Soman, footballer Afshan Ashiq among others who shared their fitness experiences with him. Many countries of the world have set many goals regarding fitness and are working on them at many fronts. Many countries like Australia, Germany, UK, USA are running fitness campaigns on a large scale.

Chennai division launches 'Freight Seva' mobile app

- Chennai division of Southern Railway launched mobile app 'Freight Seva' with a motive of strengthening its customer base and attracting new streams of freight and parcel traffic.
- Earlier, Southern Railway established a Business Development Unit (BDU) across its various divisions to brighten freight business prospects. Post that, mobile app has been launched. Freight Seva has all details required for freight customers like various incentive schemes of Indian Railways for freight customers.

'e- Peek Pahani' app will reduce hardships of farmers

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has said that e- Peek Pahani mobile application of the State Government will reduce hardships of farmers and help them get the right price and good market for their produce.

Tamil Nadu: Nutrition Park to be set up in Chandrasekharapuram, Namakkal

- Steps are being taken up to set up a nutrition park in Chandrasekharapuram, Namakkal near Trichy. This is part of the National Nutrition Month programme being undertaken in Tamilnadu.
- A project to develop value added products from drumsticks will be set up adjacent to the park. A three acre ground has been identified for organic drumstick cultivation in Namakkal district for this purpose.

Railways target to complete 100% electrification of broad gauge routes by 2023

- Railways have planned for 100 per cent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023. The Minister informed that around 63 per cent broad gauge lines have already been electrified out of a total 63,631 route kilometers as on 1st of April this year. A total of 23,765 route kilometre lines are yet to be electrified in the country.

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launches Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni

- Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni and distributed vehicles under the scheme to beneficiaries at a programme held at Assam Administrative Staff College by transport department. The scheme aims to improve rural connectivity and generate employment in the villages.
- It is to be mentioned that the scheme has been launched by the transport department following an announcement made by the Chief Minister in his Independence Day speech on Aug 15 last year that Light Motor Vehicle Service would be launched in the villages of the state and ten thousand villages would be covered in the first phase by the scheme with financial outlay of Rs 100 crore whereby one vehicle would be provided to one beneficiary per village.

Tatkal RT-PCR test for air passengers visiting Assam to cut quarantine time

- Assam government has introduced mandatory RT-PCR tests on arrival for air passengers in addition to the existing rapid antigen tests in order to reduce the time spent on quarantine. Assam health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced 'tatkal' (quick) RT-PCR test results within 24 hours and said several other guidelines were being introduced to ease travel hassles for arriving air passengers.

Kolkata gets world's first tram library

- **The first tram in the world to have a library is now open in Kolkata.** Passing through College Street also known as 'boipara' or "the area of books", the single coach AC tram will run regularly between Esplanade and Shyambazar.

21-year-old launched India's first 'pet sanitiser'

- **21-year-old Anushka Iyer, the founder and CEO of pet-care brand Wiggles,** decided to launch a solution: An instant pet sanitiser. The product, claims Iyer, was already in development before the pandemic. The Pune-based startup aims to introduce transparency associated with costs, medication, nutrition and wellness options across the pet industry.

51st IFFI to be held from 16th to 24th January next year in Goa

- **The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held from 16th to 24th January,** next year in Goa. Earlier it was scheduled to be held from 20th November to 28th November, this year.
- The postponement follows discussion between **Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar and Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant.** It has also been **jointly decided to hold the festival on new dates as per the International Film Festival guidelines and protocols.** The festival will be conducted in a Virtual and Physical format.

NSA Ajit Doval walks out of SCO meet after Pakistan's new map shows J&K, Junagadh in its territory

- **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval left a meeting with his counterparts at the ongoing Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Moscow, after Pakistan "deliberately projected a fictitious map" of the country that inaccurately depicted the borders of the two countries.** In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said Pakistan's move was in "blatant disregard to the advisory by the host" country Russia.
- The statement said that Doval walked out of the virtual meeting after Pakistan's representative **Moeed Yusuf projected the new flag of the country that depicted Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory, and claimed the region of the erstwhile state of Junagadh in Gujarat as part of its territory.**

Bangladesh to make film on revolutionary freedom fighter Pritilata Waddedar

- **The government of Bangladesh is financing a film on the life of revolutionary freedom fighter Pritilata Waddedar.** The film is based on the novel by Selina Hossain.
 - **Pritilata was born in Dhalghat village of Chittagong in Bangladesh on 5 May 1911.** She had her education in Chattogram, Dhaka and then at Bethune College, Kolkata for graduation. **She joined the freedom movement and worked with revolutionaries like Surya Sen and Nirmal Sen.**
 - She was involved in **several revolutionary acts like the famous Chittagong armoury raid and attack on the Pahartali European club at Chittagong in 1932** where she received bullet injury. However, she consumed cyanide before the British police could capture her.
-

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Coconut Day celebrated on 2nd September

- **The first celebration of World Coconut Day was in the year 2009. The occasion is to commemorate the foundation day of Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC),** which operates under the flagship authority of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP). The theme of World Coconut Day this year is ‘Invest in Coconut to save the world’.
- **The main objective of celebrating this day is to create awareness across the globe about the importance of the coconut and its benefits.** The day is especially marked in countries under Asian and Pacific regions by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) as they house most of the world’s coconut growing production centres. **In India, Kerala tops the production in coconut,** but Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are also picking up in this sector.

International Day of Charity: 5 September

- **The International Day of Charity was established with the objective of sensitizing and mobilizing people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.**
- **The date of 5 September was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979** “for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace.”

International Literacy Day being celebrated across globe on 8th September every year

- **Countries across the world celebrated International Literacy Day on 8 September 2020.** This day was declared **International Literacy Day by UNESCO on 26th October 1966** at the 14th Session of UNESCO’s General Conference. **It was celebrated for the first time in 1967** and its main aim is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.
- **International Literacy Day 2020 focuses on “Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond,”** especially on the role of educators and changing pedagogies. The **theme highlights literacy learning in a lifelong learning perspective,** and therefore, mainly focuses on youth and adults.

International Day to Protect Education from Attack, 9 September

- In proclaiming the **International Day to Protect Education from Attack to be celebrated for the first time in 2020,** the UN is sending a clear message regarding the importance of safeguarding schools as places of protection and safety for students and educators and the need to keep education at the top of the public agenda.
- This remains a priority while governments continue to **grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic that has led to school closures for more than 90% of the world’s student population.**

National Engineers Day 2020

- **The country celebrates Engineer’s Day on September 15 to appreciate the contributions of eminent engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya who was born on September 15, 1861** in a village called Muddenahalli in Karnataka.

International Day of Democracy: 15 September

- **In 2007 the United Nations General Assembly resolved to observe 15 September as the International Day of Democracy.** The International Day of Democracy provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.
- **The theme for International Day of Democracy 2020 is “COVID-19: A Spotlight on Democracy.”** Almost every Country is implementing measures to fight this pandemic.

International Day for South-South Cooperation, 12 September

- In 2018 the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation on 12 September marks the 40th anniversary of the 1978 adoption by consensus of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.
- South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

- September 16 was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.
- This year, we celebrate 35 years of global ozone layer protection. The slogan of the day, “Ozone for life”, reminds us that ozone is crucial for our life on Earth and we must continue to protect the ozone layer for our future generations also. This designation had been made on December 19, 2000, in commemoration of the date, in 1987, on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

World Bamboo Day 2020

- World Bamboo Day is celebrated on 18th September to increase the awareness of bamboo globally. Where bamboo grows naturally, bamboo has been a daily element, but its utilization has not always been sustainable due to exploitation.
- The World Bamboo Organization aims to bring the potential of bamboo to a more elevated exposure – to protect natural resources and the environment, to ensure sustainable utilization, to promote new cultivation of bamboo for new industries in regions around the world, as well as promote traditional uses locally for community economic development. The theme for 11th edition of WBD 2020 is ‘BAMBOO NOW.’

International Day of Peace: 21 September

- Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.
- 2020 Theme: Shaping Peace Together.

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons: 26 September

- The General Assembly commemorates 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. This Day provides an occasion for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a priority.
- It provides an opportunity to educate the public - and their leaders - about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons, and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them.

International Equal Pay Day 2020

- International Equal Pay Day, observed for the first time this 18 September under an initiative by the UN, aims at highlighting the importance of achieving equal pay for work of equal value.

World Alzheimer's Day

- World Alzheimer's Day is observed on 21st September every year to raise the awareness about Alzheimer's and Dementia.

World Rhinoceros Day

- Every year on September 22, the world celebrates World Rhinoceros Day. The day intends to celebrate rhinos across the world in unique ways. The World Rhinoceros Day was announced by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in 2010.

World Maritime Day 24 September

- **This year's World Maritime Day was celebrated on 24 September 2020** in the form of an online event, due to social distancing measures caused by the pandemic.
 - **The theme for this year is “Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet,”** which provides an excellent opportunity **to raise awareness of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** which **are framed based on Brundtland Commission** and to showcase the work that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its Member States are undertaking to achieve the targets.
-



Career
Launcher

QUESTIONS

1. The Sonamura-Daudkandi inland waterways protocol route connecting Tripura to _____ would be made operational on 5th September 2020.
(a) Bangladesh (b) Myanmar (c) Nepal (d) Bhutan
2. The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) was launched by the _____.
(a) Ministry of Rural Affairs (b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
(c) Ministry of Home Affairs (d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
3. Mustapha Adib was named as Prime Minister by four former Prime Ministers on the eve of binding consultations between the president and parliamentary blocs on their choice for the post. He belongs to which of the following countries?
(a) Ghana (b) Austria (c) Lebanon (d) Jordan
4. Which of the following countries President has appointed a council for national reconciliation, which will have final say on whether the government will sign a peace deal with the Taliban?
(a) Afghanistan (b) Pakistan (c) USA (d) Russia
5. Which of the following companies has announced the acquisition of the retail and wholesale, and logistics and warehousing businesses of the Future Group, on a slump sale basis, for a lump sum of Rs.24,713 crore?
(a) Godrej Retail Ventures Ltd. (b) Tata Retail Ventures Ltd.
(c) Heritage Ltd (d) Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd.
6. Which of the following space agencies has released stunning pictures of a small section of a supernova captured by the Hubble telescope?
(a) NASA (b) ISRO (c) CERN (d) JAXA
7. Alexander Kristoff of _____ became the first yellow jersey wearer in this year's Tour de France.
(a) Finland (b) Norway (c) Spain (d) Denmark
8. The Centre will appoint a _____ as the chairman of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA).
(a) Secretary-rank officer
(b) Union Home Minister
(c) Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
(d) UPSC Chairman
9. Thiruvonam is a biggest cultural festival of which of the following states?
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Jharkhand (d) Maharashtra
10. The famous art of 'Etikoppaka' dolls of _____ district finds a place in the "Mann ki Baat" programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
(a) Bidar (b) Rangareddy (c) Tiruchi (d) Visakhapatnam
11. Recently, Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific announced that Incheon International Airport in _____ is the first airport in the Asia-Pacific region to be accredited under the ACI Airport Health Accreditation programme.
(a) Seoul (b) Singapore (c) Jakarta (d) Bangkok
12. Name the remote-controlled medical trolley which has been developed by Indian railways to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients.
(a) TRUEBOT (b) COVIDBOT (c) MEDBOT (d) RAILBOT

13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently announced that _____ will be observed as “Nutrition Month”.
(a) August (b) September (c) October (d) November
14. Recently, 17th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations held virtually was chaired by:
(a) Vietnam (b) Thailand (c) Cambodia (d) Myanmar
15. Name Singapore’s Indian-origin politician who scripted history when Parliament conferred the duties and privileges to him as the city-state’s first Leader of the Opposition.
(a) Pritam Singh (b) Sandeep Sawhney (c) Vijay Singh (d) Krishnamurthi Pattayan
16. Recently, UAE has launched _____ a new technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing e-market platform that will bridge the gap between millions of rural farmers in India and the Gulf nation’s food industry.
(a) Agriota (b) Agrinam (c) Agrodec (d) Agroker
17. Which of the following Indian airports has won the prestigious awards of CII “National Energy Leader” and “Excellent Energy Efficient Unit” at the 21st National Awards for ‘Excellence in Energy Management’?
(a) Bengaluru International Airport (b) Lucknow International Airport
(c) Hyderabad International Airport (d) Indore International Airport
18. Recently, who won the Belgian Grand Prix to clinch his 89th career win?
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Michael Schumacher (c) Daniel Ricciardo (d) Valtteri Bottas
19. Recently, Former President Pranab Mukherjee passed away. He was the _____ president of India.
(a) 11th (b) 12th (c) 13th (d) 14th
20. International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed on:
(a) 27th August (b) 28th August (c) 29th August (d) 30th august
21. Who has become the first woman to have 200 million followers of photo-video sharing platform Instagram?
(a) Ariana Grande (b) Kylie Jenner (c) Selena Gomez (d) Kate Middleton
22. In line with Vocal for Local campaign and boosting toy manufacturing, Koppala in _____ will have India’s first toy manufacturing cluster.
(a) Kerala (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Karnataka (d) Tamil Nadu
23. India and _____ are scheduled to hold the bilateral naval exercise, Indra 2020, in the Andaman Sea, close to the strategic Strait of Malacca.
(a) Malaysia (b) Indonesia (c) Russia (d) USA
24. Insurance regulator IRDAI has constituted a six-member working group on index-linked products following requests for permission from life insurers to introduce such products. This group will be lead by:
(a) Mukesh Jain (b) Dinesh Pant (c) Kumud Mishra (d) Ajay Rawat
25. Recently, which of the following has become the only Indian dairy brand to make into the global top 20 list of Rabobank?
(a) Mother Dairy (b) Amul (c) Parag (d) Patanjali
26. Name the female IPS officer who has been appointed as Inspector General (IG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Srinagar sector for the first time?
(a) Charu Sinha (b) Deepti Nagar (c) Ambalika Bannerjee (d) Vanya Pathak
27. Recently, Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe in a landmark achievement. What is the name of the galaxy discovered?
(a) Robotec (b) CYKLt07 (c) BUHGd05 (d) AUDFs01

28. The first-ever Cycling Summit in 2021 will be hosted by:
(a) Nepal (b) India (c) Bangladesh (d) Singapore
29. The _____ administration is all set to conserve the six Mughal gardens in a bid to empanel them as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) mandated world heritage sites.
(a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Ladakh (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Punjab
30. Recently, who has become the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last seven years?
(a) Saket Myneni (b) Rohan Bopanna (c) Sumit Nagal (d) Yuki Bhambri
31. Recently, The Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the introduction in Parliament of the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill 2020 in which five languages will be official languages. Which of the following languages is not among the five?
(a) Hindi (b) Punjabi (c) Dogri (d) Urdu
32. Which of the following two states are paired under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme to promote national integration through mutual understanding recently?
(a) Uttar Pradesh and Haryana (b) Punjab and Sikkim
(c) Karnataka and Uttarakhand (d) Odisha and Jharkhand
33. Which of the following three countries agreed to launch an initiative to ensure the resilience of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific, with the move coming against the backdrop of tensions created by China's aggressive actions across the region?
(a) China, Japan and Vietnam (b) Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore
(c) Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia (d) India, Australia and Japan
34. Which of the following states launched mobile App 'AMA SAHAR' web app to provide citizen centric services in September 2020?
(a) West Bengal (b) Odisha (c) Assam (d) Meghalaya
35. Recently, World's first fossil-free steelmaking started in:
(a) Indonesia (b) China (c) Norway (d) Sweden
36. Recently, Australian government has appointed former cricketer _____ and Indian-origin politician Lisa Singh as trade envoys for advancing business ties with India.
(a) Matthew Hayden (b) Brett Lee (c) Glenn McGrawth (d) Shane Warne
37. India ranked in the top 50 countries for the first time in the Global Innovation Index, which was released recently. India jumped four positions to rank at _____ since 2019.
(a) 50th (b) 48th (c) 42nd (d) 39th
38. Recently, A team of researchers from _____ in collaboration with scientists from the University of Pardubice, Czech Republic, is working towards developing indigenous algorithms that can protect the Nation's digital data from cyber-attacks by advanced computers.
(a) Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (b) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
(c) Indian Institute of Technology Madras (d) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
39. In a first-of-its-kind virtual summit, World Digital Awards announced its first edition awardees in India, ratified by the premier accrediting agency in the world, IAA. Who among the following is not among the industrialists, conferred the Lifetime Achievement Awards?
(a) Ratan Tata (b) Adi Godrej (c) Mukesh Ambani (d) NR Narayana Murthy

40. Recently, World Coconut Day was celebrated on _____.
(a) 25th August (b) 28th August (c) 31st August (d) 2nd September
41. The Union Cabinet gave its approval for _____ a new national capacity building and performance evaluation programme for civil servants.
(a) Mission Kaustubh (b) Mission Karmashastra (c) Mission Karmakant (d) Mission Karmayogi
42. The appointments committee of the cabinet (ACC) formally approved the restructuring of the Railway Board and approved the appointment of _____ the current chairman of the Railway Board as its first CEO.
(a) VK Yadav (b) YC Chaudhary (c) HK Sharma (d) JM Gupta
43. The Election Commission will set up India's first regional voters' awareness centre in _____ which will cater to four states Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.
(a) Udaipur (b) Jodhpur (c) Chandigarh (d) Jaipur
44. Who among the following has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Tunisia?
(a) Triyal V Khayyan (b) Jicken Hivedri (c) Hichem Mechichi (d) Usman Ahmed
45. The _____ government and the Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will soon ink an agreement to create newer avenues and growth opportunities for MSME units in the State.
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Haryana (d) Chhattisgarh
46. Who among the following is not among the "emerging leaders" from across the world named by Fortune in its annual list of influential people under the age of 40?
(a) Isha Ambani (b) Deepika Rathore (c) Byju Raveendran (d) Adar Poonawalla
47. Recently, Researchers from Kerala and West Bengal have identified a new species of freshwater fish _____ from the Ganga in West Bengal.
(a) Sytomu Grillunctus (b) Systemus Gracilus (c) Gertou Restig (d) Loutire Hicter
48. Which of the following IIT's has launched 'Chakr DeCoV' to decontaminate N95 masks?
(a) IIT Bombay (b) IIT Kanpur (c) IIT Delhi (d) IIT Madras
49. Recently, International Day of Charity was observed on:
(a) 31 August (b) 2 September (c) 3 September (d) 5 September
50. The CONCACAF Gold Cup is associated with:
(a) Hockey (b) Football (c) Lawn Tennis (d) Rugby
51. Which of the following countries will host a summit of the council of heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on November 30?
(a) Russia (b) Pakistan (c) Turkmenistan (d) India
52. Which of the following states re-launched a scheme to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths of the state known as SVAYEM?
(a) Assam (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Bihar (d) Andhra Pradesh
53. In a major step towards self-reliance of the women, _____ government has decided to allocate outlets under Public Distribution System to women self-help group.
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Haryana
54. Recently, which of the following is the second European nation after France to formally adopt a strategy for the Indo-Pacific Region?
(a) Germany (b) Sweden (c) Finland (d) Portugal

55. Which of the following recently launched a new publication, “The Little Book of Green Nudges”, which aims to inspire up to 200 million students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles?
(a) UNSC (b) Greenpeace International
(c) UN Environment Programme (d) Red Data Book
56. Who among the following is to be the first female president of the Canadian Space Agency, for the first time in its 31-year history?
(a) Alisa Healey (b) Lisa Campbell (c) Gini Natwell (d) Diana Matthew
57. Recently, RBI has reviewed and issued revised guidelines for opening of _____ by banks to ensure discipline among borrowers.
(a) Recurring Deposit Account (b) Current Account
(c) Saving Account (d) Fixed Deposit Account
58. To test incoming international passengers, India’s first on-site Covid testing facility is coming up at the _____ and will provide RT-PCR test results within six hours.
(a) Indira Gandhi International Airport
(b) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
(c) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport
(d) Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport
59. Which of the following states has launched ‘I Rakhwali’ application to help netizens to become ‘Greenery Saviours’?
(a) Haryana (b) Rajasthan (c) Gujarat (d) Punjab
60. Recently, “Dalle khursani” or the red cherry pepper chilli, which is grown in _____ and considered as one among hottest varieties in the world, has earned a geographical indication (GI) tag from the Union department of industry promotion and internal trade.
(a) Assam (b) Sikkim (c) Manipur (d) Nagaland
61. Which of the following states is set to implement a Rupees 600-crore project for brining 10 lakh hectares of parched land in 10 districts under watershed development with World Bank assistance?
(a) Kerala (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Karnataka (d) Uttar Pradesh
62. Which of the following Union Territories launched Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) system for Administrative Service officers?
(a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Lakshadweep (c) Sikkim (d) Goa
63. According to a report brought out by non-governmental organisation Mobile Creches and launched by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu, which of the following states topped for well-being of children?
(a) Kerala (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Jharkhand
64. The trial run from Daudkandi in _____ to Sonamura in Tripura started as the MV Premier sailed from Daudkandi with 50 metric tonne of cement cargo.
(a) Bangladesh (b) Myanmar (c) Bhutan (d) Nepal
65. Recently, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the 24x7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline _____.
(a) “USHA” (b) “ABHILASHA” (c) “KIRAN” (d) “PRAKASH”
66. Which of the following countries will host the 36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the first time since it joined the organisation in 1973?
(a) Myanmar (b) Nepal (c) India (d) Bangladesh

67. Which of the following has revised Priority Sector Lending guidelines and aimed at addressing regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit?
(a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
(c) Reserve Bank of India (d) State Bank of India
68. Scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Palode, have identified a new and rare species of climber of the genus Pothos (family Araceae) from the _____.
(a) Western Ghats (b) Meghalaya (c) Eastern Ghats (d) Ganga Delta
69. In what could possibly be the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind, the _____ will be leading the procurement and supply of coronavirus vaccines to ensure that all countries have safe, fast and equitable access to initial doses when they are available.
(a) UNSC (b) UNICEF
(c) Greenpeace International (d) ILO
70. Who among the following chaired a webinar on the first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies?
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Prakash Javadekar (c) Peeyush Goyal (d) Amit Shah
71. Which of the following states has topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Gujarat
72. The 11th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY, a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between Indian and Russian Navy will begin in the _____.
(a) Arabian Sea (b) Indian Ocean (c) Bay of Bengal (d) River Ganga
73. Tribal Affairs Ministry signed an agreement with Indian Institute of Public Administration, IIPA for setting up of National Institute of Tribal Research at the IIPA campus _____.
(a) New Delhi (b) Kolkata (c) Mumbai (d) Nagpur
74. According to Nitin Gadkari, India has now the _____ largest road network in the world being fuelled by the tremendous growth in construction of expressways and highways.
(a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Fifth
75. Which of the following Indian Universities has retained its position as the highest-rated Indian university in the recently released Times Higher Education University Ranking 2021?
(a) Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru (b) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi (d) Jamia Millia Islamia Central University, New Delhi
76. Recently, _____ and Mastercard have announced the launch of the world's first Priceless Mastercard Credit Card.
(a) Banque Holland Hansi (b) Banque Saudi Fransi
(c) Laoreal Knight Yatching (d) Partier Loud Hinsi
77. The Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) being prepared by the Department of Telecommunications has thrown up a surprise with _____ and Uttarakhand faring better on the criteria set by the Central government.
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Haryana (c) Sikkim (d) Goa
78. Recently, Researchers at the _____ have developed methods to detect and prevent the novel coronavirus using bio-interface interactions between the virus and the surface spike protein.
(a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati
(b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi
(c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay
(d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras

79. In a significant development, researchers at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kozhikode have discovered two new species of _____ in the Western Ghats.
(a) Cockroach Wasps (b) Turtle (c) Snake (d) Colorful Frog
80. Recently, The Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust will present the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2019 to renowned broadcaster _____.
(a) Sir David Attenborough (b) Malala Yousufzai
(c) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (d) Sheikh Hasina
81. Which of the following airports has become the first Indian airport to be accredited under the Airport Council International's (ACI) Airport Health Accreditation (AHA) programme?
(a) Indira Gandhi International Airport (b) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
(c) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (d) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport
82. Recently, The KV Kamath committee has selected _____ which will require restructuring based on its analyses of financial parameters hit due to the economic crash caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
(a) 16 sectors (b) 19 sectors (c) 26 sectors (d) 33 sectors
83. The third annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum is slated to be held in _____ on October 28 and 29, 2020.
(a) Hanoi (b) Kuala Lumpur (c) Jakarta (d) Singapore
84. Recently, Vodafone and Idea, the two brands of Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) have together been rebranded as _____ and with this new brand identity, the two distinct brands will now fade away.
(a) Vi (b) VIN (c) Void (d) Win India
85. Which of the following states / Union Territories almost all fruits and vegetables are covered under the 'Operation Green's TOP to TOTAL' scheme?
(a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Sikkim (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Puducherry
86. In a historic mission, India successfully flight tested _____.
(a) Hypersonic Technology Devastator Vehicle
(b) Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle
(c) Hyperactive Technology Demonstrator Velocity
(d) Hypersonic Technical Diode Vehicle
87. Recently, Scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) have developed a _____ practical approach for automatic interpretation of 3D seismic data.
(a) neural based (b) neutron based (c) proton based (d) electron based
88. As per directions of the Supreme Court, States are mandated to set up their _____ member committees on Content Regulation of Government Advertisements.
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Seven
89. The countries across the world celebrated International Literacy Day on:
(a) 2nd September (b) 4th September (c) 6th September (d) 8th September
90. Who among the following recently launched app enJogo – the first-ever football-based training app in India?
(a) Sunil Chhetri Football Schools (b) Sandesh Jhingan Football Schools
(c) Bhaichung Bhutia Football Schools (d) Brendon Fernandes Football Schools
91. Recently, International Solar Alliance's first World Solar Technology Summit was inaugurated. At present how many members are there in ISA?
(a) 76 (b) 99 (c) 121 (d) 168

92. According to a recent report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) survey, which of the following states has emerged as the most literate state in the country?
(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland (c) Kerala (d) Goa
93. Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will be shortly establishing two new Centres for Skilling and Technical Support- CSTS at Bhagalpur (Bihar) and _____.
(a) Amritsar (Punjab) (b) Varanasi (UP) (c) Surat (Gujarat) (d) Bikaner (Rajasthan)
94. Which of the following will be counted as a distinct ethnic group for the first time in US history, by the Census Bureau?
(a) Buddhist (b) Hindus (c) Muslim (d) Sikhs
95. Which of the following banks launched “Signature Visa Debit Card” for the affluent/high net worth individuals maintaining an average quarterly balance of rupees 10 lakhs and above?
(a) Bank of Maharashtra (b) State Bank of India
(c) Bank of India (d) Bank of Baroda
96. Recently, Dharmendra Pradhan said that five Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry will be joining International Solar Alliance (ISA) Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (ISA-CSCA) as Corporate Partners. Which of the following is not one among the five?
(a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (b) Oil India Limited
(c) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
97. Which of the following IIT’s in collaboration with Workspace Metal Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Udaipur, has developed a first-of-its-kind self-check kiosk?
(a) Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (b) Indian Institute of Technology Madras
(c) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (d) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
98. Recently, _____ and National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gurugram joined hands by signing an online Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as a ‘Strategic Association’ to bolster the Solar Energy sector across the nation.
(a) CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur
(b) CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Patna
(c) CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Guwahati
(d) CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Ranchi
99. Who among the following is to be honoured with Golden Icon Award at Zurich Film Festival?
(a) Juliette Binoche (b) Isabelle Adjani (c) Catherine Deneuve (d) Brigitte Bardot
100. Recently, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated _____ bamboo clusters in nine states by virtual mode?
(a) 11 (b) 17 (c) 22 (d) 28
101. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will digitally launch the Pradhan Mantri _____ Sampada Yojana, PMMSY.
(a) Mineral (b) Matsya (c) Maan (d) Mansoor
102. Recently, The world’s largest rooftop greenhouse has opened in _____.
(a) Montreal, Canada (b) Lyon, France (c) Zurich, Switzerland (d) Budapest, Hungary
103. How many Indian- Americans have figured in Forbes’ list of richest Americans, topped by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos for the third year in a row?
(a) Three (b) Five (c) Seven (d) Eleven

104. The first India, _____, Australia Trilateral Dialogue was held virtually.
(a) Germany (b) France (c) Ireland (d) Japan
105. Which of the following states launched YSR Sampoorna Poshana and YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus schemes aimed at providing nutritious food for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children?
(a) Telangana (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Odisha (d) Tamil Nadu
106. Name the first Manchester City player who won the Professional Footballers' Association award recently.
(a) Eric Garcia (b) Riyad Mahrez (c) Phil Foden (d) Kevin De Bruyne
107. In Uttar Pradesh Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Organic Food Processing Unit in _____ through video conference.
(a) Barabanki (b) Unnao (c) Ghaziabad (d) Mahoba
108. The Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence was inaugurated at National Institute of Technology (NIT) _____.
(a) Warangal (b) Tiruchy (c) Jammu (d) Suratkal
109. According to a new UN report which warned that COVID-19 pandemic threatens to undo decades of progress in eliminating preventable child deaths globally. India's child mortality rate has _____ substantially between 1990 and 2019.
(a) Inclined (b) Declined
(c) First Inclined then Declined (d) Remain Stagnant
110. Name the British-era Lake which was largely covered by debris following a cloudburst and landslide in Chamoli district which will now be revived to make it a prominent tourist attraction.
(a) Bedini Lake (b) Parashar Lake (c) Durmi-Gauna lake (d) Hemkunt Lake
111. India is scheduled to host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO on 29-30 November 2020 in _____.
(a) Bhopal (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai
112. The World's first graduate-level AI University is located in:
(a) Canada (b) China (c) UAE (d) Oman
113. What is the rank of India in Global Economic Freedom Index 2020?
(a) 54th (b) 63rd (c) 89th (d) 105th
114. Which of the following companies became the first Indian company to have a market capitalisation of more than \$200 billion after its shares touched a record high?
(a) BHEL (b) IOCL (c) Reliance Industries (d) GAIL
115. Recently, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated _____ by Public Sector Banks and participated in the awards ceremony to felicitate best performing banks on EASE Banking Reforms Index.
(a) Quicker Banking Services
(b) Arunoday Banking Services
(c) Doorstep Banking Services
(d) One Stop Banking Services
116. After nearly 124 years, a small and very rare species of orchid Liparis pygmaea has been found again in India, in alpine meadows of _____.
(a) Uttarakhand Himalayas (b) Sikkim Himalayas
(c) Jammu and Kashmir Himalayas (d) Rajasthan

117. Recently, Government has constituted a three member expert committee to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers. The committee will be chaired by:
(a) Deepak Kocchar (b) Rajiv Mehrishi (c) Aravind Panagariya (d) Sindhusree Khullar
118. Who has been recently appointed as the chairperson of the National School of Drama (NSD)?
(a) Naseeruddin Shah (b) J P Dutta (c) Paresh Rawal (d) Rupa Ganguli
119. Recently, An American commercial cargo spacecraft bound for the International Space Station has been named after fallen NASA astronaut _____.
(a) Kalpana Chawla (b) Sunita Williams (c) Shweta Pramanik (d) Priya Natrajan
120. Recently, Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani launched a welfare scheme for farmers with _____ components designed for their overall development.
(a) Four (b) Five (c) Seven (d) Eleven
121. Recently, Government of India has decided to convert Ordnance Factory Board, OFB, a subordinate office of Ministry of Defence into one or more than one 100 per cent Government owned corporate entities, the Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers, EGoM, under the Chairmanship of _____.
(a) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (b) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
(c) Prime Minister Narendra Modi (d) Home Minister Amit Shah
122. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation three key projects related to the Petroleum sector in _____ through video conferencing.
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) West Bengal (c) Jharkhand (d) Bihar
123. Who among the following launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, CSCAF 2.0, along with the 'Streets for People Challenge' in a virtual event?
(a) R.K.Singh (b) Amit Shah (c) Hardeep Singh Puri (d) Narendra Modi
124. Recently, which of the following Indian states unveiled the first "heritage tourism policy" which allowed opening up of heritage hotels, museums, banquet halls and restaurants inside historic palaces, forts and buildings?
(a) Rajasthan (b) Uttarakhand (c) Gujarat (d) Goa
125. Which of the following countries passengers will get a chance to travel on the first passenger train in the world to run on a hydrogen fuel cell, the Coradia iLint built by Alstom?
(a) Australia (b) Austria (c) Hungary (d) Finland
126. Which of the following Indian airports announced the opening of the On-Airport Public-bonded warehouse, claiming to be India's first airport to do so?
(a) Bengaluru International Airport Limited (b) Chennai International Airport Limited
(c) New Delhi International Airport Limited (d) Kolkata International Airport Limited
127. Which of the following companies has become the first power distribution company in the country to adopt e-office system?
(a) Purva Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company
(b) Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company
(c) Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company
(d) Dakshin Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company
128. Recently, Neurologists, neurosurgeons and psychiatrists in India can map the brain structure of their patients and make an accurate assessment using Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas developed by a team of neuroscientist's from _____.
(a) AIIMS (b) NIMHANS
(c) RML Hospital, Lucknow (d) JIPMER

129. Who is the first American cricketer to join IPL and to play for KKR?
(a) Ali Khan (b) Vyapak Mandal (c) Manish Malhotra (d) Rupak Das
130. Recently, Chaitanya Tamhane's _____ has bagged the prestigious FIPRESCI award at the 2020 Venice Film Festival.
(a) 'The Disciple' (b) 'The Tortoise' (c) 'The Classless' (d) 'The Cascade'
131. Recently, UNICEF India announced _____ as its celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign – 'For Every Child'?
(a) Ayushmann Khurrana (b) Salman Khan
(c) Ranveer Singh (d) Varun Dhawan
132. Recently, Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for appointment of _____ in banks to ensure uniform approach with regard to compliance and risk management culture across the banking industry.
(a) Chief Executive Officers (b) Chief Compliance Officer
(c) Chief Administrative Officer (d) Chief Revenue Officer
133. Recently, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting along with his _____ counterpart Don Pramudwinai.
(a) Thailand (b) Vietnam (c) Cambodia (d) Brunei
134. Which of the following states launched "GARIMA" a new Scheme to ensure Safety and Dignity of Core Sanitation Workers of the State?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Odisha (d) Jharkhand
135. The Road Transport and Highways Ministry is in the process of implementing Integrated Road Accident Database Project (iRAD) which will be applicable across the country. In the first instance, it has been decided to implement the proposal in _____ states.
(a) Four (b) Five (c) Six (d) Ten
136. Who won the dramatic Tuscan Grand Prix at Mugello in September 2020?
(a) Valtteri Bottas (b) Lewis Hamilton (c) Servican Miry (d) Alex Albon
137. Who won the US Open women's doubles title 2020?
(a) Serena Williams and Venus Williams (b) Naomi Osaka and Alexandra Berty
(c) Vera Zvonareva and Laura Siegemund (d) Sania Mirza and Maratoli Udart
138. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 1.75 lakh houses built under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin in 12 thousand villages in _____.
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Rajasthan
139. Recently, International Day for South-South Cooperation was observed on:
(a) 6th September (b) 8th September (c) 10th September (d) 12th September
140. Which of the following countries recently got a whole museum devoted to the pursuit of happiness?
(a) Sweden (b) Norway (c) Denmark (d) Finland
141. Which of the following states and union territories have been named the best performers in the State StartUp Rankings 2019?
(a) Uttar Pradesh and Ladakh (b) Rajasthan and Lakshdweep
(c) Haryana and Chandigarh (d) Gujarat and Andaman and Nicobar Islands
142. Who won the men's singles US Open for his first Grand Slam title recently?
(a) Andy Murray (b) Alexander Zverev (c) Dominic Thiem (d) Novak Djokovic

143. Recently, which of the following union territories has announced a scheme to provide universal health insurance to all residents of the Union Territory?
(a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Ladakh (c) Puducherry (d) Lakshadweep
144. Recently, which of the following has become the latest Arab nation to agree to normalise ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump and his administration to fully integrate the Jewish State into the Middle East?
(a) Bahrain (b) Oman (c) Jordan (d) Tunisia
145. The first country in world to impose second national lockdown?
(a) USA (b) Italy (c) Israel (d) France
146. According to the recently released annual Ease of Doing Business rankings, Uttar Pradesh stands at _____ position in ranking.
(a) First (b) Second (c) Fifth (d) Eighth
147. According to a new science update released by the U.N., World Meteorological Organization and other global science groups, in the next five years, the world has nearly a 1-in-4 chance of experiencing a year that's hot enough to put the global temperature at _____ above pre-industrial times.
(a) 1.3 degrees (b) 1.9 degrees (c) 2.7 degrees (d) 3.2 degrees
148. Which of the following teams won the 2020 edition of the Caribbean Premier League?
(a) Trinbago Knight Riders (b) Barbados Tridents
(c) Guyana Amazon Warriors (d) St Lucia Zouks
149. Recently, India's first coronavirus airport testing facility was launched at _____.
(a) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
(b) Indira Gandhi International Airport
(c) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport
(d) Veer Savarkar International Airport
150. The International Day of Democracy provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world. It is observed on:
(a) 10th September (b) 11th September (c) 13th September (d) 15th September
151. Which state will celebrate an 'Anna Utsav' (food grains festival) on September 16, the eve of PM Narendra Modi's birthday?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Gujarat (d) Bihar
152. Recently, Parliament has passed the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2020. The Commission for Homoeopathy will consist of _____ members.
(a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 15 (d) 20
153. Who has been recently re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha?
(a) Ghulam Nabi Azad (b) Manoj Jha (c) Harivansh (d) Ram Gopal Yadav
154. Yoshihide Suga was recently elected as the new head of _____ ruling, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
(a) South Korea's (b) Thailand's
(c) Japan's (d) Vietnam's
155. Name the senior Indian bureaucrat who has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank, Washington.
(a) Atul Mahajan (b) Deepak Khanna
(c) Rajesh Khullar (d) Birendra Bakshi

156. International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) and India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) - IIMA signed agreement to provide expertise to facilitate the establishment of _____ in India.
(a) International Bullion Exchange (IBE) (b) International Bullion Endebtity (IBE)
(c) International Billion Exchanger (IBE) (d) International Bullion Entity (IBE)
157. Name the bank, which has named its consumer banking head Jane Fraser as its next chief executive making her the first woman to lead a major Wall Street bank.
(a) Barclays Inc (b) Royal Bank of Scotland
(c) Citigroup Inc (d) Deutsche Bank
158. Which of the following companies has acquired TikTok in the US?
(a) Microsoft (b) Apple (c) Oracle (d) Genpact
159. Name the author who has been recently honoured with Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award by Dayton Literary Peace Prize officials.
(a) Bernardine Evaristo (b) Anna Burns (c) Margaret Atwood (d) George Saunders
160. Recently, the world's largest rooftop greenhouse has been opened in _____.
(a) Canada (b) Mexico (c) USA (d) Cuba
161. The first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal in the world is to come up in:
(a) Bhavnagar (b) Bhopal (c) Panaji (d) Navsari
162. Recently, Skytrax, an international airport industry rating body awarded _____ Fiumicino Airport "the COVID-19 5-Star Airport Rating".
(a) Rome (b) Paris (c) Milan (d) Lisbon
163. Which of the following countries has launched a Long March 11 rocket from an ocean platform in the Yellow Sea successfully sending nine satellites into orbit?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) South Korea (d) North Korea
164. Which of the following countries won a four-year term on the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CWS), a prestigious wing of the world body's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)?
(a) Japan (b) India (c) Malaysia (d) China
165. The Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presented the first ever AICTE _____ Best Teacher Awards 2020 to 12 faculty members of AICTE approved institutes on the occasion of Engineers Day.
(a) Rajiv Gandhi (b) M Visvesvaraya
(c) Shankar Dayal Sharma (d) Atal Bihari
166. Recently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandated the automation of bad-loan recognition by banks by _____.
(a) June 30, 2021 (b) July 31, 2021
(c) September 30, 2021 (d) December 31, 2021
167. Recently, which of the following state's Department of Industries and SIDBI will work together to provide financial, technical, marketing and export support to MSMEs in the state?
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Rajasthan (d) Haryana
168. Which of the following IIM's based incubatee start-up has come up with a unique user friendly wearable device that alarms proximity for helping implement social distancing norms?
(a) Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata (b) Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
(c) Indian Institute of Management, Indore (d) Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode

169. Recently, Paytm First Games, a subsidiary of the digital financial service platform Paytm, has signed cricketing legend _____ as the brand ambassador for the platform.
(a) Sachin Tendulkar (b) Rahul Dravid (c) Saurav Ganguly (d) VVS Lakshman
170. Recently, _____ Indian-origin writer Avni Doshi's debut novel about love between mother and daughter is among six books shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for Fiction.
(a) Burnt Sugar (b) Peacock on Trial
(c) Journey to Dreamland (d) Burning Bush
171. Parliament has passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020 with Rajya Sabha approving it. The proposed Institute will be situated in the campus of Gujarat Ayurved University _____.
(a) Bhavnagar (b) Navsari (c) Jamnagar (d) Surat
172. India is looking at stepping up relations and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and could embark on a new series of joint military exercises with France and _____ nations that have deep interests in the southern Indian Ocean.
(a) Australia (b) Germany (c) USA (d) Austria
173. Recently, In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor _____ e-inaugurated an Online Process-Based Standardized & Scalable Career Education Platform for Students in Srinagar.
(a) Manoj Sinha (b) Radha Krishna Mathur
(c) Girish Chandra Murmu (d) Aravind Panagariya
174. Who has been elected as new Prime Minister of Japan?
(a) Taro Aso (b) Toshimitsu Motegi (c) Yoshihide Suga (d) Shinjiro Koizumi
175. In a bid to protect the interest of depositors, the Lok Sabha passed an amendment to the Banking Regulation Act to bring cooperative banks under the supervision of the _____.
(a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
(c) Reserve Bank of India (d) NITI Aayog
176. Recently, The fifth largest watch brand in the world, Titan Company Limited has partnered with country's lender _____ to introduce Titan Pay.
(a) State Bank of India (b) Punjab National Bank
(c) Bank of Baroda (d) Canara Bank
177. Recently, Astronomers have discovered a planet the size of _____ closely orbiting the smouldering remains of a dead star, the first time that an intact exoplanet has been discovered travelling around a white dwarf.
(a) Venus (b) Mars (c) Jupiter (d) Saturn
178. Who has received the Jeff Skoll Award for Impact Media at a remotely conducted TIFF Tribute Awards ceremony?
(a) Mira Nair (b) Anubha Tiwari (c) Prakash Jha (d) Sukirti Kandpal
179. Sports Ministry is set to upgrade _____ Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE) at an estimated cost of Rs. 95.19 crore with an aim to identify and groom future Olympic champions.
(a) Four (b) Five (c) Eight (d) Ten
180. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated every year on:
(a) 6th September (b) 8th September (c) 12th September (d) 16th September
181. Which of the following countries has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bond?
(a) Portugal (b) Mexico (c) Argentina (d) Brazil

182. Recently, Union Government has set up a Task Force to reconsider the legal age of marriage for women. Which matter is not to be examined by this task force?
(a) Lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio (b) Improvement of Nutritional levels
(c) Time to time Immunization (d) Matters related to the age of Motherhood
183. Recently, Power Ministry has drafted rules providing for Rights of Electricity Consumers for the First Time. What will be the maximum time period to provide new connection and modify existing connection in metro cities?
(a) 7 Days (b) 14 Days (c) 21 Days (d) 28 Days
184. Recently, Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's First Private Jet Terminal at _____.
(a) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (b) Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport
(c) Indira Gandhi International Airport (d) Chaudhary Charan Singh Gandhi International Airport
185. Which of the following states has launched the "Arthika Spandana" programme of disbursing loans to the tune of Rs. 39,300 crore through various cooperative institutions?
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh
186. The 10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security chaired by _____.
(a) Brazil (b) Portugal (c) Russia (d) India
187. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) issued a press note permitting foreign direct investment (FDI) in defence production above _____ per cent on the automatic route.
(a) 25% (b) 49% (c) 74% (d) 100%
188. Recently, India has been ranked at the _____ position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.
(a) 36th (b) 47th (c) 87th (d) 116th
189. Recently, Central Government extended the tenure of Deputy National Security Adviser _____ for one year.
(a) Pankaj Saran (b) Dibaker Bannerjee (c) Amit Panghal (d) Deepak Raheja
190. Who will be honoured with the prestigious 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for feeding millions across India amid the COVID-19 pandemic?
(a) Vikas Khanna (b) Amit Behal (c) Shashikant Jhanjhar (d) Hitesh Shah
191. Recently, how many beaches of the country have been recommended for the coveted 'Blue Flag' international eco-label?
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Six (d) Eight
192. Who has been named by the United Nations to the 2020 cohort of young leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals?
(a) Udit Singhal (b) Anil Bhilania (c) Deepak Luthra (d) Akhand Pratap Singh
193. In the Union Territory of _____ Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS).
(a) Ladakh (b) Lakshadweep (c) Jammu and Kashmir (d) Puducherry
194. Recently, Trial for _____ first broad-gauge railway service in Janakpur has begun with the arrival of two sets of rail to revive operation in the Janakpur-Jaynagar section.
(a) Bangladesh (b) Sri Lanka (c) Nepal (d) Bhutan
195. Recently, The US President Donald Trump awarded one of the most prestigious awards — the US Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander to _____ Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
(a) Jordanian (b) Omani (c) Saudi Arabian (d) Kuwaiti

196. To provide its services to customers irrespective of where they reside, public sector lender _____ has launched lead management system (LMS)-i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0).
(a) Punjab National Bank (b) State Bank of India
(c) Canara Bank (d) Union Bank of India
197. Recently, Rajya Sabha unanimously passed the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2020. The bills have provision to cut the salaries and other allowances by _____ per cent.
(a) 10% (b) 15% (c) 25% (d) 30%
198. Which of the following cities has topped the Institute for Management Development (IMD) Smart City Index for the second consecutive year?
(a) Helsinki (b) Budapest (c) Milan (d) Singapore
199. According to a study led by NASA, if greenhouse gas emissions continue Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets could together contribute more than 38 centimetres to global sea level rise by _____.
(a) 2030 (b) 2040 (c) 2075 (d) 2100
200. Name the Indian who has been appointed as one of the seven members of the Asian Football Confederation's task force for regulating football clubs in Asia and Australia.
(a) Dr Vishwas Pant (b) Dr Girija Shanker Mungali
(c) Dr Mahesh Jain (d) Dr Girish Chandra Parikh
201. Recently, A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi for controlling Malnutrition as a part of _____ Abhiyaan.
(a) MATRATIWA (b) SABALA (c) POSHAN (d) SWASTHA
202. India's first Coast Guard academy will be established at _____.
(a) Vishakhapatnam (b) Paradip (c) Mangaluru (d) Panaji
203. Which state recently announced Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY) — a scheme of providing interest-free loans to women's groups in the state?
(a) Gujarat (b) Haryana (c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh
204. Recently, Rajya Sabha passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act _____ to include protections for healthcare service personnel combating epidemic diseases.
(a) 1856 (b) 1897 (c) 1932 (d) 1947
205. Recently, Somali President appointed a political newcomer to become Prime Minister. What is the name of the newly appointed Prime Minister?
(a) Mohamed Hussein Roble
(b) Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed
(c) Mohamed Bilal Rury
(d) Hassan Ali Khaire
206. Apple will launch its first online store in India at _____.
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Hyderabad (d) Bengaluru
207. Recently, A group of IIIT, Bhubaneswar students has developed a helmet-like ventilation device _____ that will make a difference in treating patients with breathing problems.
(a) Swastik (b) Swasner (c) Swasfit (d) Swater
208. International Day of Peace is observed around the world on _____.
(a) 15th September (b) 17th September (c) 19th September (d) 21st September

209. Recently, Amitabha Ghosh has passed away. He was the former _____.
(a) Chief Election Commissioner of India
(b) Chief Vigilance Commissioner of India
(c) Chief Justice of India
(d) Governor of Reserve Bank of India
210. Recently, who became the first woman politician in South India to clock a million followers on microblogging site Twitter?
(a) Kalvakuntla Kavitha
(b) Poonam Mahajan
(c) Priyanka Chaturvedi
(d) Supriya Sule
211. Recently, International Equal Pay Day was observed for the first time in _____.
(a) 2nd September
(b) 6th September
(c) 11th September
(d) 18th September
212. Recently, FICCI-SAM knowledge report on 'India & _____' was launched.
(a) Sri Lanka
(b) Japan
(c) South Korea
(d) Russia
213. Recently, Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 was introduced in Lok Sabha. The amendments seek to make _____ mandatory for all office bearers of NGOs and other organisations which are seeking foreign contributions.
(a) ID
(b) Aadhar
(c) Pan Card
(d) Passport
214. Which of the following railway division of Southern Railways launched mobile app 'Freight Seva' with a motive of strengthening its customer base and attracting new streams of freight and parcel traffic?
(a) Chennai division
(b) Tiruchirappalli division
(c) Madurai division
(d) Salem division
215. Recently, Pakistan Armed Forces contingent participated in opening ceremony of multinational military exercise, named Kavkaz-2020, held at Astrakhan region, _____.
(a) Russia
(b) Kazakhstan
(c) Turkmenistan
(d) China
216. To accelerate SHG finance in the Bank in a mission mode _____ started a programme by the name "Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani" (Women Self-Reliance programme).
(a) Punjab National Bank
(b) State Bank of India
(c) Union bank of India
(d) Canara Bank
217. Recently, The ministry of corporate affairs has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year to September 2021. The committee, constituted in September 2019, is now chaired by corporate affairs secretary _____.
(a) Anil Khatri
(b) Rajesh Verma
(c) Manoj Rai
(d) Govardhan Patnaik
218. According to the researchers, including those from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in the U.S., as much as _____ of the extra heat trapped on the Earth by greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide is held in the world's oceans, making it important to monitor the temperature of ocean waters.
(a) 60%
(b) 65%
(c) 75%
(d) 95%
219. Who has been recently appointed as the chief of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), India's technical body that is responsible for geospatial intelligence and satellite imagery?
(a) Anil Dhasmana
(b) Aniket Parashar
(c) Vivek Agnihotri
(d) Mayank Parrikar
220. Who among the following became the first keeper in the world to 250 dismissals in T20 cricket?
(a) Kamran Akmal
(b) MS Dhoni
(c) Parthiv Patel
(d) Dinesh Kartik

221. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is inaugurated Atal Tunnel on 3rd October in _____.
(a) Jammu (b) Manali (c) Chamba (d) Pahalgam
222. Recently, first ever direct cargo ferry service between India & _____ jointly e- launched.
(a) Maldives (b) Mauritius (c) Sri Lanka (d) Seychelles
223. In which of the following states / union territories, Indian Army organized a Shikara race in world-famous Dal Lake to promote tourism.
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Ladakh (d) Jammu & Kashmir
224. Recently, Steps are being taken up to set up a nutrition park in Chandrasekharapuram, Namakkal near Trichy in _____.
(a) Puducherry (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Karnataka
225. e- Peek Pahani mobile application will reduce hardships of farmers and help them get the right price and good market for their produce in _____.
(a) Gujarat (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Punjab
226. In a first in North India, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU) in _____ has established a special blood bank for dogs.
(a) Ludhiana (b) Patiala (c) Chandigarh (d) Amritsar
227. World's First Bionic Eye to Fully Restore Vision in Blind People was performed by scientist's in _____.
(a) Canada (b) USA (c) Singapore (d) Australia
228. Who won the Italian Open women's singles title?
(a) Serena Williams (b) Naomi Osaka (c) Simona Halep (d) Karolína Pliskova
229. World Alzheimer's Day is observed on _____ to raise the awareness about Alzheimer's and Dementia.
(a) 17th September (b) 21st September (c) 23rd September (d) 25th September
230. Who has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize for 2020 for 'Medical Education'?
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Shashi Tharoor (c) M Swaminathan (d) Push Kumar Matha
231. Which of the following states becomes first state to unveil ethical AI, blockchain, cybersecurity policies in country?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala (c) Rajasthan (d) Gujarat
232. In a first, name the two women officers who have been selected to join as 'Observers' (Airborne Tacticians) in the Indian Navy's helicopter stream?
(a) Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Kumudini Tyagi and SLt Riti Singh
(b) Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Mrinalini Saha and SLt Manisha Pilagaonkar
(c) Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Deepali Yadav and SLt Roli Sharma
(d) Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Deepti Rawat and SLt Yashi Chauhan
233. The first city in the world to roll out smart roads that can charge electric vehicles as they drive along, with a pilot project set to trial an electric public transportation system?
(a) Copenhagen (b) Mogadishu
(c) Tel Aviv (d) Lisbon
234. The world's first full-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) project is to come up in:
(a) Hungary (b) Finland
(c) Canada (d) Norway

235. Recently, SEBI has set-up a technical committee on the social stock exchange, which will develop a framework for on boarding profit and non-profit organisations on such bourses and prescribe disclosure requirements relating to financials and governance. The technical group would be chaired by _____ former chairman of NABARD.
(a) Harsh Kumar Bhanwala (b) A K Garg
(c) Hashim Ahmed Khan (d) Bijoy Dutta
236. Recently, India's first solar power-run auto unveiled in _____.
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Odisha (d) West Bengal
237. Recently, The successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target was conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO from the Interim Test Range, _____ in Odisha.
(a) Paradip (b) Balasore (c) Puri (d) Bhubaneswar
238. American electric car maker brand Tesla will have its research centre in India soon at _____.
(a) Hyderabad (b) Bengaluru (c) Pune (d) Gurugram
239. Who won Men's Singles event in Italian Open 2020?
(a) Novak Djokovic (b) Diego Schwartzman (c) Andy Murray (d) Roger Federer
240. The world celebrates World Rhinoceros Day on _____.
(a) 11th September (b) 17th September (c) 21st September (d) 22nd September
241. Recently, the first-ever annual 'India Happiness Report', which is India specific and studies happiness in the thirty-six states and union territories of India, has been released. In the happiness rankings of states and union territories, which are the top three?
(a) Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands
(b) Sikkim, Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir
(c) Manipur, Sikkim, Lakshadweep
(d) Arunachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Nagaland
242. Who will be the first woman pilot to fly Rafale, India's most modern multi-role fighter aircraft?
(a) Mohana Singh (b) Deepti Narayanan (c) Anjani Katariya (d) Shivangi Singh
243. United Nations and _____ will co-host a global climate summit on December 12, the fifth anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement.
(a) Britain (b) France (c) Germany (d) Portugal
244. What is the name of the first Indian Airline to offer in-air WiFi services?
(a) Vistara (b) Go Air (c) Air India (d) Indigo
245. What is the name of the undergoing exercise between Royal Australian Navy and Indian Navy in Eastern Indian Ocean Region?
(a) PASSEX (b) NOMADIC ELEPHANT
(c) INDAUS (d) AJNEYA WARRIOR
246. Recently, Parliament has passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 with the Rajya Sabha clearing it. National Forensic Sciences University will be in _____.
(a) Gujarat (b) Delhi (c) Haryana (d) Maharashtra
247. Recently, Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana is started in _____ on the lines of Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.
(a) Punjab (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Haryana (d) Madhya Pradesh

248. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organization successfully conducted test firing of Laser Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile from _____ at K K Ranges in Ahmednagar.
(a) MBT Krishna (b) MBT Karna (c) MBT Naag (d) MBT Arjun
249. Indian Railways have planned for 100 per cent electrification of its broad gauge routes by _____.
(a) 2021 (b) 2022 (c) 2023 (d) 2025
250. Name the only Indian Actor who featured in TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People Of 2020 list.
(a) Akshay Kumar (b) Ayushmann Khurrana
(c) Ranveer Singh (d) Karthik Aryan
251. The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India will be held from 16th to 24th January, 2021, in _____.
(a) Goa (b) Sikkim (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Kerala
252. Recently, who became the fastest Indian batsman to reach 2000 IPL runs?
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Virat Kohli (c) Suresh Raina (d) KL Rahul
253. Who among the following has virtually inaugurated the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit held on 2nd of October this year?
(a) Dr Harshvardhan (b) Smriti Irani (c) Amit Shah (d) Narendra Modi
254. Recently, which of the following states launched "Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni"?
(a) West Bengal (b) Assam (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Chhattisgarh
255. Which of the following banks will launch contactless debit card-based payment facility, SafePay, allowing transactions up to Rs 20,000 per day?
(a) IDFC First Bank (b) Bandhan Bank (c) Federal bank (d) HDFC Bank
256. Recently, On occasion of nation-wide online _____ the Prime Minister launched Fit India Age-Appropriate Fitness Protocols.
(a) Fit India Dialogue (b) Exercise India Movement
(c) Work India Dialogue (d) Play India Dialogue
257. Recently, which of the following states launched "Arundhati Gold Scheme" a scheme to provide cash value of 'tola' (nearly 10 gm) of gold to newlywed brides from economically backward families?
(a) Assam (b) Meghalaya (c) Manipur (d) Jharkhand
258. A virtual _____ Water Partnership Forum will be held to discuss ways to collaborate on issues pertaining to water conservation and infrastructure development.
(a) India-UK (b) India-France (c) Bangladesh-Germany (d) Nepal –India
259. Which of the following South Asian countries opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim has secured a majority in Parliament to form a new government that is "strong, stable and formidable"?
(a) Indonesia (b) Malaysia (c) Bangladesh (d) Nepal
260. Recently, India conducted a successful test fire of its indigenously developed nuclear capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile as part of a user trial by the Army from a base in Odisha. The missile has a strike range of _____.
(a) 100 kms (b) 200 kms (c) 300 kms (d) 350 kms
261. Which of the following countries will send the Arab world's first mission to the moon in 2024?
(a) UAE (b) Qatar (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Jordan

262. Name two women officers who have been selected to join as “Observers” (Airborne Tacticians) in the helicopter stream.
(a) Lieutenant Rupali Saha and Sub Lieutenant Pooja Singh Rathore
(b) Lieutenant Shivangi Sharma and Sub Lieutenant Ritika Malhare
(c) Lieutenant Kumudini Tyagi and Sub Lieutenant Riti Singh
(d) Lieutenant Anamika Khanna and Sub Lieutenant Neena Agnihotri
263. Which of the following companies announced India’s first in-flight telecom service?
(a) Reliance Jio (b) Vodafone Idea (c) BSNL (d) Airtel India
264. Recently, A passenger plane powered by a _____ fuel cell has successfully completed a test flight in Bedfordshire, in a zero emission journey hailed as a “world first” by green aviation specialist ZeroAvia.
(a) Hydrogen (b) Methane (c) Nitrogen (d) Xenon
265. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020, which was recently passed by the parliament. Which of the language is not in the list?
(a) Hindi (b) Urdu (c) Bodo (d) Dogri
266. Recently, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified amendments in Central Motor Vehicle Rules facilitating implementation of Electronic enforcement, Maintenance of Vehicular Documents through Information Technology portal with effect from _____.
(a) 1st October 2020 (b) 30th November 2020 (c) 1st January 2021 (d) 31st March 2021
267. India’s first green village is located in the state of _____.
(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland (c) Manipur (d) Meghalaya
268. Which of the following governments is financing a film on the life of revolutionary freedom fighter Pritilata Waddadar?
(a) Bangladesh (b) India (c) Sri Lanka (d) Pakistan
269. World Maritime Day 2020 was recently celebrated on:
(a) 14th September (b) 18th September (c) 20th September (d) 24th September
270. Recently, The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel Programme). Headquarters of IATA is located at:
(a) Montreal, Canada (b) Lisbon, Portugal (c) New York, USA (d) Paris, France
271. The first tram in the world to have a library is now open in _____.
(a) Madrid (b) Kolkata (c) Paris (d) Budapest
272. Recently, U-Rise portal has been launched by _____ government to help students find jobs.
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Telangana (d) Assam
273. Nagorno-Karabakh also known as Artsakh is a landlocked region in _____.
(a) North Caucasus (b) EastCaucasus (c) South Caucasus (d) West Caucasus
274. Recently, In order to keep a check on the banking fraud, the _____ has decided to introduce from January 1, 2021, the ‘positive pay system’ for cheque payments.
(a) Reserve Bank of India
(b) Ministry of Finance
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
(d) NITI Aayog

275. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the formation of a three-member committee of directors to temporarily run the struggling Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. The committee will be headed by:
(a) Shakti Sinha (b) Satish Kumar Kalra (c) Anurag Makheeja (d) Meeta Makhan
276. Recently, _____ announced the final nod from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) for handling payment services related to bills.
(a) Vedanta Ltd (b) Vakrangee Ltd (c) Kalyani Ltd (d) Metcalf Ltd
277. According to the scientists of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) Dehradun, over 70 hot springs in Uttarakhand and _____ with potential to generate electricity have been identified.
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Jammu & Kashmir (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Ladakh
278. Which of the following countries revealed Abu-Mahdi long-range cruise missiles for its navy recently?
(a) Iraq (b) Syria (c) Iran (d) Jordan
279. The General Assembly commemorates _____ as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
(a) 11th September (b) 13th September (c) 19th September (d) 26th September
280. Which of the following Indian states won a United Nations award for its “outstanding contribution” towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Maharashtra (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Kerala



ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. a The Sonamura-Daudkandi inland waterways protocol route connecting Tripura to Bangladesh would be made operational on 5th September 2020.
2. b The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020 for providing affordable Working Capital loan to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown. Odisha has been among the top 10 States to benefit from the PM SVANidhi scheme.
3. c Lebanon's ambassador to Germany Mustapha Adib is on course to become the country's next prime minister after securing major political backing. Mr. Adib was named by four former prime ministers on the eve of binding consultations between the president and parliamentary blocs on their choice for the post.
4. a Afghanistan's President has appointed a council for national reconciliation, which will have final say on whether the government will sign a peace deal with the Taliban after what are expected to be protracted and uncertain negotiations with the insurgents.
5. d Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd., has announced the acquisition of the retail and wholesale, and logistics and warehousing businesses of the Future Group, on a slump sale basis, for a lump sum of ₹24,713 crore.
6. a NASA has released stunning pictures of a small section of a supernova captured by the Hubble telescope. The spellbinding picture looks right out of a science fiction movie as it appears as a "light veil draped across the sky" to NASA.
7. b Alexander Kristoff of Norway became the first yellow jersey wearer in this year's Tour de France after a chaotic opening stage in Nice was partially neutralised when almost every rider in the peloton was involved in a crash at one point or another.
8. a The Centre will appoint a secretary-rank officer as the chairman of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA), which will conduct online Common Eligibility Test to shortlist candidates for majority of Central government jobs, a Personnel Ministry Order said.
9. b Amid Covid 19 pandemic, Keralites across the globe are celebrating Thiruvonam on 31 August 2020, the biggest cultural festival of the State.
10. d The famous art of 'Etikoppaka' dolls of Visakhapatnam district finds a place in the "Mann ki Baat" programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
11. a Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific announced that Incheon International Airport in Seoul is the first airport in the Asia-Pacific region to be accredited under the ACI Airport Health Accreditation programme.
12. c During Corona crisis, apart from providing transport facilities and essential items like foodgrains to people, Indian Railways has also provided facilities for COVID-19 patients. It has developed a remote-controlled medical trolley named 'MEDBOT' to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients.
13. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that September will be observed as "Nutrition Month".
14. a Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations held virtually.

15. a Pritam Singh, Singapore's Indian-origin politician scripted history when Parliament conferred the duties and privileges to him as the city-state's first Leader of the Opposition.
16. a The UAE has launched Agriota, a new technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing e-market platform that will bridge the gap between millions of rural farmers in India and the Gulf nation's food industry.
17. c GMR led Hyderabad International Airport has won the prestigious awards of CII "National Energy Leader" and "Excellent Energy Efficient Unit" at the 21st National Awards for 'Excellence in Energy Management' organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC) during the 19th edition.
18. a Lewis Hamilton led from start to finish at the Belgian Grand Prix to clinch his 89th career win and move two behind Michael Schumacher's Formula One record.
19. c Former President Pranab Mukherjee is no more. He breathed his last at Army Hospital in New Delhi. He was 84. Mr Mukherjee served as 13th President of India from 2012 to 2017.
20. d The Assembly welcomed the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and decided to declare 30 August the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, to be observed beginning in 2011.
21. a Pop star Ariana Grande has become the first woman to have 200 million followers of photo-video sharing platform Instagram.
22. c In line with Vocal for Local campaign and boosting toy manufacturing, Koppala in Karnataka will have India's first toy manufacturing cluster.
23. c India and Russia are scheduled to hold the bilateral naval exercise, Indra 2020, in the Andaman Sea, close to the strategic Strait of Malacca.
24. b The working group, to be led by Dinesh Pant, appointed actuary of LIC of India, will examine the need for such products in India and how they will better serve needs and interests of customers relative to traditional savings product.
25. b In a first, Amul has become the only Indian dairy brand to make into the global top 20 list of Rabobank.
26. a Charu Sinha, IPS officer of the 1996-batch Telangana cadre, will now be heading the Srinagar sector for CRPF as the Inspector General. This is not the first time when she has been assigned such a tough task, earlier also, she had worked as IG, the Bihar sector in CRPF and has dealt with Naxals.
27. d India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory 'AstroSat' has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth. The galaxy called AUDFs01 was discovered by a team of Astronomers led by Dr Kanak Saha from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.
28. b The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) is all set to host the first-ever Cycling Summit in 2021, with an aim to promote the culture of cycling in the country.
29. a The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) administration is all set to conserve the six Mughal gardens in a bid to empanel them as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) mandated world heritage sites.
30. c Sumit Nagal stormed into the second round of the ongoing US Open Tennis. Nagal defeated Bradley Klahn of USA in the first round of the US Open to progress further into the tournament. With this result, the 23-year-old Nagal has become the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last seven years.

- 31. b** The Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the introduction in Parliament of the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill 2020 in which five languages will be official languages. These are Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi and English.
- 32. c** Uttarakhand and Karnataka are paired under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme to promote national integration through mutual understanding. Both the states have established relations through sports, trade and culture. Uttarakhand had inspired people in Karnataka in forest conservation.
- 33. d** India, Australia and Japan agreed to launch an initiative to ensure the resilience of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific, with the move coming against the backdrop of tensions created by China's aggressive actions across the region.
- 34. b** As a part of 5T mandate, Naveen Patnaik also launched mobile App 'AMA SAHAR' and 'SWACHHA SAHAR ODISHA' web app to provide citizen centric services. With launching of the web app, the ULBs will be able to submit utilisation certificate online which will bring better fiscal management.
- 35. d** The unique pilot plant in Lulea, Northern Sweden is a first step in decarbonizing the steel industry, which counts for 7% of global man-made greenhouse gas emissions.
- 36. a** The Australian government has appointed former cricketer Matthew Hayden and Indian-origin politician Lisa Singh as trade envoys for advancing business ties with India.
- 37. b** India ranked in the top 50 countries for the first time in the Global Innovation Index, which was released. India jumped four positions to rank at 48th since 2019.
- 38. a** A team of researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, in collaboration with scientists from the University of Pardubice, Czech Republic, is working towards developing indigenous algorithms that can protect the Nation's digital data from cyber-attacks by advanced computers.
- 39. b** Ratan Tata, Anand Mahindra, Mukesh Ambani and NR Narayana Murthy were conferred the Lifetime Achievement Awards.
- 40. d** World Coconut Day is celebrated on 2nd September.
- 41. d** The Union Cabinet gave its approval for Mission Karmayogi, a new national capacity building and performance evaluation programme for civil servants.
- 42. a** The appointments committee of the cabinet (ACC) formally approved the restructuring of the Railway Board and approved the appointment of VK Yadav, the current chairman of the Railway Board as its first CEO.
- 43. d** The Election Commission will set up the country's first regional voters' awareness centre in Jaipur, which will cater to four states Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.
- 44. c** Tunisian lawmakers approved Hichem Mechichi as the country's new prime minister after pressing him for 11 hours over how he will bring the country out of an economic and social crisis that has driven a rise in migration to Europe and been worsened by the virus pandemic.
- 45. b** The Rajasthan government and the Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will soon ink an agreement to create newer avenues and growth opportunities for MSME units in the State.
- 46. b** Reliance Jio Board Directors Isha Ambani and Akash Ambani, Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla and Byju Raveendran, co-founder of India's leading education technology company Byju's, are among the "emerging leaders" from across the world named by Fortune in its annual list of influential people under the age of 40.

- 47. b** Researchers from Kerala and West Bengal have identified a new species of freshwater fish which has been christened *Systemus gracilus* from the Ganga in West Bengal.
- 48. c** IIT Delhi incubated startup Chakr Innovation has launched 'Chakr DeCoV' to decontaminate N95 masks. Designed in the shape of a cabinet, Chakr DeCoV is built with an innovative decontamination mechanism, which utilises the high penetrability of Ozone gas for cleaning the pores of the N95 mask, ensuring complete decontamination of its intricate layers.
- 49. d** The International Day of Charity is an international day observed annually on 5 September.
- 50. b** The CONCACAF Gold Cup is the main association football competition of the men's national football teams governed by CONCACAF, determining the continental champion of North America, Central America, and the Caribbean.
- 51. d** India will host a summit of the council of heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on November 30 with a focus on contributing to the trade and economic agenda of the influential grouping.
- 52. a** The Assam government re-launched a scheme to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths of the state. Known as Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment (SVAYEM), it would provide 50 thousand rupees each as seed money to selected youths to start business ventures.
- 53. c** In a major step towards self-reliance of the women in the state, Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to allocate outlets under Public Distribution System to women self-help groups. These are the outlets which are lying unattended in state.
- 54. a** Germany has joined the Indo-Pacific club. The move is aimed at securing the trade routes from aggressive China. Germany has drafted 40-page guidelines as it formally adopts a strategy for the Indo-Pacific region.
- 55. c** The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) launched a new publication, "The Little Book of Green Nudges", which aims to inspire up to 200 million students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
- 56. b** The government announced that longtime public servant Lisa Campbell will take over as head of the agency. Ms. Campbell replaces Sylvain Laporte, who has been president since 2015.
- 57. b** The RBI has reviewed and issued revised guidelines for opening of Current Accounts by banks to ensure discipline among borrowers.
- 58. a** To test incoming international passengers, the country's first on-site Covid testing facility is coming up at the capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport and will provide RT-PCR test results within six hours.
- 59. d** To further strengthen its drive to preserve and maintain the environment in Punjab and make people stakeholders in the process, the State Forest Department launched 'I Rakhwali' application to help netizens to become 'Greenery Saviours'.
- 60. b** "Dalle khursani" or the red cherry pepper chilli, which is grown in Sikkim and considered as one among hottest varieties in the world, has earned a geographical indication (GI) tag from the Union department of industry promotion and internal trade.
- 61. c** Karnataka is set to implement a Rupees 600-crore project for brining 10 lakh hectares of parched land in 10 districts under watershed development with World Bank assistance.
- 62. a** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) system for Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service officers, at Raj Bhavan.

- 63. a** Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram are among the top five States for well-being of children, according to a report brought out by non-governmental organisation Mobile Creches and launched by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.
- 64. a** The trial run from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in Tripura started as the MV Premier sailed from Daudkandi with 50 metric tonne of cement cargo.
- 65. c** Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the 24x7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline “KIRAN”.
- 66. d** Bangladesh will host the 36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the first time since it joined the organisation in 1973.
- 67. c** Reserve Bank of India has revised Priority Sector Lending guidelines. RBI said the move is aimed at addressing regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit.
- 68. a** Scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Palode, have identified a new and rare species of climber of the genus Pothos (family Araceae) from the Western Ghats in Idukki district.
- 69. b** In what could possibly be the world’s largest and fastest ever operation of its kind, the UNICEF will be leading the procurement and supply of coronavirus vaccines to ensure that all countries have safe, fast and equitable access to initial doses when they are available.
- 70. b** Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar chaired a webinar on the first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies.
- 71. b** Andhra Pradesh topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings.
- 72. c** The 11th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY, a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between Indian and Russian Navy will begin in the Bay of Bengal.
- 73. a** Tribal Affairs Ministry signed an agreement with Indian Institute of Public Administration, IIPA for setting up of National Institute of Tribal Research at the IIPA campus, New Delhi.
- 74. b** India has now the second largest road network in the world being fuelled by the tremendous growth in construction of expressways and highways.
- 75. a** Bengaluru’s Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has retained its position as the highest-rated Indian university while the country recorded the highest ever tally of 63 universities in the Times Higher Education University Ranking 2021 released.
- 76. b** Banque Saudi Fransi (BSF) and Mastercard have announced the launch of the world’s first Priceless Mastercard Credit Card.
- 77. a** The Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) being prepared by the Department of Telecommunications has thrown up a surprise with Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand faring better on the criteria set by the Central government.
- 78. a** Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati have developed methods to detect and prevent the novel coronavirus using bio-interface interactions between the virus and the surface spike protein.
- 79. a** In a significant development, researchers at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kozhikode have discovered two new species of cockroach wasps in the Western Ghats.

- 80. a** The Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust will present the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2019 to renowned broadcaster Sir David Attenborough.
- 81. b** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) has become the first Indian airport to be accredited under the Airport Council International's (ACI) Airport Health Accreditation (AHA) programme.
- 82. c** The KV Kamath committee has selected 26 sectors which will require restructuring based on its analyses of financial parameters hit due to the economic crash caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 83. a** The third annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum is slated to be held in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on October 28 and 29.
- 84. a** Vodafone and Idea, the two brands of Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) have together been rebranded as "Vi" (read as "We") and with this new brand identity, the two distinct brands will now fade away.
- 85. a** Almost all fruits and vegetables in J&K are covered under the 'Operation Green's TOP to TOTAL' scheme.
- 86. b** In a historic mission, India successfully flight tested Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV).
- 87. a** Scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology(WIHG), an autonomous Institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, have developed a neural-based (machine learning-based) practical approach for automatic interpretation of 3D seismic data.
- 88. b** As per directions of the Supreme Court, States are mandated to set up their three member committees on Content Regulation of Government Advertisements.
- 89. d** 8 September was declared international literacy day by UNESCO on 26 October 1966 at 14th session of UNESCO's General conference.
- 90. c** Bhaichung Bhutia Football Schools (BBFS) have launched their app enJogo – the first-ever football-based training app.
- 91. c** The International Solar Alliance is an alliance of 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- 92. c** With 96.2 percent literacy, Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country, while Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 percent, showed a report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) survey.
- 93. b** Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will be shortly establishing two new Centres for Skilling and Technical Support- CSTS at Bhagalpur (Bihar) and Varanasi (UP).
- 94. d** Sikhs will be counted as a distinct ethnic group for the first time in US history, by the Census Bureau.
- 95. c** Bank of India (BoI) launched "Signature Visa Debit Card" for the affluent/high net worth individuals maintaining an average quarterly balance of rupees 10 lakhs and above.
- 96. b** First World Solar Technology Summit organized by ISA, Mr Pradhan said that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and GAIL (India) Limited will be contributing to ISA's Corpus Fund.

- 97. a** Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati in collaboration with Workspace Metal Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Udaipur, has developed a first-of-its-kind self-check kiosk.
- 98. a** CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur and National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gurugram joined hands by signing an online Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as a 'Strategic Association' to bolster the Solar Energy sector across the nation.
- 99. a** French star Juliette Binoche to be honoured with Golden Icon Award at Zurich Film Festival.
- 100. c** Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated 22 bamboo clusters in nine states by virtual mode.
- 101. b** Prime Minister Narendra Modi digitally launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, PMMSY.
- 102. a** The world's largest rooftop greenhouse has opened in Montreal, Canada.
- 103. c** Seven Indian- Americans have figured in Forbes' list of richest Americans, topped by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos for the third year in a row. Indian- Americans have figured in Forbes' list of richest Americans, topped by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos for the third year in a row
- 104. b** The first India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue was held virtually. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Secretary-General, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs François Delattre, and Secretary, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Frances Adamson.
- 105. b** Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Sampoorna Poshana and YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus schemes aimed at providing nutritious food for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children.
- 106. d** Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne was voted English football's player of the year, denying Liverpool a third straight winner of the prestigious award.
- 107. a** Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Organic Food Processing Unit in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh through video conference.
- 108. b** The Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence was inaugurated at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Trichy, by its Director Dr Mini Shaji Thomas.
- 109. b** India's child mortality rate has declined substantially between 1990 and 2019
- 110. c** Durmi-Gauna lake also known as Birahi taal, 18 km from Nijmula valley in Chamoli was a prominent lake of Garhwal region on the lines of Nainital in Kumaon during the early part of the last century.
- 111. b** India is scheduled to host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO on 29-30 November 2020 in New Delhi.
- 112. c** UAE announced world's first graduate-level research-based AI University.
- 113. d** India has fallen 26 spots to the 105th position on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020.
- 114. c** Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to have a market capitalisation of more than \$200 billion after its shares touched a record high of Rs 2,344.95, up over 8%.
- 115. c** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks and participated in the awards ceremony to felicitate best performing banks on EASE Banking Reforms Index.

- 116. a** After nearly 124 years, a small and very rare species of orchid *Liparis pygmaea* has been found again in India, in alpine meadows of Uttarakhand Himalayas.
- 117. b** Government has constituted a three member expert committee to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers. The committee chaired by former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi will measure the impact on the national economy and financial stability of waiving of interest and COVID-19 related moratorium.
- 118. c** President Ram Nath Kovind named former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP and actor Paresh Rawal as the chairperson of the National School of Drama (NSD).
- 119. a** An American commercial cargo spacecraft bound for the International Space Station has been named after fallen NASA astronaut Kalpana Chawla
- 120. c** Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani launched a welfare scheme for farmers with seven components designed for their overall development.
- 121. a** The Government to convert Ordnance Factory Board, OFB, a subordinate office of Ministry of Defence into one or more than one 100 per cent Government owned corporate entities, the Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers, EGoM, under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- 122. d** Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation three key projects related to the Petroleum sector in Bihar through video conferencing.
- 123. c** Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, CSCAF 2.0, along with the 'Streets for People Challenge' in a virtual event.
- 124. c** Unveiling the first "heritage tourism policy" Gujarat government allowed opening up of heritage hotels, museums, banquet halls and restaurants inside historic palaces, forts and buildings.
- 125. b** Train passengers in Austria will get a chance to travel on the first passenger train in the world to run on a hydrogen fuel cell, the Coradia iLint built by Alstom.
- 126. a** The Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) which operates the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) announced the opening of the On-Airport Public-bonded warehouse, claiming to be India's first airport to do so.
- 127. c** Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company (central discom) has become the first power distribution company in the country to adopt e-office system.
- 128. b** Neurologists, neurosurgeons and psychiatrists in India can map the brain structure of their patients and make an accurate assessment using Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas developed by a team of neuroscientists from NIMHANS.
- 129. a** For the first time in history, the IPL will see participation by an American cricketer after Kolkata Knight Riders signed Ali Khan, a 29-year-old fast bowler from the USA.
- 130. a** Chaitanya Tamhane's 'The Disciple' has bagged the prestigious FIPRESCI award at the 2020 Venice Film Festival.
- 131. a** UNICEF India announced Ayushmann Khurrana as its celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign – 'For Every Child'. Khurrana will support UNICEF towards ending violence against children.
- 132. b** Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for appointment of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) in banks to ensure uniform approach with regard to compliance and risk management culture across the banking industry.

- 133. a** External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting along with his Thailand counterpart Don Pramudwinai.
- 134. c** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched “GARIMA” a new Scheme to ensure Safety and Dignity of Core Sanitation Workers of the State.
- 135. c** In the first instance, it has been decided to implement the proposal in six states.
- 136. b** Mercedes’ Lewis Hamilton won the dramatic Tuscan Grand Prix at Mugello that was twice stopped and re-started.
- 137. c** Vera Zvonareva and Laura Siegemund stood awkwardly facing each other, rackets and arms in the air in confusion.
- 138. a** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 1.75 lakh houses built under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin in 12 thousand villages in Madhya Pradesh.
- 139. d** Chaitanya Tamhane’s ‘The Disciple’ has bagged the prestigious FIPRESCI award at the 2020 Venice Film Festival.
- 140. c** Denmark has consistently ranked among the happiest countries in the world. While it might seem to be jolly because of no solid reason, the truth is that Denmark takes a lot of effort to ensure the mental well-being of its nationals.
- 141. d** State of Gujarat and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been named the best performers in the State StartUp Rankings 2019.
- 142. c** Dominic Thiem produced a historic comeback to beat Alexander Zverev in a nervy five-setter and win the US Open for his first Grand Slam title.
- 143. a** Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has announced a scheme to provide universal health insurance to all residents of the Union Territory.
- 144. a** Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation to agree to normalise ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump and his administration to fully integrate the Jewish State into the Middle East.
- 145. c** Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced a second national coronavirus lockdown in the country.
- 146. b** Uttar Pradesh jumped 10 places to occupy the second spot in the country in ease of doing business according to the recently released annual ranking.
- 147. c** In the next five years, the world has nearly a 1-in-4 chance of experiencing a year that’s hot enough to put the global temperature at 2.7 degrees (1.5 degrees Celsius) above pre-industrial times.
- 148. a** Trinbago Knight Riders defeated St Lucia Zouks by 8 wickets to win the 2020 edition of the Caribbean Premier League.
- 149. b** India’s first coronavirus airport testing facility was launched at Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- 150. d** The International Day of Democracy is observed on 15th September to provide an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.
- 151. a** Madhya Pradesh will celebrate an ‘Anna Utsav’ (food grains festival) on September 16, the eve of PM Narendra Modi’s birthday, during which 37 lakh new below poverty line (BPL) beneficiaries will be covered under the government’s scheme to provide food grains to them on highly subsidised rates, as per a decision taken by state government.

- 152. d** The Commission for Homoeopathy will consist of 20 members which will include a Chairperson, the President of the Homoeopathy Education Board, the Director General of National Institute of Homoeopathy, the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board for Homoeopathy in addition to other members.
- 153. c** NDA candidate Harivansh has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. The upper house cleared his name with a voice vote.
- 154. c** In Japan, Yoshihide Suga was elected as the new head of Japan's ruling, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
- 155. c** Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Khullar has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank, Washington.
- 156. a** International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) and India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) - IIMA signed agreement to provide expertise to facilitate the establishment of International Bullion Exchange (IBE) in India.
- 157. c** Citigroup Inc named consumer banking head Jane Fraser as its next chief executive making her the first woman to lead a major Wall Street bank.
- 158. c** Satya Nadella-led Microsoft lost a bid to acquire TikTok in the US after the Chinese owner of the video-sharing platform chose Oracle to be its technology partner for its American operations.
- 159. c** Margaret Atwood, whose sweeping body of work includes "The Handmaid's Tale," a depiction of a nightmarish totalitarian future for the United States, is this year's winner of a lifetime achievement award that celebrates literature's power to foster peace, social justice and global understanding.
- 160. a** The world's largest rooftop greenhouse has opened in Montreal, Canada. The greenhouse than spans 15,000 sq m was set up by Lufa Farms, on the top of a warehouse.
- 161. a** The Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said Bhavnagar will become the first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal in the world, as the government has given its sanction to the Rs 1,900 crore brownfield project.
- 162. a** Skytrax, an international airport industry rating body awarded Rome's Fiumicino Airport "the COVID-19 5-Star Airport Rating".
- 163. b** China launched a Long March 11 rocket from an ocean platform in the Yellow Sea successfully sending nine satellites into orbit.
- 164. b** India beat China to win a four-year term on the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CWS), a prestigious wing of the world body's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- 165. b** Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presented the first ever AICTE Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Awards 2020 to 12 faculty members of AICTE approved institutes on the occasion of Engineers Day.
- 166. a** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandated the automation of bad-loan recognition by banks by June 30, 2021.
- 167. c** Rajasthan's Department of Industries and Sidbi will work together to provide financial, technical, marketing and export support to MSMEs in the state.
- 168. d** Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode based incubatee start-up has come up with a unique user friendly wearable device that alarms proximity for helping implement social distancing norms.
- 169. a** Paytm First Games, a subsidiary of the digital financial service platform Paytm, has signed cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar as the brand ambassador for the platform, ahead of the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

- 170. a** Burnt Sugar, Indian-origin writer Avni Doshi's debut novel about love between mother and daughter, is among six books shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for Fiction.
- 171. c** The proposed Institute will be situated in the campus of Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar.
- 172. a** India is looking at stepping up relations and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and could embark on a new series of joint military exercises with France and Australia, nations that have deep interests in the southern Indian Ocean.
- 173. a** In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha e-inaugurated an Online Process-Based Standardized & Scalable Career Education Platform for Students in Srinagar.
- 174. c** Yoshihide Suga has been sworn in as new Prime Minister of Japan. Emperor of Japan Naruhito ceremonially endorsed Suga at the Imperial Palace in line with constitutional requirements.
- 175. c** In a bid to protect the interest of depositors, the Lok Sabha passed an amendment to the Banking Regulation Act to bring cooperative banks under the supervision of the RBI.
- 176. a** The fifth largest watch brand in the world, Titan Company Limited has partnered with country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) to introduce Titan Pay powered by YONO SBI.
- 177. c** Astronomers have discovered a planet the size of Jupiter closely orbiting the smouldering remains of a dead star, the first time that an intact exoplanet has been discovered travelling around a white dwarf.
- 178. a** Mira Nair received the Jeff Skoll Award for Impact Media at a remotely conducted TIFF Tribute Awards ceremony.
- 179. c** Sports Ministry is set to upgrade eight Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE) at an estimated cost of Rs. 95.19 crore with an aim to identify and groom future Olympic champions.
- 180. d** September 16 was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.
- 181. b** Mexico has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bond, an important step forward in the country's commitment to the achievement of the SDGs, and a major advance for development finance.
- 182. c** The Minister said, a Task Force has been set up in June this year to examine the matters related to the age of motherhood, lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio and improvement of nutritional levels.
- 183. a** There will be a time period of not more than seven days in metro cities, 15 days in other municipal areas and 30 days in rural areas, to provide new connection and modify existing connection.
- 184. c** The national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has entered into an exclusive league of global airports which sports a dedicated terminal for private jets.
- 185. a** Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa launched the "Arthika Spandana" programme of disbursing loans to the tune of Rs. 39,300 crore through various cooperative institutions.
- 186. c** 10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security chaired by Russia, will be held via video link.
- 187. c** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) issued a press note permitting foreign direct investment (FDI) in defence production above 74 per cent on the automatic route.

- 188. d** India has been ranked at the 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.
- 189. a** The Central Government extended the tenure of Deputy National Security Adviser Pankaj Saran for one year. Mr. Saran is a 1982 batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service and was appointed Deputy NSA in May 2018. He was then serving as India's envoy to Russia.
- 190. a** Michelin-star chef Vikas Khanna will be honoured with the prestigious 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for feeding millions across India amid the COVID-19 pandemic through a massive food distribution drive that he coordinated from thousands of miles away in his Manhattan home.
- 191. d** Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that eight beaches of the country have been recommended for the coveted 'Blue Flag' international eco-label.
- 192. a** Udit Singhal, has been named by the United Nations to the 2020 cohort of young leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals, the highest profile recognition opportunity at the world body for youngsters who are leading efforts to combat the world's most pressing issues.
- 193. c** In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)
- 194. c** Trial for Nepal's first broad-gauge railway service in Janakpur has begun with the arrival of two sets of rail to revive operation in the Janakpur-Jaynagar section.
- 195. d** The US President Donald Trump awarded one of the most prestigious awards — the US Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander — to Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
- 196. c** To provide its services to customers irrespective of where they reside, public sector lender Canara Bank has launched lead management system (LMS) - i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0).
- 197. d** The bills have provision to cut the salaries and other allowances by 30 per cent.
- 198. d** Singapore has topped the Institute for Management Development (IMD) Smart City Index for the second consecutive year, followed by the Finnish capital Helsinki and Swiss city of Zurich.
- 199. d** Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets could together contribute more than 38 centimetres to global sea level rise by 2100, if greenhouse gas emissions continue, according to a study led by NASA.
- 200. b** Retired Colonel Dr Girija Shanker Mungali has been appointed as one of the seven members of the Asian Football Confederation's task force for regulating football clubs in Asia and Australia.
- 201. c** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- 202. c** India's first Coast Guard academy will be established at Mangaluru.
- 203. a** Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY) — a scheme of providing interest-free loans to women's groups in the state – to be launched on September 17, birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- 204. b** Rajya Sabha passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to include protections for healthcare service personnel combating epidemic diseases and expands the powers of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases.

- 205. a** Mohamed Hussein Roble's appointment came hours after the president and five regional leaders reached agreement on a revised election model in Mogadishu and international pressure.
- 206. b** The first one will be launched in Mumbai's Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) locality.
- 207. b** A group of IIIT, Bhubaneswar students has developed a helmet-like ventilation device that will make a difference in treating patients with breathing problems. According to the students-turned-developers, the device has been named as 'Swasner'.
- 208. d** Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September.
- 209. d** Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Governor for 21 days, Amitabha Ghosh, passed away at the age of 90.
- 210. a** Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao's daughter and former MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha became the first woman politician in South India to clock a million followers on microblogging site Twitter.
- 211. d** International Equal Pay Day, observed for the first time this 18 September under an initiative by the UN, aims at highlighting the importance of achieving equal pay for work of equal value.
- 212. b** With the discouraging statistics to do with economy and growth, making it to headlines in the past few weeks, the FICCI-SAM knowledge report comes as a renewed ray of hope. The report is titled India—Japan: Time to Seize New Opportunities.
- 213. b** The Bill seeks to streamline the provisions of the FCRA by strengthening the compliance mechanism, enhancing transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution worth thousands of crores of rupees every year.
- 214. a** Chennai division of Southern Railway launched mobile app 'Freight Seva' with a motive of strengthening its customer base and attracting new streams of freight and parcel traffic.
- 215. a** Pakistan Armed Forces contingent participated in opening ceremony of multinational military exercise, named Kavkaz-2020, held at Astrakhan region, Russia.
- 216. b** To accelerate SHG finance in the Bank in a mission mode, State Bank of India (SBI) started a programme by the name "Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani" (Women Self-Reliance programme).
- 217. b** The ministry of corporate affairs has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year to September 2021. The committee, constituted in September 2019, is now chaired by corporate affairs secretary Rajesh Verma.
- 218. d** According to the researchers, including those from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in the U.S., as much as 95% of the extra heat trapped on the Earth by greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide is held in the world's oceans, making it important to monitor the temperature of ocean waters.
- 219. a** Former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Anil Dhasmana has been appointed as the chief of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), India's technical body that is responsible for geospatial intelligence and satellite imagery.
- 220. b** The 39-year old former India captain became the first keeper in the world to 250 dismissals in T20 cricket. Dhoni is followed by Pakistan's Kamran Akmal.
- 221. b** "Prime Minister is inaugurated Manali on October 03 for inauguration of Atal Tunnel.
- 222. a** First ever Direct cargo ferry service between India & Maldives jointly e- launched.

- 223. d** In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army organized a Shikara race in world-famous Dal Lake in Srinagar to promote tourism
- 224. c** Steps are being taken up to set up a nutrition park in Chandrasekharapuram, Namakkal near Trichy.
- 225. c** Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has said that e- Peek Pahani mobile application of the State Government will reduce hardships of farmers and help them get the right price and good market for their produce.
- 226. a** In a first in North India, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana has established a special blood bank for dogs.
- 227. d** Australian University Develops World's First Bionic Eye To Fully Restore Vision In Blind People.
- 228. c** In Italian open tennis, top-seeded Simona Halep of Romania lifted the title as Czech player Karolína Pliskova retired half way following injury in the finals played this evening at Rome.
- 229. b** World Alzheimer's Day is observed on 21st September every year to raise the awareness about Alzheimer's and Dementia.
- 230. a** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize for 2020 for 'Medical Education'.
- 231. a** Tamil Nadu becomes the first state to come out with Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain and Cybersecurity policies in the country.
- 232. a** Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Kumudini Tyagi and SLt Riti Singh would, in effect, be the first set of women airborne tacticians in India who would operate from the deck of warships.
- 233. c** The Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality announced that it is on track to become the first city in the world to roll out smart roads that can charge electric vehicles as they drive along, with a pilot project set to trial an electric public transportation system.
- 234. d** Norway announced that it will finance 16.8 billion kroner (US\$1.8 billion) out of an estimated total investment of 25.1 billion kroner for.
- 235. a** The technical group would be chaired by Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, former chairman of NABARD.
- 236. b** Tamil Nadu-based M Auto Group has come up with 13 kinds of solar-powered eco-friendly electric autorickshaws, which can double up as ambulances, besides passenger and garbage-lifting vehicles that can negotiate narrow roads easily.
- 237. b** The successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target was conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO from the Interim Test Range, Balasore in Odisha.
- 238. b** American electric car maker brand Tesla may soon have its research centre in Bengaluru.
- 239. a** In tennis, world number one Novak Djokovic won a record 36th Masters title by beating Diego Schwartzman in the Italian Open at Rome.
- 240. d** Every year on September 22, the world celebrates World Rhinoceros Day.
- 241. a** In the happiness rankings of states and union territories, Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the top three. Among the big states, Punjab, Gujarat, and Telangana are among the top three states whereas, among smaller states, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh are the top three states in happiness rankings. Among union territories, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep are the top three union territories in happiness rankings.
- 242. d** Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh will be the first woman pilot to fly Rafale, India's most modern multi-role fighter aircraft.

- 243. a** United Nations and Britain will co-host a global climate summit on December 12, the fifth anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement.
- 244. a** Vistara will offer in-flight WiFi services on its Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, which are currently being used to operate Delhi-London flights.
- 245. a** PASSEX underway between Royal Australian Navy and Indian Navy in Eastern Indian Ocean Region.
- 246. a** The Bill is to establish the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar and the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, New Delhi, as a National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat.
- 247. d** Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana is being started in Madhya Pradesh on the lines of Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- 248. d** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated Defence Research and Development Organization for successfully conducting test firing of Laser Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile from MBT Arjun at K K Ranges in Ahmednagar.
- 249. c** Railways have planned for 100 per cent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023.
- 250. b** Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is the only Indian film star to feature in TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People Of 2020 list.
- 251. a** The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held from 16th to 24th January, next year in Goa.
- 252. d** Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul became the fastest Indian batsman to reach 2000 IPL runs.
- 253. d** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit held on 2nd of October this year.
- 254. b** It is to be mentioned that the scheme has been launched by the transport department following an announcement made by the Chief Minister in his Independence Day speech on Aug 15 last year that Light Motor Vehicle Service would be launched in the villages of the state and ten thousand villages would be covered in the first phase by the scheme with financial outlay of Rs 100 crore whereby one vehicle would be provided to one beneficiary per village.
- 255. a** IDFC First Bank will launch contactless debit card-based payment facility, SafePay, next week allowing transactions up to Rs 20,000 per day.
- 256. a** On occasion of nation-wide online Fit India Dialogue, the Prime Minister launched Fit India Age-Appropriate Fitness Protocols.
- 257. a** The Assam government launched a scheme to provide cash value of 'tola' (nearly 10 gm) of gold to newlywed brides from economically backward families.
- 258. a** A virtual India-UK Water Partnership Forum will be held to discuss ways to collaborate on issues pertaining to water conservation and infrastructure development.
- 259. b**
- 260. d** The missile has a strike range of 350 km.

- 261. a** The UAE will send the Arab world's first mission to the moon in 2024.
- 262. c** Lieutenant Kumudini Tyagi and Sub Lieutenant Riti Singh will be the first women officers in the Indian Navy to embark on Navy warships as part of ship's crew.
- 263. a** Mukesh Ambani's telecom behemoth Jio, is now taking it to the skies — literally — as it announces India's first in-flight telecom services.
- 264. a** A passenger plane powered by a hydrogen fuel cell has successfully completed a test flight in Bedfordshire, in a zero emission journey hailed as a "world first" by green aviation specialist ZeroAvia.
- 265. c** The Act makes Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi, English and Urdu as the official language of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- 266. a** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified amendments in Central Motor Vehicle Rules facilitating implementation of Electronic enforcement, Maintenance of Vehicular Documents through Information Technology portal with effect from 1st of next month.
- 267. b** Khonoma is India's first green village. Situated near the Indo-Myanmar border, in the Indian state of Nagaland.
- 268. a** The government of Bangladesh is financing a film on the life of revolutionary freedom fighter Pritilata Waddadar.
- 269. d** This year's World Maritime Day was celebrated on 24 September 2020 in the form of an online event, due to social distancing measures caused by the pandemic.
- 270. a** It is headquartered in Canada in the city of Montréal, with Executive Offices in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 271. b** The first tram in the world to have a library is now open in Kolkata.
- 272. a** U-Rise portal has been launched by Uttar Pradesh government to help students find jobs.
- 273. c** Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh, is a landlocked region in the South Caucasus.
- 274. a** In order to keep a check on the banking fraud, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to introduce from January 1, 2021, the 'positive pay system' for cheque payments
- 275. d** The plan will exercise the discretionary powers of the chief executive and will be headed by existing independent director Meeta Makhan, the bank said in a statement. The other two members of the panel are Shakti Sinha and Satish Kumar Kalra, who are also independent directors on the bank's board.
- 276. b** Vakrangee Ltd announced that it has received the final nod from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) for handling payment services related to bills.
- 277. a** Over 70 hot springs in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh with potential to generate electricity, have been identified by the scientists of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) Dehradun, said the institute.
- 278. c** Iran revealed its Abu-Mahdi long-range cruise missiles for its navy.
- 279. d** The General Assembly commemorates 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
- 280. d** Kerala won a United Nations award for its "outstanding contribution" towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals.